

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HQB

Support person present: No

1. My name is HQB. My date of birth is 1955. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I am from Possilpark in Glasgow. I come from quite a big family. I have four brothers and four sisters. They're not all alive now. My dad died when I was about seven. I lived with my mum. We never had a lot of money because it was just my mum on her own with a big family to look after.
3. I went to St Theresa's in Possilpark. It is a Roman Catholic school. I started skipping school. I was caught and ended up going to a children's panel when I was about twelve. I remember my mum being at the hearing. She sat next to a man in a suit. He could have been a social worker. I don't remember the man in the suit telling me what was going on. All I remember is speaking to whoever was in charge of the panel.
4. I ended up being sent to Larchgrove. I was sent there for fourteen days for truancy. That was my punishment. I knew that at the time. When I got released it didn't stop me. I still carried on skipping school.
5. I think, after that, there was a period when I was on probation. I think a court might have given me that. I can't remember what that was for. I remember attending

meetings with a probation officer with a couple of other boys from Possilpark. We had to go once a week or something like that.

6. Me and a couple of other boys ended up breaking into shops and things like that. We once broke into Woolworths on Union Street in Glasgow. We would do things like strip copper boilers from factories. We never had any money. We were looking to get money so we could get things.
7. When I was about thirteen I got caught breaking into a shop with some other boys. It was on a Sunday. We were taken to the police station. We ended up in court the following Monday. I think it was a sheriff court. The two boys I was with got taken to court as well. They were older. I think they must have been over sixteen. I think we had a lawyer. We all plead guilty. We were bang to rights.
8. After the hearing I was taken to Larchgrove. I stayed there a few weeks before going back to court for sentencing. At court the other two boys got told they were going to borstal. I got told I was going to be sent to an approved school. They didn't tell me how long I would be there. I was then taken back to Larchgrove.

Larchgrove Remand Home, Glasgow

9. It was all boys. I think the age range was ten to fourteen or fifteen. There were well over a hundred boys there. There were wee groups of gangs in there. I didn't have any problems when I was there that first time. It felt just like a wee holiday to me.
10. The second time I was there was because I was waiting for a vacancy to come up in an approved school. I think I waited at Larchgrove for about six or eight weeks before I eventually went to an approved school.

Staff

11. The people who ran the place were called teachers. They were guys in grey jackets. The jackets were like a Barbour style jacket. They didn't wear a uniform. They wore normal clothes other than the jacket. I remember they had keys hanging out of their pockets. I don't think they all stayed on site. I think the governor had a place to stay on premises but I don't think the others did. The same staff who were there during the day patrolled the corridors during the night.
12. Mr MKI was a weird looking man. He was a teacher. He was in his mid-forties. He had red ginger hair. He had big glass bottle bottom glasses. He was a horrible weasly man. I remember all the boys being wary of him.
13. There was a bald guy who seemed to be one of the senior members of staff. He had a comb over. He was always in the background. I can't remember his name. He was weird.
14. There was also a nurse and a priest. I don't remember their names.

Routine at Larchgrove*First impressions*

15. Before I went there I didn't know about it. I hadn't known anyone who had gone there. The first thing I remember about Larchgrove is that it felt like a horrible place. It was strict. There were people shouting at you.

Daily routine

16. They would shout you up out of your bed at about eight or something like that. You would then go into the shower rooms or wash rooms and get yourself washed. You would then get yourself ready and then make your bed. You sat waiting in your dorm

until they called breakfast. After your breakfast you would go back to your dormitory and you would then sit there waiting again. I think there was a bed and locker inspection done then. The younger guys would then go to school. We had classes to go to. We would do the classes until lunchtime. We then had our lunch followed by a bit of a play in the yard. We would chase a ball about. After that it was back into the classrooms until about three or four o'clock. After that we had another bit of a play. Then it was dinner. They sometimes took you in to see a film after dinner. You usually watched television. At night, before we went to bed, we were all gathered in the big hall for an assembly. After that you went to bed. I think you got a glass of milk and a couple of biscuits before you went to bed.

Mealtimes / food

17. The food was more or less like what you got at school. It was eatable. When you came from a family as large as mine any meal was welcome.

Sleeping arrangements

18. It was all dormitories. I think there were twelve boys in my dormitory. I think all the boys were roughly the same age as me.

Washing / bathing

19. I think we had a shower maybe two or three times a week. I don't think we got a shower every night. We were told when to shower. They were communal showers. It was supervised by the staff. MKJ and the bald guy sometimes would supervise.

Clothing / uniform

20. You wore their uniform. It was corduroy shorts, a brown jumper, some sort of khaki shirt, brown socks and plimsolls.

Possessions / pocket money

21. We didn't have anything personal. You weren't allowed anything while you were in there. I think your visitors were allowed to put money in for you. You were allowed to spend that money in the tuck shop.

School

22. Classes were horrible. There was no real education. You were just given a book and told to read it. You weren't really taught anything. You were just really passing the time of day. I think at the weekends there were no classes. You spent your time in the yard kicking a ball about instead.

Chores

23. I didn't have any chores to do. The older guys did though. They didn't go to classes. They went out and cleaned the corridors and things like that.

Religious instruction

24. Larchgrove was mixed religion. I remember there being Celtic and Rangers supporters in there. The Catholics could go to chapel on a Sunday. The chapel was in Larchgrove. I did go to chapel because it was a wee break from the routine. There was a priest who came in but I can't remember much about him. You could go and do confession with him.

Leisure time

25. I don't think there was any recreation like pool tables and things like that. There was a television or you kicked a ball around in the yard.

Holidays / trips

26. You didn't get out on any trips or anything like that.

Visits / Inspections

27. I think you were entitled to a visit every weekend. I'm not sure. The visits were held in this one big room. You would sit at school desks. The visitors would then come in. I think there was a wee shop in the room where your visitors could buy you sweets or juice. The staff would be standing about. You could speak to your visitors privately in the room if you wanted to. You could whisper and not be overheard.
28. A couple of my sisters used to visit me. I can't remember social workers visiting me. I would have thought I would have recognised them if they came to visit me. I don't think anybody 'official' came to visit.
29. I don't remember there being any inspections. If there were inspections I don't think I saw them happening.

Healthcare

30. I remember seeing the nurse but I can't remember what that was for. It could be that I saw her because I had to be examined.

Bed-wetting

31. Bed-wetting wasn't a problem for me personally. I know some of the kids did have a problem though. They were made to stand in the corridors. I remember hearing them crying. I don't know how long they stood out there. I don't know what happened to them. As far as I know that was all that happened. If something else happened I wouldn't have known about it.

Discipline and punishment

32. I heard about boys getting the strap on the hand. I saw the marks on their hands. It was like school. It could be for anything. It could be for 'cheeking up' teachers or things like that. The strap wasn't just given during classes. It could be given for anything you did in Larchgrove at any time. I don't think I ever got the strap myself.
33. I do remember boys cleaning corridors late at night for things that they had done. They did that in their pyjamas. That was some sort of punishment. I don't know what that was for.

Abuse at Larchgrove

34. I didn't get abused at Larchgrove. I was more or less left alone. Looking back now I am sure there were other boys in my dormitory who were getting abused. I remember there were teachers who came into the dorms in the middle of the night. They called some of the boys out of the dorm. At that time we thought it was just because the boys were crying or wetting the bed or things like that. Looking back there were probably things going on.
35. I do remember that Mr MKI would pick boys out during classes and make them go up to his desk. I don't know why he did that. It felt like an interview. He would ask you questions about your family and things like that. He would then start asking 'smutty things'. He'd ask you how many sisters you had, whether you watched them getting undressed and things like that. It was inappropriate and horrible. It wasn't nice. You answered all his questions because you were scared. MKI made your skin crawl.

Leaving Larchgrove

36. I was told the night before I got moved that I was going to St Andrew's. I was told in the big hall where we all gathered for assemblies. That's how boys were told where they were going. The boys in Larchgrove hoped that their name would be called out because it meant a bit more freedom. Before I went to St Andrew's I thought of approved schools as being places that were like holiday camps.
37. I think I went to St Andrew's alone from Larchgrove. I was taken in a van. I think it was staff from St Andrew's that came out to get me. I do remember other boys were picked up along the way. Those boys were also going to St Andrew's. I remember there being one or two other boys in the van when we arrived.

St Andrew's Approved School, Garelochhead, Argyll and Bute

38. I would say I went to St Andrew's in 1968 or 1969. I was about fourteen when I got there. St Andrew's is right next to Garelochhead near Faslane. I don't know the organisation that ran the home. It was an approved school. It was the place that you got sent to if you were doing your time. It was all boys. It was from ages twelve to about fifteen or sixteen. There were about ninety kids at St Andrew's in total.
39. I didn't know anybody in St Andrew's when I went there. I made friends there but I didn't know anybody when I arrived. The boys that were there were from all over Scotland. There were a few boys from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Layout and houses

40. As you drove in there were little cottage type buildings with flats. Then there was the main building. It was like a big old fashioned mansion house. There was a gym.
41. The houses were called Shandon, Fruan and Douglas. The houses were in three separate buildings. The main house had Shandon. The two other houses were

purpose built and stand-alone. I think they had been newly built houses for accommodation. I think all the boys in each of the houses were roughly about the same age. There were possibly about thirty kids in each house.

Staff

42. SNR [REDACTED] either called Mr LOC [REDACTED] or LOC [REDACTED]. We had a nickname for him. I think it was LOC [REDACTED] or something like that
43. HQC [REDACTED] was the housemaster of Fruan House. He was my housemaster to begin with when I was at St Andrew's. He was between thirty five and forty years old. He was there probably about four or five days a week. Somebody else would take over at weekends.
44. I don't remember the name of the housemaster that took over from HQC [REDACTED] after he left. I think he was an Irishman. He was fair and treated everybody well.
45. I don't remember the names of the other housemasters in charge of the other houses. I didn't really have much contact with the other housemasters. You would see them during the day in passing.
46. There were other members of staff called teachers. The teachers ran the activities at the weekends and ran the work departments. They also covered the housemasters at weekends. They were normal guys. They were all good guys. They were like your Dad. I remember one of them was called Olly. I don't remember his second name. He was the brick layer. Jimmy Wright worked in the kitchens. He was the cook. He was alright. He was a great wee character. He was good fun.
47. There was a matron. There was an old boy who was a night watchmen who did his rounds after lights went out. I think there were other staff who walked around at night. There was also a housemaid who did the sheets in Fruan.

Routine at St Andrew's*First day*

48. I think I arrived in the afternoon. I don't remember what time I arrived. My first impression was that it was a nice place set in nice scenery. To me it felt as if we were out in the country. I was taken up to the administration block, given my uniforms and told what house I was in. I was then sent to Fruan House.

Daily routine

49. The routine was more or less the same as Larchgrove. You had a wee bit more freedom. They would give you a shout in the morning and open your door to get you up. You would get yourself dressed. You would then take your toothbrush and whatever else to the washrooms for a wash. You'd put your wash stuff away then go downstairs. You'd then hang about watching television or playing pool until breakfast was served. You were then called into the dining room.
50. After breakfast we would all gather in the main house for an assembly type of thing. The headmaster would give his daily speech. After that we all went down to the main square where we would line up in our houses. You were then allocated your work and the people you were working with. Then you got into your work clothes and went to work in the department you were working in. You then had lunch. After that there was then about an hour or so recreation. After that it was back to work.
51. I think you finished work at around about four o'clock. You went back to your house, had a shower and got changed into your recreation clothes. You would then just hang about until tea was served. After tea you could do a bit more work in your department if you wanted to. If you weren't doing more work you had recreation. After that you went back to your house. I think you had to be back for about eight o'clock. There was then about an hour's television before you went to your bed. Everybody went to bed at the same time.

Mealtimes / food

52. There were separate dining rooms for each house. You had your breakfast, lunch and dinner in your house. You were elected a specific table when you started in the house. The same four people would sit with you throughout your time there. The food was actually alright. It was ok. The guy who ran the kitchen was called Jimmy Wright. I worked in the kitchens a few times. Everybody wanted to work with Jimmy because he was such good fun.

Sleeping arrangements

53. There were four in my room. It was all boys roughly of the same age.

Washing / bathing

54. The shower room in the house was communal. There were about seven showers. It wasn't open. There were curtains you could pull around you for a bit of privacy. It wasn't supervised. The housemaster would run in and out. He didn't stand about telling you to hurry up or anything like that. There was a bath upstairs. You could ask to have a bath instead of a shower if you wanted one.

Clothing / uniform

55. You had your recreation and your work clothes. You had some clothes for gym.

Possessions

56. I didn't have any personal property there. If you took any personal belongings back you had to hand them in to the housemaster. He would put them somewhere. He would only give you whatever it was back when you returned home for your leave.

School

57. We never had school there. Nobody went to a school. There was no academic education.

Work

58. There were four things you could choose from. You could do gardening, building, painting or joinery. For the first few weeks you did a week in each department. After those first few weeks you put forward which department you wanted to work in. If you were successful in what you picked you were allowed to work in that department. That became the department you worked in for the rest of the time you were there. You could do work in the evenings or at the weekends as well if you wanted to do that.

Money

59. You were paid money for your work. If you did extra work in the evenings or the weekends you got extra pay for that. I can't remember what you got paid. You never ever saw the money because it was put into an account. You could get money out from that account to spend in the shop.

Chores

60. I think at night, either before or after tea, everybody mucked in and tidied up the house. It was for an hour or something like that. You were told what job you had to do. It was things like hoovering or cleaning toilets. We did a lot of the cleaning ourselves. We had to keep the shower room and our rooms clean ourselves. I remember that there was a housemaid who would wash your sheets and return them to you.

Religious instruction

61. St Andrew's was all Catholic. I think they had a chapel in the grounds. On Sundays they took you to the local chapel in Garelohead for mass. I think it was up to yourself whether you wanted to go or not. A lot of the boys did go because it was a day out and there were girls there.
62. I was once taken to a priest's college by HOC [REDACTED]. I don't think the trip was voluntary. I think it was handpicked boys who were taken. There were a few of the boys from St Andrew's who went.
63. The place was somewhere where boys trained for the priesthood. I couldn't tell you where it was. It was like a mansion house which looked similar to Shandon. It was an old fashioned place. It was a nice place and a nice building. I didn't understand why we were there or what we were doing there. It was all "oh have a look at this and that." I found it quite boring.
64. I remember that one of the young priests we saw there had been to St Andrew's. I can't remember his name. He was young. I do remember him popping in later on at St Andrew's to chat with the boys.

Leisure time

65. There was a television and pool tables. You could play five aside in the gym. They actually had a gymnastics team. It wasn't for me. I think the team was quite good and they did shows and things. The boys would practice through the week.
66. On Saturdays and Sundays there were a lot of activities. You could put your name down for things like canoeing, sailing, football, marathon running, camping and days out to places. It was down to the teacher who was taking the activity whether you could do that. You could more or less choose what you wanted to do. You did keep yourself busy. You couldn't just sit around and do nothing.

Trips / holidays

67. On one occasion ^{HQC} ██████████ took me into Glasgow to visit my mum at our house. I don't know how that came about. I think it was during a time when I hadn't got leave. I don't know how he got permission to take me out on my own. We visited my mum for about an hour or so. He was there during the visit. After that he took me into the city centre. He took me to a posh shop at the end of Buchanan Street. He bought me a jumper. The jumper was like a 'college jumper'. I remember that I wasn't allowed to wear the jumper in St Andrew's. I was only allowed to wear it when I went home on leave. That was the rule in St Andrew's. You could only wear your own clothes when you went home on leave.

Home leave

68. We got home leave for a weekend every three weeks.

Birthdays and Christmas

69. I can't remember ever celebrating a birthday or anybody knowing my birthday there. I think we just had a wee get together in the hall at Christmas time. There was a tree and some Christmas carols. I must have gone home for Christmas itself. I'm sure we did. I can't remember being in St Andrew's on Christmas day.

Visits / Inspections

70. I don't think you were allowed visitors unless it was under special circumstances. Things like there being a death in the family or something like that. There wasn't any visiting as such.
71. I did have visitors during the open days. Your family could come to those. The open days were few and far between. Those days were like garden fetes. There were stalls and things like that. I think my mum visited me once on one of the open days.

72. I can't remember any official visitors. I don't remember seeing a social worker. I don't remember any inspections or inspectors.

Review of detention

73. After the first few weeks you were sat down with the staff and assessed. I think they did that after the first six weeks. They asked you how you were getting on and things like that.
74. I think there was something like a release board. It was something similar to a parole board. I think you had to go up in front of them every three months in the lead up to your release date. They would tell you whether you were being released or 'knocked back' for another three months. I remember sitting in front of them. They spoke 'at you' rather than had a conversation 'with you'.

Healthcare

75. There was a matron there. If you had any problems, like a cut finger or whatever, you would go and see her. She was quite a disciplinarian but she wasn't that bad. Her bark was worse than her bite. The matron would do some of the dental care. If you really had to see the dentist then they would make an appointment for you with the dentist in Helensburgh.

Running away

76. Absconding could be coming back from leave late or not returning from leave. It could also be running away from the home. There were a few times when I never went back from home leave when I was supposed to. I was absconding because of what ^{HQC} [REDACTED] was doing to me. One of the housemasters would come out in their car and collect you if you absconded. They would come to your house.
77. I remember one time one of the other housemasters pulling up in the street. I don't remember his name. It wasn't ^{HQC} [REDACTED]. He pulled me over to the car and told me to

get in the car, which I did. I think he had been to my mum's before that and she had told him where I was. He had then scoured the streets for me.

Bed-wetting

78. There were a couple of guys who wet the bed in my room. They weren't disciplined or anything like that. It wasn't like Larchgrove. They just got up in the morning, stripped the bed and gave their sheets to the housemaid. There was no punishment or humiliation. There was nothing like that.

Discipline and punishment

79. Discipline was cancelling your home leave. You could be fined out of the money in your bank. It was some like £2 or £3. You could be stopped from being allowed any tuck shop sweets. If there were any issues about boys misbehaving the headmaster would call those boys out at assembly. He would tell them to see him afterwards.
80. They did have the belt or strap. You would get that off of the headmaster. It was always the headmaster who did that. You could get that for things like absconding. The headmaster gave you the strap on the hand. I got the strap across my bum over my trousers a couple of times. It was quite a few straps. The number of straps, or where he did it, depended on what you had done. I don't know whether that was noted anywhere.

Abuse at St Andrew's

81. When I first arrived I was sent to Fruan. I think it was me and another chap who was sent there. When I got to Fruan house ^{HQC} [REDACTED] showed me about. He was the housemaster. He told me the rules and the 'do's and don'ts.' He showed me my locker and my bed in my room.

82. HQC [REDACTED] then told us to wash. He said there was a shower room but there was also a bath. I said that I would have a bath. HQC [REDACTED] then showed me to the bathroom. I went in and had a bath. When I finished having my bath HQC [REDACTED] walked in. There wasn't a lock on the door. I was standing there naked drying myself. HQC [REDACTED] then said "let me dry your feet." I did think it was strange but I sat on the edge of the bath and let him dry my feet with my towel. I didn't know why he was doing that. He then put his hand up to my privates and felt them. He then said "oh you're a big boy." After that he just walked out the door. I didn't know what to do. It was strange. I just got myself dry and got myself ready. I just carried on what I was doing and didn't mention it to anybody. That was the first time that he touched me.
83. It just got worse after that. He would come into my dorm. There were people in the same room but they were sleeping. He would do that once a week. Sometimes it was twice a week. He could have been doing what he did for three or six months. I just don't know. It happened a few times. He'd put his hand under my covers and things like that. The first time it happened I was asleep and just felt a hand under the covers. I was scared to look up.
84. I had to go on a camping trip to the Isle of Arran one weekend because I had failed to return from leave. I had had my home leave cancelled. That was my punishment. HQC [REDACTED] was on the camping trip with us. I remember there were two tents where the boys were sleeping. We were on a hill top.
85. All I can say is that HQC [REDACTED] tried to rape me. He went further than he had gone before. There were people in the tent with me. They were sleeping. I jumped up and told him to stop. I wouldn't say that I fought back I just didn't let it happen. I was bricking it.
86. The following day, when I left the tent, I saw HQC [REDACTED] sitting on the edge of the hill top. He had his knees up and his head in his hands. The other boys were up as well as me. They were all saying "what's the matter with him?" I just said that I didn't know. HQC [REDACTED] sat there for about an hour with his head in his hands.

87. We then got ourselves ready and did what we had to do. He was there but he didn't speak to us much that day. I think we were on the camping trip for a further day or two after the incident. HQC never said a lot throughout the rest of that camping trip. I just stayed away from him. I avoided him at every opportunity.

Reporting of abuse whilst at St Andrew's

88. When we got back to St Andrew's I found out that HQC was going on holiday. We had to stay in the house whilst HQC was away to wherever he was going. During that time I struck up a conversation with another boy called . We talked about HQC. I don't know how the conversation came about. told me that HQC was doing more or less the same things to him. He just opened up and told me about HQC. He basically said "it happened to me as well."
89. We decided that we were going to tell the headmaster what was happening whilst HQC wasn't there. The following day at assembly we put our hands up and asked to see the headmaster. All the boys that were in our house were whispering to us "what do you want to see him for?" We never said anything.
90. After the assembly and I saw the headmaster separately. We told him what had been going on. The headmaster sat there writing things down. It seemed as if I was in his office for an hour. It was just me and him. The headmaster did the same with . The headmaster then told me and to go back to our house and not say anything to anybody about it.
91. After we spoke to the headmaster and I agreed not to say anything to anybody about it. A couple of days later some of the boys started asking questions about what we had been speaking to the headmaster about. then told them. I found that quite embarrassing. The boys didn't sympathise. They just took the mick. None of them said that anything had happened to them. I never heard of any other boys suffering the same stuff as and I did with HQC.

92. A couple of days after reporting what had happened to the headmaster, [HQC] [HQC] showed up at the house. I didn't think I would see him again after reporting what had happened. I was in the television room. He popped his head round the corner and called me into his office. I went into the office with him. He said "just to let you know, I'm leaving." I just kept my head down. I couldn't look him in the face. [HQC] then pulled out a silver chain. It had crucifix or a St Christopher on it. He said "I got you this whilst I was on holiday. Would you still like it?" I just shook my head. I said "no I don't want it." He then said "ok fine." I then asked whether I could go and he said I could. I walked out of the office. That was the last that I saw of him. He packed up his belongings and left. I never saw him again.
93. I think [HQC] did shout [redacted] into the office as well. I told [redacted] that [HQC] had tried to give me a crucifix. [redacted] said that [HQC] had tried to give him something as well. He said that he told [HQC] that he didn't want it.
94. I don't know whether [HQC] was sacked or whether he left voluntarily. I never heard anything about him again. Nobody ever told me where he went. I couldn't say where he went. I don't know whether [HQC] went on to another home. He could have gone on to carry on what he was doing elsewhere.
95. I don't know whether the headmaster reported it to the police or whether the police spoke to [HQC]. I don't know. Nobody ever told me what happened after we reported it. No police officer came and spoke to me. Looking back it was as if it was all swept under the carpet. If the headmaster didn't speak to the police I think that he definitely should have.
96. I don't know whether the headmaster told my mother about what had happened. I don't think he did. My mum never mentioned the abuse. She never ever mentioned it to me. I doubt that she was ever told what had gone on.

Leaving St Andrew's

97. After ^{HQC} [REDACTED] left I was at St Andrew's for about another year and a half. My time after he left was brilliant. I became more relaxed. I could enjoy the activities more. I started to knuckle down and play by the rules. Everything was good. I did enjoy it. In general I had a good time.
98. I must have been doing all the right things towards the end because I started getting work outside of St Andrew's. I was doing work in Helensburgh. I got to paint the outside of the swimming baths. I had other jobs on the roads. I made tea for the men on the roads and things like that. I was going out during the day working, coming back and behaving myself. I was enjoying life.
99. As time went on I thought I would be getting released. There were a lot of boys who were worse than me getting released before me. I kept on getting knock back after knock back from the release board. I remember a housemaster saying to me that it was very unusual to be spending the amount of time I had been in St Andrew's. Boys were only usually there between nine months and a year. I had been in there for about two years. I never got an explanation why I was being kept so long. I was just sent out of the room by the release board. The housemaster would then tell me that I had been knocked back. There was no explanation behind the decisions.
100. In the end I was eventually told after seeing the release board that I could go home. I think I stayed in St Andrew's a couple of weeks before I went home. I think I left in about 1970.

Life after being in care

101. I was just over fifteen when I left. I went to stay with my mum and I signed on. I then tried to get a job. I got a job in [REDACTED]. I was a lamp lighter for Glasgow Council for a while. I ended up getting married at seventeen to a woman called

██████████. We had three kids. We were together for about fifteen years. It just never worked out. I worked on and off over those years.

102. After I separated from ██████████ I had the opportunity to go to London and visit one of my mates. I went down for September weekend and ended up staying there until Christmas. I came back to Scotland and couldn't get work for a couple of months. I decided to move down to London. I think that was in about 1981 or 1982.

Impact

103. When I first left St Andrew's I didn't have the confidence to go as a painter or decorator. I didn't have any qualifications from my time at St Andrew's. What I knew I had been taught. However, I didn't have any papers to back what I had been taught up. I knew I could do it but I didn't have the confidence to approach companies.
104. I think going to Larchgrove and St Andrew's held me back. There was no follow up with me after I left care. There was no one who came out to see me to help me or enquire whether I needed help getting any work. You were left to your own devices. I was left to sign on and take it from there.
105. I didn't give it much thought back then. I just got on with it. The older I've got the more I've started thinking about things. I've started to question why they didn't do this or that.
106. I don't think my time in care and what happened has affected my health in any way. I've never had any counselling or felt that I've needed it.

Reporting of abuse after leaving care

107. I didn't want to tell anyone about what happened. I didn't want to speak to anybody about it. I was ashamed and embarrassed. I did think about it now and again. I don't ever think I would have spoken about it with anybody at all if my partner hadn't heard about the Inquiry on the news. I talked with her about what had happened to me. I didn't go into any details or anything like that. It was my partner who suggested to me that I should come forward and speak to the Inquiry.

Records

108. I've never tried to get my records. I wouldn't know how to go about it.

Lessons to be Learned

109. I think that people who work in these homes should be selected more carefully. Their backgrounds should be looked into more carefully. To me it was obvious that **HQC** was gay. He was effeminate. I don't know how he was allowed to work with boys. I don't think every gay person is a paedophile but there was a risk.
110. I don't know whether these types of places are still around. I think you should be supported and helped to get into work after you leave these places.

Final thoughts

111. I don't know how there wasn't any follow up after I reported what happened. I wasn't told what was going to happen with **HQC**. I don't know how he was allowed to walk into the house and speak to me in his office after I reported him. I don't understand how that was allowed to happen.

- 112. Reflecting on things you wonder what was happening. Were there other teachers and housemasters there doing the same thing? Was there a cover up and things were being swept under the carpet? I don't know.

- 113. I don't know what I want to come out of this. If me speaking to the Inquiry helps or stops these sort of things happening in the future then that is a good thing.

- 114. 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.....27/6/2018.....