

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HYE

Support person present: No

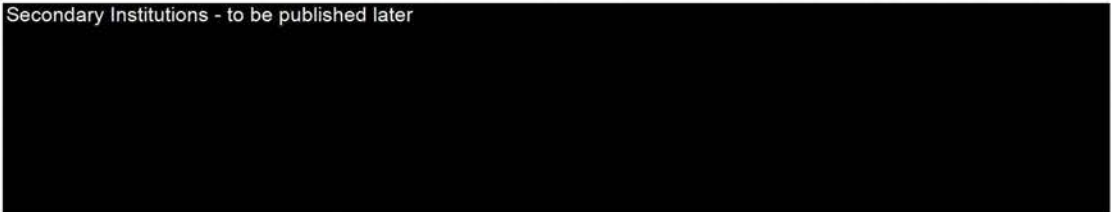
1. My name is HYE My date of birth is 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

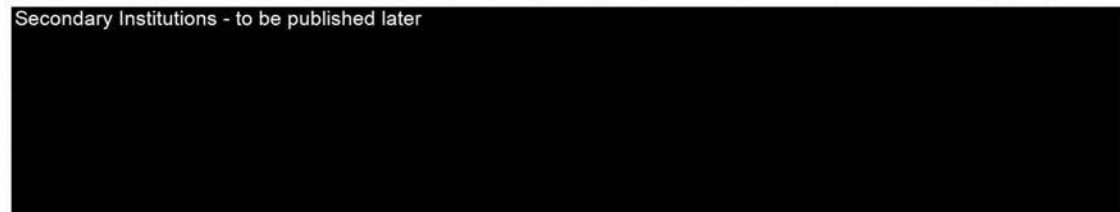
2. I was born in Rottenrow, Glasgow. My dad was also and my mum was . My mum was a cleaner in schools and my dad was an HGV driver.
3. I have four brothers and three sisters. I am the oldest child in the family and then it is who is two years younger than me. After that is , then and then my sister . My other two sisters, and are dead. The youngest was my brother but I have not seen him for twenty years.
4. We initially stayed in the Townhead area of Glasgow and I went to St David's school, which was a Protestant school in Townhead. We flitted around a bit and when we moved to Maryhill, I went to Dunard Primary School, in Dunard Street.
5. Life at home was fantastic. My mum and dad were the salt of the earth. They weren't drinkers or anything like that. We got fed well and the food was adequate.

6. As my family were so poor and we got free meals and got sent for clothes the local authority or education department used to send us to residential schools to give us a holiday and my parents some rest bite.

Castle Toward Residential Home, Dunoon

7. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 

St Catherine Mary House, Dunoon

8. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 

Residential School, Tighnabruaich, Argyllshire

9. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 

- 10.
- 

Bellfield Remand Home, West Dunbartonshire

11. When I was nine or ten years old, I made my first appearance in the Marine Court in Glasgow and I was there a couple of times. My mum and dad were at the court with me and I got sentenced to Bellfield Remand Home in West Dunbartonshire. I can't remember for definite why I was there but it could have been for fighting because I was always fighting.
12. Bellfield was fantastic and I loved it. The people were really nice and the food was the best I've ever had. The staff were really good with us and they actually put me in a bunk bed with another boy from Townhead who knew me. I thought that was a good practice. The staff were always really respectful. They never spoke down to you and treated us well. I had no issues at all whilst I was there but I don't think anybody from authority came to do any sort of assessment on me. There was maybe a probation officer who came but I've seen a few of them so can't remember if that was when I was there or not. I was only there for a few weeks and then I went back to the Marine Court. The sheriff sent me home and told me to keep my nose clean.
13. There was a lot going on in Glasgow at that time and I got into trouble a few times. When I was about ten or eleven years old I got arrested for a breach of the peace and getting up to other shenanigans. It wasn't anything very violent but more just stupid things like trespassing.
14. I appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court in front of Sheriff Langmuir. I had been in front of him a couple of times before and we didn't hit it off. He had previously put me on protection reports and fined me. My dad had to pay the fine and he hated Sheriff Langmuir. The sheriff told me that I was in front of him again and he was sick of seeing me there. He sentenced me to twenty-eight days at Larchgrove Assessment Centre.
15. My mum and dad were in the court and my dad was cursing him. I got put in a cell again and I never got a chance to speak to my parents. A car took me straight to Larchgrove and I remember feeling really apprehensive.

Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow

16. When I arrived at Larchgrove, I remember seeing St John's school opposite it. I do not have a clue who ran Larchgrove but I remember I thought it was quite modern. I was apprehensive because I had never been in prison before other than Bellfield. There were two big doors that you went through into a reception area. On the ground floor, you walk right through to a big yard where we played in. There was an industrial estate behind it where Toffolo Jackson the terrazzo company was.
17. There were small dormitories upstairs that we slept in with about a dozen to fourteen boys in each. It was all boys about my age and some a couple of years older. I was one of the youngest and the oldest was about thirteen or fourteen years old. There were maybe about a hundred and fifty boys in total staying there.
18. I don't know how many staff worked there but they were all male. I only ever remember seeing about half a dozen of them but I don't know any of their names.

Routine at Larchgrove Assessment Centre

First day

19. As soon as I went through the big doors there was a desk and five big blokes in sports jackets waiting for me. They told me to come in and ordered me to stand there in front of them. They asked me what my name was and what I was in for. I was grabbed by the hair, attacked by them and then put in a cell for three days. I was bleeding badly but never got a chance to wash and clean up my injuries until the first morning after I had slept in a dorm and went for a wash.

Mornings and bedtime

20. I think we got up about six o'clock, got washed, dressed and had breakfast. We then went back to the dorm for a bit, made our beds and tidied up. We then got called out

to the yard where we just played with a ball or kept ourselves occupied. We were out there until lunchtime and after that it was back to the dorm. The staff came to check we were all right and inspect the dorm. It was then back out to the yard again until it was lock up at about five o'clock or teatime. That was us until six o'clock the next morning. Saturdays and Sundays were the same.

Mealtimes / Food

21. I don't remember what the food was like but it wasn't like Bellfield. It was pretty spartan. I would eat anything and I don't recall anybody not being able to eat it. I don't know if there would have been any punishment or what would have happened if somebody didn't eat it.

Washing / Bathing

22. We didn't automatically get a shower I think you had to ask for one but I don't remember having one. It was very limited with just wash hand basins.

Clothing / Uniform

23. Most people wore their own clothes but they gave us some clothes to wear which was some sort of uniform.

Schooling

24. I never went to any classes whilst I was there.

Work / Chores

25. We had to sweep up the corridors, do dusting, polishing, just general maintenance and things like that. We didn't have to make our beds in any certain way. We just had to make sure they were tidy.

Leisure time

26. The time we were out in the yard was our leisure time.

Trips and holidays

27. We never went on any trips or holidays.

Religious instruction

28. We never went to church and there was nothing religious taught whilst I was there.

Birthdays and Christmas

29. I wasn't there at Christmas time and nobody had their birthday celebrated.

Personal possessions

30. I didn't have any personal possessions and didn't have access to a radio or comics or anything like that.

Healthcare

31. There was no healthcare at all. There was no doctor, nurse, matron, or dentist. I never got any medical treatment at all after being beaten despite having missing teeth and a broken nose. If somebody was unwell with appendicitis or something, they would just get an ambulance.

Bed Wetting

32. I never wet the bed when I was there. Other boys did and the staff used to shame them. They were never punished physically but the staff used to call them dandelions

and would say 'step out the dandelions'. They would hang their sheets out and hand out rubber sheets to them in front of everybody. The other boys used to slag them.

Visitors / Family & Sibling contact

33. I never had any visitors and I don't remember anybody else getting visitors. I don't remember there even being a visiting room. I had no contact with my parents, brothers, or sisters.

34. I know people were putting in for visits but I don't know whether they got them.

Review of care / detention

35. Nobody came to assess me while I was there. I never saw anybody like that until I went back to court. I went back there without being asked any sort of questions by anybody. I think it was just a staff appraisal at the court.

External Inspections

36. I was never aware of anybody coming to Larchgrove to inspect the place.

Discipline

37. We never got the belt or other corporal punishment. The discipline was a kick or a slap and I saw many lads getting a slap. This would happen if somebody was talking when they shouldn't have been or were being disruptive.

Running away

38. I never ran away and didn't even try to. Other lads tried but when they got caught by the police and brought back, they got beaten up by the Larchgrove staff.

Abuse at Larchgrove Assessment Centre

39. As soon as I went into Larchgrove, I was physically abused by the men in sports jackets at reception. They ordered me to stand in front of them. One of them grabbed me by the hair and pulled me backwards. Another one of them was in a cupboard and as he came over to me, I banged his hand away. I thought he was going to hit me and all hell broke loose. I learned later that he had cream for nits to put on my hair.
40. They battered me. I got kneed in the groin, they started punching and kicking me and I fell to the floor. They were kicking me all over and knocked my front and bottom teeth out. They burst the septum of my nose and I still have breathing difficulties because of this.
41. I was lying on the floor and they dragged me by the hair and scruff of the neck to the other end of the building and into a cell. It was just a little room and I was surprised that somewhere that kept kids had an actual cell. There was no furniture and no sink.
42. They pulled me into it and threw me in the corner. I was bleeding badly from my nose and my mouth and off they went. It was freezing in there. Instead of a window there was a big steel plate with holes and the wind howled through it. I think it was about [REDACTED] because it was cold even though I still had my clothes on.
43. They kept banging the door with the keys to waken me up during the night. I was there for about three days and they never gave me anything to eat or drink, I got no medical treatment and nobody came in to see me. I wanted to clean my nose and my mouth out and I was finding it hard to breathe because my septum was broken and my nose was all swollen.
44. I couldn't understand why they did it. I can't remember for definite but I think I had maybe been in Larchgrove before. I had a really distinctive shock of red hair and I don't know if the staff recognised me. I was just a young small guy, maybe a wee bit chubby but it didn't stop them battering me.

45. The next day I had been sleeping on the floor and I had a really bad pain in my groin. I was having to urinate in the corner and I noticed when I did so that I was peeing blood. It was really sore and I was really worried. I hammered on the door and was shouting for help. Eventually two of them came into the cell and asked me what all the noise about. I said I needed a doctor or a medical orderly and they started slapping me about. I was pleading for a doctor and they just said all in good time. They just slammed the door on me. The bit that really broke me was I could hear them laughing about it as they walked away. I never got to see a doctor or get any medical help.
46. After three days they let me out and I went into the mainstream for the rest of my stay there.
47. I don't have a clue what any of their names were but they were all at reception when I came in. I don't think I ever saw them again after that, other than when two of them came into the cell they put me in. Every time I saw staff after that, they gave me a slap or a kick when I went passed them. That went on right up until the time I left.
48. When I left Larchgrove, I remember thinking I was lucky to get out of there alive after what they did to me.

Leaving Larchgrove Assessment Centre

49. After my four weeks, I was taken back to the Sheriff Court in Glasgow and appeared in front of Sheriff Langmuir again. The clerk of the court handed him a piece of paper. He read it and then said I was disruptive. He sentenced me to be detained at Balrossie School. My mum and dad were there and my dad was fuming. He called him the hanging judge.
50. When I was in the court, I still had black and swollen eyes from being beaten when I first went into Larchgrove but nobody made any comment. I think it was just put down or assumed that I had been fighting. There was nobody representing me, no lawyers and no social worker there for me. I never got to speak to or see my mum and dad. I

felt angry, as I could have got a chance to talk to them for a while. I would have let them know what had been happening to me but they kept me away from my parents on purpose.

51. I was taken straight from the court to Balrossie School in a car.

Balrossie School, Kilmacolm

52. Balrossie is in Kilmalcolm and I call it paradise. I felt all right when I got there, as my first impression was it was a nice place. It was an old naval sanctuary and it was spotless.
53. It was a low level building which was set up quite high looking down over the grounds. There was a lovely white cottage on the drive as you came up to the school.
54. It was all boys in the school and there was maybe seventy or eighty of us. Some of the lads were older than me, up to about fifteen years old. There were about four or five boys in each dorm even although there was usually nine or ten beds in each. We all had a wee locker next to our beds. I was there for years until I left school to get a job.
55. There was a headmaster in charge of the place but I can't remember his name. There was a matron who was lovely but I can't really remember any other members of staff.
56. The only other one I can remember was a psychiatrist called **HYF** because I had a run in with him.

Routine at Balrossie School

First Day

57. As soon as I arrived I was asked by the staff what had happened to my face because I still had the black eyes. I told them the staff at Larchgrove had beaten me up but they didn't seem interested.
58. They booked me in at reception but there was no inspection or anyone trying to put nit cream in my hair like they had done at Larchgrove. I was taken to my dormitory and then they got me sorted out with clothes that were like desert rats outfits, all the khaki clothes. I was then allowed out into the grounds to climb trees and things.

Daily routine

59. We used to get up, get washed and have breakfast. There was no assembly or anything, we just went out to play in the fields and climb trees. There was a big outdoor swimming pool but it was filthy so we couldn't use it. We then went in for lunch and after that we were either back out in the fields or sometimes we got taken for a walk through the beautiful valleys with all the burns. We would then go back in for a cup of tea and a bun before we were sent away to the dorms for the night. This was usually about half six or seven o'clock. We weren't locked in so you were able to get up and go out to the toilet.
60. The routine was no different on a Saturday and Sunday other than they used to let some boys go home for an overnight visit.

Washing / Bathing

61. You could have a shower in the morning or at any time you wanted. You got privacy as the showers weren't supervised.

Mealtimes / Food

62. The food was good but not as good as Bellfield and you got plenty of it. Nobody had any problems eating the food. There was also a tuck shop that you could buy sweets and things from. We used to get a couple of shillings allowance every week so that you could buy sweets, shampoo and soap.

Clothing / Uniform

63. We were allocated clothes and everybody wore the same. It was khaki shorts, as there was no long trousers, a shirt and jumper. We got clean clothing once a week or more often if they got dirty when you were climbing trees. They got sent away for washing but you wouldn't get the same ones back as there was no name tags or numbers. They just gave you a clean set of your size. We never had any sports-wear.

Schooling

64. There was some education. They would take you in for an hour or two in the afternoon and teach you maths, history, geography and things like that. The teachers were brilliant. I feel I definitely learned things. I got my First Aid, Bronze Medallion and my elementary swimming certificates. They brought people in to teach these things.

Work / Chores

65. We had to do general maintenance like sweeping the dorm and corridors and I did a few days in the kitchen doing the dishes. We never had to do anything like gardening or weeding.

Leisure Time

66. We used to climb the trees and go on walks all the way down to Kilmacolm and back through the valleys and past the streams. It was beautiful with overhanging trees. We'd play about for hours, then go back and have our tea.

67. We did go to the gymnasium and use the bars and medicine ball. They encouraged us to jog and do a bit of physical fitness.
68. There was a TV and we were allowed to watch pop programmes. I remember being excited to see The Beatles. There was a good library and I read Perry Mason books in bed before the lights were put out.

Trips and Holidays

69. The only trip we got was the weekly trip to Port Glasgow swimming baths.

Christmas and Birthdays

70. At Christmas time, we never went home but they put a tree up and we did get a slap up lunch. We never got any presents but there were books and magazines that got handed round to share and read.
71. Other than getting birthday cake twice from my sister who brought it up on the bus I don't remember celebrating birthdays.

Visits / Family & Sibling Contact

72. My dad was a driving instructor by this time so had a car and they used to come and visit me once every couple of months. I used to send them a visiting form. When they came to visit there was a designated area where we had privacy and they could sit and have a cup of tea. I welcomed their visits and they would bring goodies.
73. My mum and dad loved the place and they liked the staff. My dad was a bit naive though because at one stage, they were thinking about emigrating to New Zealand. They wanted me to go with them so they came to see if the governor would release me. He told them it wasn't up to him and that it had to be the Home Office or Scottish Office that authorised it. They said no so they ended up not going.

74. Other than my sister bringing my birthday cake I never had any contact with my brothers and sisters.
75. I also got about four or five home visits at weekends. A bus would pick up about twenty of us and drop us off. We would need to be home for six o'clock on the Sunday night.
76. I think we wrote letters home but I have no idea if the staff opened them to check them first. I think I received letters as well but I don't remember them being open.

Review of Care / Detention

77. I never got any visits from anybody from social work or other authorities to check up on how I was getting on. The only person who spoke to me about anything happening in there was the psychiatrist who I fell out with.

External Inspections

78. I was never aware of anybody coming to inspect the school or how it was being run. It was run like a public school and my dad said it was like being at Eton or Cambridge.

Healthcare

79. There was a sick bay and I was in it once for a week but I cannot remember why. Matron was brilliant and she had a great figure. I never went to hospital nor the dentist and I was never asked about or got any treatment for my teeth or septum whilst I was there.

Religious Instruction

80. We never really got any religion other than the Salvation Army Band sometimes coming on a Sunday and we would sing hymns.

Bed wetting

81. I never wet the bed when I was at Balrossie. I don't know if any of the other boys did but if they did I have not got a clue how it was dealt with.

Running Away

82. I never ran away but a few guys did. They once thought that I had run away because another guy and I never heard the whistle to come in so were late back from climbing the trees and we got a bollocking.

Discipline

83. There was no kind of physical punishment as discipline. There was a point system where you lost points if you misbehaved or were disruptive. If you were good all week, you would be considered for being allowed to go home that weekend. They had a board saying who was getting to go home and who was staying. I got stopped from going home a few times because I had been fighting but that was because I was challenging bullies.

Abuse at Balrossie School

84. I was never abused by any staff and I never saw any of the other boys being abused by them. Some of the older boys would push you about and call you names. The staff used to come down on bullies. I didn't mind getting up in the morning when I was there as I didn't fear I was going to get bullied.
85. There was a bully at the school with the surname [REDACTED] and he had been bullying everyone and did it to me once too often. He used to go about kneeing boys in the groin and I decided if he did it to me, he wasn't getting away with it. He came up to me in the toilets, kneed me in the groin and tried to bully me so I gave him a hiding in front

of the headmaster and staff. I think they were quite pleased because I dealt with him. He never bullied me again.

86. I also got in lots of other fights with bullies so the school stopped me from going to Port Glasgow swimming baths to do my bronze medallion lifesaving training. We used to go once a week but all of a sudden one week they wouldn't let me on the bus and I was told to go to the headmaster's office. When I got there a big, tall weird looking bloke who was the psychiatrist called **HYF** was in the office.
87. He was there to see me and ask why I had been fighting so much. I refused to engage with him or answer any of his questions. He was asking me about all sorts, babbling a load of rubbish but I wouldn't speak. We reached an impasse and he was raging. He was threatening me, kept telling me he was going to put me in a lunatic asylum and that I would die there. I was really worried by this. He didn't do it but that worry was with me.

Leaving Balrossie School

88. In about 1962 when I was leaving Balrossie they got me in and told me I had gone far enough there and the next place I was to go is to the Young Offenders' Institution. They said they would let me out and I would be allowed to stay out as long as I could get a trade. They got in touch with my parents and told them this.
89. I was promised a job as an apprentice bricklayer with **██████████** but there was nothing concrete for a starting date. So that I could go back and say I had a job, I got a job as a van delivery boy with **██████████**. My dad went back to the school with me and told them this but they were none too pleased. My dad told them that I had the promise of the apprenticeship with **██████████**. I got a written letter from **██████████** confirming this so they agreed to let me out of the school and out of the system.
90. One day not long after that I got called into the headmaster at midday and he told me I was getting out of there at nine o'clock the next day. I thought it was brilliant I was

getting out but was also a bit sad as I loved it there and it was the end of my schooldays.

91. I was fifteen years old when I left and I got a parcel with a white coat, a dress jacket and plimsolls to take away with me.

Life after being in care

92. After I left Balrossie, I more or less went from job to job. I worked in the building game and also worked as a forklift driver. I worked as a bouncer doing security on the doors for a bit and in the sixties, I worked as a lifeguard at [REDACTED] for a while. In the main and for most of my life I have worked in construction.
93. I have never been married but have been engaged to my partner [REDACTED] for forty years.
94. I have a kid that I have never met from a relationship I had with a woman from Glasgow before I met [REDACTED]. She has her own life so I don't want to impose on her.
95. I came to Jersey in 1973 and was allowed to stay because of my building qualifications. I retired a few years ago. I mainly worked in construction here as well but again I did have a job as a lifeguard at a swimming pool for a while.
96. I was never in trouble again after I left Glasgow.

Impact

97. As a result of the injuries I received when I was beaten up on my first day at Larchgrove I have tinnitus and get really dizzy sometimes. These dizzy spells have been happening ever since that beating. After I moved to Jersey I woke up one morning really dizzy, the room was spinning as if I had really bad seasickness. I was meant to be going to work but got taken away in an ambulance and hospitalised.

98. They didn't know what was wrong with me and asked whether I had been in an accident or if I had ever fallen and banged my head. I told them I got a hell of a hiding when I was younger and how I had tinnitus and dizziness ever since. They diagnosed that I was suffering from Labyrinthitis. There is nothing you can take to stop it and there is no cure.
99. I never got any medical or dental treatment for this or my teeth when I was at Balrossie. It was after I left there in the sixties that I went to an NHS dentist in Glasgow who filed my teeth and gave me ill-fitting dentures. They were really uncomfortable and I couldn't eat with them. A couple of years ago it cost me £6000 to get new dentures.
100. I still have difficulty breathing because of my septum being broken and being in my nostril. If it is muggy or I am swimming, it's hard to breathe. I've never had it medically examined, I've just put up with it. I sometimes struggle to sleep when it's muggy because of the injury.
101. If I get up too quickly I get really dizzy still and it's all about the balance in my inner ear. All of these things I attribute directly to the beating I took that first day at Larchgrove.
102. I have since had a couple of episodes of peeing blood. I don't know for sure whether it was down to the kicking and kneeing I got in the groin when I was first put into Larchgrove but I feel it might be connected.
103. About five years ago when I was in Torrevieja, Spain and had blood in my semen. Not long after that I had blood in my urine. I went to the hospital there and they put a camera up my penis. They never saw anything obvious and as I wasn't in the Spanish health system I never heard anymore. My waterworks still aren't right but again I don't know if that is down to that kicking or not.

104. I wouldn't say the lack of education stopped me getting on in life and it didn't make too much difference to me as it was construction work that I did mainly. However, I am well read and have taught myself a lot.
105. My confidence with woman suffered a lot in the sixties and onwards because of my missing teeth. It was embarrassing and I can't state that strongly enough. It was difficult for me to form relationships with women. I overcame it with perseverance and getting dentures but they were never any good.
106. I usually waken up with a startle a couple of times a week thinking about the beating I took and always think why did this happen to me. When this happens, I feel the roaring in my ears and the tinnitus. When I can't breathe through my nose it reminds me. When these things happen it makes me feel angry about what happened to me.
107. I have never felt the need to turn to alcohol or drugs due to what happened.
108. I think that my time in Larchgrove and Balrossie has had a big impact on my relationship with my brothers and sisters. I never see them from one year to another, even my brother who lives close by, as we fell out. I don't keep in touch with any of them bar one brother on Facebook Messenger. I'm not too bothered but I think all that time I was away made me a bit solitary. I like my own company. I have locked my bedroom door and stayed in for a week just reading books. I think this is down to being locked away in these places. It is now second nature and I think it institutionalised me.
109. I have never gone back to visit any of the places I was locked up in but I would love to, just to see Balrossie.

Treatment/support

110. I have never been for, sought or felt the need to get psychiatric support or counselling for what happened to me. That's not my thing. I've never felt like harming myself or anything as I am a pretty steady guy.

Reporting of Abuse

111. The first time my mum and dad came to visit me at Balrossie I told them about getting beaten up and left in the cell at Larchgrove. My mum was raging and initially wanted to report it. My dad was an educated man but my mum wasn't really so they didn't report it anywhere and just let it go.
112. I have not reported it to anybody from the authorities. I can't identify or name anybody. There was never anybody in Larchgrove or Balrossie that I felt I could tell because it was a them and us situation. The only person I have told is [REDACTED] after we saw the article in the Scottish Sunday Mail.

Records

113. I've never thought about trying to track my records and I'm not interested in finding them. I don't want to open it all up again as I have buried this part of my life and now want to park it.

Compensation

114. I have never sought compensation for what happened to me.

Lessons to be learned

115. I think that people can learn not to get into trouble and just keep their nose's clean so they don't end up in these places.
116. I think these establishments should be run like boarding schools with their disciplinary record. They should be run by educators not disciplinarians.

117. The staff in Larchgrove just treated us as if we were a nuisance. They saw me as just some 'Glasgow Keely' and they thought they would teach me a lesson. These places should be run like Balrossie where the staff were brilliant with us. They were better trained and better educated.

Hopes for the Inquiry

118. The inquiry has achieved what I want as it has given me a peace of mind. I've got a lot of it off my chest by speaking to the Inquiry. I think the Inquiry is doing a grand job. I feel this has helped me bury what happened.

Other information

119. 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... HYE

Dated... 19.7.22