

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

CDA [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My full name is CDA [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1945. I am 73 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, near Leeds. My mum's name was [REDACTED] and my dad's was [REDACTED]. I was the first child. My dad was in the army and working in the Far East when I was born. We were living with my mother's parents.
3. My brother, [REDACTED] was born two years after me. We were still living with my mother's parents at the time. My dad came back in 1946 and when he did, he went back to university. His education had been disrupted by the outbreak of world war two.
4. My father wanted to be an architect, but my grandparents were very high up in the [REDACTED] industry in Yorkshire. My father was told that if he went into the [REDACTED] industry, with a degree in [REDACTED] then he would be assured a good job on completion of his degree.
5. When my dad completed his degree, no job was given to him in the family business. My grandparents reneged on their promise, which really annoyed my dad. My grandfather bought my dad a directorship in a small [REDACTED] company in [REDACTED] just outside of Stirling. We moved up to Kinross-shire in Scotland at the end of 1949.

6. We had a big house in a small town. It was a wonderful place. My parents were always arguing. I was a cheeky mummy's boy and my father was a strict disciplinarian. My dad would punish me frequently.
7. My younger sister, [REDACTED] came along when I was seven years old. Then in 1954, my mother and father split up. My brother and I were taken down to Leek in Staffordshire to stay with our paternal grandmother and my father's two maiden aunts.
8. My brother and I went to a private day school in Leek during that summer. It was a funny place. We moved back to Scotland in the summer of 1954, to my Grandmother's new house in Stirlingshire. It was decided that I would be sent to a prep school in Moffat, Dumfriesshire called Warriston School. I was nine years old and it came as a bit of a shock. My father had gone to a boarding school in Giggleswick and had enjoyed it.
9. The first term was fine, but I cried myself to sleep most of the next winter term. I was freezing cold and I was missing my family. They couldn't come to see me because the weather was bad.
10. My parents came to see me towards the end of that winter term. I remember sitting between them on the bench seat at the front of their Ford Cortina. They told me they were getting back together. We then moved to a big house in Callander in Perthshire. The next three years were heaven. I was enjoying Warriston School and long holidays in Callander.
11. In 1958 we moved to a smaller house in a tiny little village in Kinross-shire. It was a lovely location. Then in September of 1958, when I was thirteen years old, I started Loretto School in Musselburgh, which was a private school. My father had put our names down for it when we were born. I just had to pass a common entrance exam to get in, which I did at Warriston.
12. I was quite excited about going to Loretto. I had spent four years at boarding school already so I was used to being away from home by then. I didn't think Loretto would be any different, but the harsh reality kicked in when I got there.

### **Loretto School, Musselburgh**

13. The main grounds were on the old A1, opposite the race course in Musselburgh. The main grounds consisted of School House, which was the main school building and also where the dining room for the whole school was. School House also had accommodation in it and was used as a boarding house. It had the dining facilities, library, gymnasium and the armoury for the Combined Cadet Force. There were various classrooms dotted around the place, as well as the chapel. They were quite extensive grounds.
14. There were another four houses that were used for boarding. Across the road from the main house, was Pinkie House. There was a house next to Pinkie House, where I stayed for a while later on, which was Linkfield House. There was another boarding house called Newfield House, which was much further away, across the River Esk and it had large sports grounds. Then there was also Holm House, where I stayed when I first arrived.
15. It was an all-boys school for thirteen to eighteen year old boys. I think there were about 120 boys in Loretto in total. There were probably up to 25 boys in each house, and they would be a mix of ages from thirteen to eighteen year olds.
16. I was allocated to Holm House, which was around the back of the school, just outside the main school grounds. You would normally stay in your house for the first two years there.
17. Holm House was two stories and had about six dormitories. The size of the rooms varied from four occupants to about eight. The housemaster, Mr CFE lived there with his family.

18. We were all invited to tea with Mr CFE and his wife the first weekend we started. We were also invited to tea at the headmaster's house during our first term. His name was Forbes-Macintosh. It was a very stilted affair.

### **Routine at Loretto**

19. I don't remember going to Loretto on my first day. There were two ways I would usually get to Loretto. Either my mum would drop me off and pick me up at the beginning and end of term, or I would go by train, directly into Musselburgh.
20. You were told what to do and where to go when you first got there, but really you just followed the crowd and soon got into the routine.
21. There were six dormitories in my house, and each dormitory had between four to eight boys in it. The only personal, living space you had was your bed and your bed side locker. Everything else was communal space.
22. There was a mix of ages between thirteen and eighteen year olds in my dormitory. I think that was the same for every dormitory. There would be a boy who would be the head of the room, and he would usually be a sixth former.
23. There were two different types of prefects. There was a house prefect and a school prefect. The school prefect was the highest, and was chosen by the headmaster and based on academic rigour and sporting achievement.
24. There would normally be a school prefect as well as a house prefect in each house. The two prefects in the house would usually share a room or have a room each. It would be rare for them to share a dormitory with a few other boys.
25. I had more contact with Mr CFE in the first term. I think he wanted to make sure we were settling in and we were to see him or his wife if we had any problems. His wife was [REDACTED]. Mr CFE was also a teacher at the school, but he never taught

me. I didn't have much contact with him, other than him being my house master for my first two years at Loretto.

26. After the first two years at Holm House, I went to Linkfield House. I moved into that house as I was going into my third year and when I was fifteen years old.

*Mornings and bedtime*

27. You would wake up in the morning with the bell ringing at 7:00 am. The first thing you did was go to the tub room, which was the communal bathroom.
28. There were very deep tubs in the bathroom. The taps were attached to the wall over the tubs. Every tub room in the school had a tub in the corner that was filled to the top with cold water. You had to douse yourself in the cold tub every morning, by jumping in and straight out again. It was freezing in the winter, especially when the place had no heating.
29. Nobody was supervising us while we did it, but I am sure somebody would have noticed if you didn't do it and tell on you. I think the idea came from the first headmaster of the school, Mr Almond. It was supposed to be to close your pores and make you hardy. I don't know if it did that, but it did make you shiver.
30. After the dip in the tub, you would have grabbed a towel and wrap it around you then grab a sink wash and brush your teeth. Then you would get dressed into your normal uniform. Then you would jog to School House. We went in a group so I suppose the sixth formers were monitoring us. Each house had a different route for their run. You would walk halfway and then jog the rest of the way to School House where you would have your breakfast.
31. After the school day and other activities, you had to be back in your house by a certain time in the evening. Then it was lights out at 10:00 pm.

*Mealtimes and food*

32. All the houses had breakfast in the central dining room in School House. It was the only dining room for the school at that time so we had all of our meals there. The meals were prepared by dedicated the kitchen staff.
33. We sat at long, refectory tables and we sat at a set table every term. You would be mixed up with boys from other houses and of different ages. The person at the head of the table was either a prefect or a senior sixth former.
34. Breakfast was the best meal of the day because we had porridge. The food was basic, but nutritious enough. It was things like very heavy, suety type puddings in the winter, with lumpy custard. Then we would be expected to run up and down the rugby pitch afterwards, which wasn't easy.
35. We ate our meals because we would be hungry and felt obliged to eat it. We were physically active a lot of the time, so we needed the food. I don't know what would have happened if we didn't eat it.

*Washing and bathing*

36. We had a cold dip in the morning in a bath tub that was always full of cold water. The boys would be nude in the tub room together and there would be boys of all ages.
37. We would have sporting activities every day and would have a hot bath afterwards. We still had to take a dip in the cold bath tub after our hot bath. Again this was boys of all ages in the room together.
38. We also had allocated bath times two evenings a week. We would take those before bedtime.

*Clothing and uniform*

39. We received a full list of items that I was required to take with us to the school before I started. That was all taken care of before I went and they were all purchased from various outfitters in Perth and Edinburgh.
40. I had three uniforms. There was the day to day uniform, which was blue shorts, long red socks, brown shoes, white open neck shirt, a V-neck jersey and a sports jacket. That was worn right up until you were a sixth former. No hats or ties were worn. We could wear coats, and scarves and gloves in winter.
41. On Sundays we wore a kilt with a black jacket and waistcoat, with a slate grey tie. Any other time we went out, we wore what we called the red and whites. That was white shorts, red long socks and a red blazer, but without a badge. We would wear that if we went out with our parents on a Saturday afternoon. We never wore civilian clothes at all.
42. Each house had a matron who organised the domestic side of the house, including the washing.

*School days*

43. There was the headmaster and there were heads of departments. Then there were teachers and admin staff, as well as the bursar who looked after the finances.
44. We had a combined cadet force, and one of the teachers was the commanding officer. He was an ex-army officer himself. He wore his regimental Major uniform. There was also a member of staff who was an ex regimental Sergeant Major, and he looked after the armoury and supervised the firing range.

45. All the teachers were Loretto staff. There were no outside teachers who came in. The teachers also took other activities in the school. Mr Morrison was the maths teacher and was really good. He knew how to teach maths
46. You had classes in the morning after breakfast. Each period was forty minutes long. Then you would stop for lunch. The school days differed in the summer and winter.
47. During the Christmas and Easter terms, you would have one period after lunch time and then you would have sport. You knew what your sporting activity was going to be because there was a rota. You would either play an organised sport, like rugby or hockey, or you would be allocated to go running or something.
48. Every Tuesday afternoon, we had the combined cadet force, which I absolutely loved. That was compulsory and everyone had to join. I was also in the pipe band.
49. After sport, you would go back to your house and have a bath in the hot tub, and then have to dip in the cold tub. We would then have afternoon tea. There would be two more lessons in the afternoon, then you would have your evening meal.
50. In the summer, we would have three periods after lunch, then sporting activity, and afternoon tea.
51. Every weekday, we would have one and a half hours of supervised prep after our evening meal. We would all be in one big hall, and would spend about half an hour on each subject. The teacher would have given you the prep that day in class, so you would know what you had to do during prep in the evening.
52. After prep, we had an hour of free time. There were lots of different activities you could take part in, and you could choose what you wanted to do. There was orchestral practise, choir practise, woodwork, painting and many other things. I was in the orchestra so I would go to orchestra practise, which was compulsory for me. In the summer, I would also practise in the pipe band. I played side drums.



- 53. My instructor was the leading drummer of the Edinburgh City Police Band, who were world champions the whole four years I was at the school. I did apply to join the police band but I was refused because I was underweight.
- 54. After evening activities, you had to be back in your house for a certain time.
- 55. We also had classes on a Saturday morning.

#### *Religion*

- 56. We went to church on a Sunday morning and we all had to go. It was inter-denominational for all for faiths. Having said that, I don't remember there being anybody at the school who wasn't Christian.
- 57. The only other part religion played was that we had two assemblies a day. We called them double because you would have to run there from your class. It was held in the school dining room and headed by the headmaster. We would sit at the same table we sat at for meal times. The headmaster would say a short prayer during assembly. That was about all the part that religion played.

#### *Trips and leisure time*

- 58. We went to camp for a week with the CCF at the beginning of the summer holidays. I also played in the combined CCF pipe bands on Edinburgh Castle esplanade one summer evening each year.
- 59. Any other free time was spent in the school grounds. If we went out, we could only go as far as a certain shop on the High Street in Musselburgh.
- 60. We were allowed to go running or take our bikes out during the summer term, and we were allowed to go anywhere.
- 61. There wasn't much television. I had a little Hitachi transistor radio, which I was very proud of. We weren't allowed to listen to radio, but I would listen to Radio Luxembourg

on a Sunday night with my headphones on, under the covers. Everybody used to do it.

62. There was a lot of reading if you wanted to do it recreationally. We used the library a lot, and we were actively encouraged to do so. We could also get a newspaper on a Sunday if we wanted to. I got the Express and the Telegraph.
63. We didn't do anything for birthdays in the school. You would get your cards from home, but they weren't recognised by the school one iota. You wouldn't want people to know about your birthday because you would get the bumps off the other boys.

*Visits and holidays*

64. If there was a school match somewhere, where our school was playing another school, then your parents could come and attend the match. You could go out with them afterwards, and you would have to wear your red and white uniform. You would have to be back in time for evening assembly.
65. You would get permission to go out if your parents came to see you and took you out. They could take you out on a Sunday at eleven o'clock in the morning, after chapel. You had to wear your kilt and black jacket and waistcoat. You had to be back for evening chapel at seven in the evening. Your parents could only take you out three times each term.
66. My brother joined the school two years after I did, but I didn't see much of him because the years were so separate. I am sure I could have seen him if I had made the effort, but we were chalk and cheese so I never did.
67. My sister never visited. My parents split up again while I was at Loretto. We still lived in the same house in Kinross-shire after they split up. My father moved to the Borders where his [REDACTED] business was.

68. We would get a month off school at Christmas and Easter and two months in summer. I would go home for the holidays. My mum would generally come to get me at the end of term, or I would get the train home. I would usually travel back to school by train for the start of the new term. We had a sense of our own worth and independence despite the communal living at school.
69. I don't think there were ever any inspections of public schools in those days.

#### *Healthcare*

70. There was a sanatorium, which we called the sick house next to Holm House. That was later turned into the girl's house in the eighties, when girls started in sixth form. The school is now co-educational from nursery to sixth form.
71. There was a school matron who you went to see if you weren't well. She was a fully trained nurse and was allowed to administer certain medicines and plasters. A doctor also came into the school on a daily basis, and if the nurse felt you needed to see him, then you would see him.
72. If anybody needed to go to hospital, the school would arrange it and parents would be informed.
73. I had a bad bout of sinusitis and whooping cough one year. I had a few visits to the doctor and they eventually got it fixed. It took a while and I felt the doctor was not very good. He was old and dodderly.

#### *Chores*

74. You had chores to do and they depended on what year group you were in. During your first year, you waited on tables. There was a rota and everyone took their turn to do it.
75. You would have to serve the food to the rest of the table before you could sit down to eat yourself. You would serve the plates of meat and fish and there would be tureens

with vegetables, on the table. You would try to serve quickly so you could sit down and eat before all the vegetables had gone.

76. One of the most onerous chores was having to run a bath for the prefect in the morning and evenings. You had to make sure the water was to the exact temperature that he wanted. Fortunately, you didn't have to do it every day. A few of you did it throughout the term and there was a rota so you knew which day you had to do it on.
77. If you didn't have the bath to the right temperature then you could incur the wrath of the prefect. They would keep an eye on you and make you do things.
78. I also had other jobs like making sure the bike sheds were locked. There were lots of silly little things you had to do that made you wonder why you had to do it. There would be consequences if you didn't do them.
79. It was like being in the armed forces, where you had to do all these onerous tasks before you could move onwards and upwards. Then when you moved onwards and upwards, you could make others do the onerous tasks. There was a place for everybody and everybody had their place.

#### *Peer discipline*

80. There was a very harsh disciplinary regime and strict set of rules. Both teachers and prefects were allowed to punish you. Prefects only punished you physically, but teachers could also punish you physically and by giving us extra homework. You very much had to try and keep your head down.
81. If a prefect wanted to see anybody, they would come in to the dining hall before assembly, and slam the lid on the box that held logs. The prefect would then announce that they wanted to see somebody after assembly. It would usually be for some kind of misdemeanour.

82. I did infringe the rules the odd occasion, but not deliberately. We all had our own responsibilities depending on what your group you were in. When I was in second year, my job was to lock up a set of bicycle sheds within the school grounds. I forgot to lock them one day and they were checked by a prefect after lights out. I was found out and punished. I got three whacks of the cane on my backside, over my shorts, from a prefect. I have no idea what the name of the prefect was.
83. The other time I got the cane was after my father came to visit my brother and I. I was in third year and my brother was in first year. My father took us out to tea in Haddington. He knew we had to be back by evening assembly but he brought us back late. We had been out in our red and whites, and the white shorts were unlined.
84. Being late back meant that we couldn't go into assembly because it had already started. The prefects at our respective tables would have seen that our seats were empty, and not being in assembly meant an automatic punishment at the hands of a prefect. They knew to do it and we knew it would happen, no matter what we said. The fact that it was my father's fault didn't matter. Rules were rules and if they were broken, you were punished.
85. After assembly, the prefect gave me the option of two of the cane on the unlined whites that I was wearing or to go away and change into lined shorts and get three whacks of the cane. I didn't see the point of getting changed and coming back so I opted for two on my unlined shorts. I was punished in the tub room in School House. My brother was punished separately from me, in the tub room. He took it rather badly and cried.
86. I did complain afterwards but it fell on stony ground. I complained to my housemaster at the time, and he just said that rules were rules. He became my A level maths teacher. He was a good teacher and a good housemaster, but they all stuck to the rules.
87. Whenever a prefect gave you the cane, it would always be over your shorts. He would give you it in the tub room in School House, and you'd have to bend over an empty

tub. They would decide whether to give you two or three whacks. It was short, sharp shock treatment. It did hurt.

88. The prefects had a common room in School House, so that was where the canes would have been kept. The cane was about two and a half to three foot long. Some canes had a kink at the end of them, like a walking stick and some didn't. They were flexible, and not rigid like a bamboo cane.
89. I am sure I got the cane a few other times but I don't remember what for. I think I was maybe caned four or five times in the four years I was at the school by prefects unknown. I remember the names of a few prefect boys at school because they went on to become public figures. They were absolute prats and that was probably why they became prefects.
90. It was accepted by everyone that prefects could physically punish you with the cane. The staff were aware of it. I am assuming there must have been a book or something that the prefects had to record the punishments in, otherwise students would be able to punish anyone whenever they wanted. I never saw such a book, though.
91. You didn't really tell on anybody in the school, because you would get in just as much trouble as the miscreant. The other boys would give you a hard time for telling. There was a kind of honour system. That was one of the biggest problems in there.

#### *Staff discipline*

92. Boys could also get caned by teachers in the classroom. I only saw staff caning boys on two occasions. I was never punished for bad academic work and so I was never punished by a teacher.
93. We were told that when Mr Morrison, the maths teacher punished a boy, he would make the boy stand facing away from the class, and bend over. Then he would whack the cane down, but would hit all the books in the pigeon holes on the way down, so by the time it got to the boy's bottom, it had no force in it. The end of his cane was a bit

splayed. I think he felt he had to make an example of this boy, but was just paying lip service to the caning and didn't really put any force into it.

94. I only saw Mr Morrison punish a boy once and that was exactly what happened. The boy must have done something serious for Mr Morrison to punish him because he wasn't a harsh disciplinarian.
95. The second member of staff I saw caning a boy was the Major. He taught French and classics, and everything he did was with military precision. He wasn't my normal teacher. He was standing in for one of our teachers who was ill.
96. When the Major punished someone, he would draw a cross with chalk on the platform floor by his desk, and also draw a cross on the blackboard in line with it. He would then tell the boy to stand to attention, facing the cross on the blackboard. He would then say: "half left turn," so the boy would have to turn a bit to the left, then say "front row, duck." Then you would hear the whistle of this cane coming round, and if you were in the front row and hadn't ducked, you got the cane on the side of your head. It was an exceptionally long cane. I saw it happen once, and luckily I wasn't sat at the front. It was very funny and it was hard not to burst out laughing.
97. The teachers would only give a couple of whacks of the cane. I don't know the names of the boys who got the canes. I think the corporal punishment used by the teachers was of its time. It was more draconian than prep school, where I got no physical punishment, but it was expected.

#### *Changes to discipline*

98. Forbes-Macintosh retired as headmaster after I had been there for two years, and a new headmaster, R.B. Bruce Lockhart, came in. He had been head teacher at a school in New Zealand before he arrived at Loretos, although he wasn't from New Zealand himself. He changed the system of discipline almost overnight when he came in. He said that corporal punishments could only be given for the most serious infringements,

and we were all glad of that. This didn't stop teachers and prefects being able to give out corporal punishment, but it happened much less after that.

99. The new headmaster instituted a green paper system for less serious infringements. This meant that if you did anything wrong, someone could go to your teacher and arrange for you to do extra classwork, on green paper. A teacher could also issue this themselves. The reason it was on green paper was so it was recognisable because you were not allowed to do it during prep time. It had to be done in your own free time. If your green paper was seen during prep time then you would get corporal punishment for infringing the green paper punishment rules.
100. Parents knew what the system had been, and that teachers and prefects could physically punish you. When the new system was brought in by the new headmaster, a letter was sent out to parents to inform them of the change. It was also announced in assembly so everybody knew about it. I thought this was quite an effective system.
101. There were elements of school life that I enjoyed, and elements that I didn't, but I took it as a whole and got through it. You didn't really know any better, and the alternative of going to a mixed state school was even scarier, because we weren't streetwise.

### **Abuse at Loretto**

102. General references to sex were made all the time by the boys. It was an all-boys school and hormones were raging all over the place. That was probably why we had so much sport and dips in a cold tub.
103. There was a general aura in the school that things went on. We learned about homosexuality very quickly, whether you were a part of it or not. There were always references to it between the boys, and it was a big joke. There was an old joke about not leaving your friends behind, and we would laugh about it, but there was a touch of seriousness about it. They just spoke in general terms and nothing specific was ever said.



104. I assume that it was only senior boys, and dare I say staff, who initiated the abuse. The younger you were, the more vulnerable you were. It came out much later, years after I left Loretto, that my housemaster, Mr CFE had been involved in the abuse of young pupils. I don't know if he was doing it whilst I was at the school. I know that I certainly didn't hear it, see it or feel it.
105. When I found about Mr CFE years later, I thought it was interesting because my abuse took place while he was my housemaster.
106. The first time it happened to me, I was in Holm House. For some unknown reason I was in my dormitory alone in Holm House. This guy, who was a house prefect, came in. This was some time in the afternoon. I didn't know what he was doing in the house or in my dormitory. I immediately felt threatened because I didn't like him at all. He approached me and started to try and climb on my back. I don't remember if he said anything.
107. I managed to escape and ran out of the room. I didn't tell anybody because I thought, who could I tell? I also thought I would get into trouble because he would deny it.
108. I tried to avoid the boy like the plague after that. He didn't say anything to me again after that. I didn't have anything to do with him again until about four months later, when I was in a different dormitory in Holm House.
109. Later on, while I was still in Holm House, I was in a different dormitory. I was at the end of my second year, and was fifteen years old. It was the last day of the summer term before we went on holiday, and was my last term in that house. I remember that boy was still there, and I believe he was about to leave school after that term. That last night, after lights out, which was well after 10 pm, he climbed into my bed, unbidden. He abused me by encouraging me to masturbate him, and he was touching me inappropriately. Then he left after leaving a mess on my sheets.
110. It left me feeling disgusted and shocked. I felt ridiculous at the same time.

111. I could have shouted out, I could have screamed, or I could have gotten out of bed, but thoughts were going through my head about what would happen if I did. I didn't know if others would have a go at me, or if I would get in trouble.
112. The authoritarian discipline in that school meant that boy, who was a house prefect, had power over me, and you cowered before it. That was the way the regime worked, and I didn't have the grit to tell him to get out of my bed, or even get it out of bed myself.
113. The most galling thing about the whole thing was that nobody said a word. There were five other boys from different year groups in that dormitory. I don't know if they were awake or not. The next day was the last day of the summer term and everybody had breakfast and went home. I don't remember seeing him the next day. I never saw him again because he was in sixth year and was due to leave school at the end of that term.
114. I couldn't report him because he had gone. I also worried that I would be labelled a trouble maker, because it was an accepted way of life. I didn't tell anybody because there was nobody I could trust. Somehow, I knew that no other incident would happen while I was at Loretto. Things stopped when you got to a certain age. I don't know how I would have protected myself if something else had happened, but I just knew it wouldn't happen to me again.
115. I didn't know the name of the boy who abused me at the time, but I knew he played rugby. I saw him in a photograph on the Loretto website, of the Loretto First rugby team of 1959 and 1960. He is [REDACTED] of the picture, and his name is [REDACTED]. Apparently he died a few years ago. I think that was on the website.
116. I think things went on in the school. I didn't know of any affairs that went on. I think maybe when things did happen, they were one off incidents, like what happened to me. Maybe it was just experimentation; I don't know but people alluded to things.

117. I don't think boys would have thought about any sexual activity as abuse at that time because it was almost an accepted part of life. If you were part of any sexual activity and didn't want it, then you just had to deal with it. You wouldn't have spoken about it or you would have been seen as a trouble maker, and you thought your life would have been made a misery.

### **Leaving Loretto**

118. My father put in a lot of up to date German machinery in his [REDACTED] business. He did most of his own selling and design work. While he was away on a business trip, a lot of thieving went on in his [REDACTED], and the Bank of Scotland forced him to close.
119. After my father's business went down, all the money disappeared. I was doing my O' Levels at the time. My mother gave me the choice of staying on and doing my A' Levels and finishing sixth form, or allowing my brother to stay on and finish his O' Levels instead. I chose to let my brother stay on, and leave a year early. This meant that I would have to leave school at the end of my lower sixth year.
120. I then did my A' Level in maths in one year in lower sixth year. I did do the first year of physics and chemistry A' Levels, just to fill my time in lower sixth year.
121. Generally things were positive in Loretto's and it was a shame that I had to leave early and didn't get to finish my A' Levels. I was hoping to be a vet, and that didn't happen.

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

122. I left school at the age of seventeen. I continued to live with my mum in Kinross-Shire. I found a job at the local hospital, which was for geriatrics and people with mental problems. I met my first girlfriend there, and started learning about girls my own age.

123. In spring 1963, I got a job as a student Forester with the Scottish Forestry Commission in Dunkeld. It was a four year training programme, but I gave up after six months because there was no guaranteed job at the end of it.
124. I drifted for a while and wasn't quite sure what I was going to do. I stayed with a friend of mine from Loretto, in Edinburgh, in summer 1964. While I was in Edinburgh I walked past the Royal Air Force recruiting place and went in for a chat. A couple of months later, I took part in the selection process to be a pilot. When I was half way through the selection process, they asked me if I wanted to be a navigator because my maths was superb and I could do mental calculations quickly. I didn't take them up on it because I suffered from motion sickness. I got a letter a few weeks later saying I hadn't been selected but they didn't tell me why I failed.
125. I went back into the Edinburgh RAF office and had a chat with one of the RAF Senior Non Commissioned Officer's there and decided to become an engineer. I trained as an engineer with the RAF and had a very successful career with them for 27 years. I was trained to be a manager, and I went through a strict managerial course. My last five years were spent working in the recruitment office in Edinburgh. I got married in 1966.
126. I even went back to do a presentation in Loretto for the RAF. I really liked the place and felt proud to be a Loretorian.
127. I left the RAF in 1992. I then went to Napier University in Edinburgh and did a post-graduate diploma in career guidance. I started a job in Blackpool in 1993 as a career advisor for three months. I was then headhunted by the Borders Careers Service and worked there for two years. I then moved to Yorkshire for ten years and did a similar job.
128. I got divorced from my first wife. I married my current wife in 1993. My wife had a ten year old daughter who I became a step-dad to. I love her to bits. She is now a very successful chemical engineer, and has two boys.

129. I took early retirement at the age of sixty, in 2005. I got fed up of too much government intervention. I volunteered for SSAFA, which is an armed forces charity, and worked as a case worker while I was in Yorkshire. It stands for Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Families Association
130. I moved to the south of France. I then found out that there was a SAFA branch that had just started in France. I started working as a case worker for SAFA, but have now been [REDACTED] for eight years. I work with veterans and there are a lot in France. We work with all military charities, as well as civilian charities.
131. My dad and I were not close because he used to punish me frequently as a kid. He and my mother never divorced, because she always refused to divorce him. I think out of anger.
132. Many years later, I managed to get my dad's contact details out of my mother. I contacted him just before I was about to join the Air Force. Fortunately he was delighted to see me. He had another family and I have four half brothers and sisters, who I became close to. I would visit my dad frequently and got to learn a lot about him. Dad passed away three years ago at 95 years old.

### **Impact**

133. Imposed discipline has its place, and it eventually turns into self-discipline. I think the discipline at Loretto helped me in my career at the RAF. I breezed through the imposed discipline at the RAF. The higher up the ranks you went, the more responsibilities you had, just the same as the sixth formers in school.
134. I am not very good with authority. I do not like protocol, but I respect it for what it is. To me, somebody is worth my respect if they can prove they are good at what they do. I expect respect for what I do and what position I have in life.

135. I will speak to anybody, no matter who they are. We are all equal until people prove themselves to be different. I am very black and white in the way I think about things.
136. I had great difficulty in communicating with women. It took me a long time to learn to just be myself around women.
137. I do not trust people easily. I am very sociable and can chat to anybody, but I don't make actual friendships easily. I am very wary of people.
138. The incident of abuse that happened in Loretto is always there in the back of my mind. It will never go away. I was able to put it to the back of my mind when it happened because the boy left the school. If he hadn't, I think I would have wanted to leave school, and wouldn't have wanted to stay on for the further two years that I did.
139. I have never felt the need to have any counselling.

### **Reporting of Abuse**


140. I never reported any abuse to the police.
141. I received an email from the current headmaster of Loretto. He sent an email around to every Lorettoian on their books in February 2017. It told everybody that there was an Inquiry going on. I replied and told him that I wasn't surprised and that it had happened to me.

### **Other information**

142. It's hard to explain a public school system unless you've been to one. They are completely self-contained. It is a world within a world, and you live in that bubble. You have more or less been brought up into that world. You have to be academic to get into the school in the first place, and then you are just expected to go along with the

system. You had enough intelligence to understand what was happening, and that it was character building.

143. I was born into a privileged world. I was very proud of being a Loretorian, and still am, despite what went on. I was surprised by how Spartan it was but there was a real sense of community. The system let me down at the time but it didn't stop me being proud and part of the Loretorian community.
144. The problem that everyone seems to be having with this business of abuse is that it was an accepted part of life, which it shouldn't have been. Loretto is a different and wonderful place now.
145. When somebody reports any form of abuse, I don't think the students should automatically be believed. Teachers need to be listened to as well. I have seen many teachers being drummed out of jobs because a student has had a grudge against them.
146. People who work with children need to have an open and honest system. The people who deal with any complaints of abuse should be the right sort of people who have no axe to grind.
147. 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..... *21/12/2018* .....