

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IQB

1. My name is IQB but I like to be known as IQB. My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I was born in Maryhill in Glasgow to my parents and I was the youngest of five children. My sister is nine years older than me. My brother is seven years older than me. My other sister is four years older and one year older. My dad worked in the steel factories and my mum looked after the children but latterly worked at Marlows, which was a sewing factory.

Life before going into care

3. I often went to live with my gran who was my mum's mum and my grandad I'm not sure why that was, but I know I stayed with them on and off when I was fairly young.
4. We moved to Cumbernauld when I was about a year old. I went to primary school at Sacred Heart in Cumbernauld, then the huts which was a temporary school while St Josephs was built and then I was put to when I was nine years old. was regarded as a special school. I was at school with kids in wheelchairs. I had trouble with reading and writing and I also had to have help with speech therapy.

5. I moved schools a few times. I was always regarded as slow and backward at school and I was always behind. I was held back a year in primary three or four. I suspect I am dyslexic but I have never had a formal diagnosis. I hated school though I loved going to it.
6. Home life wasn't good. I didn't get on with my dad. He just thought I was stupid. He got on with everyone else but me. I think I started to rebel when I was about ten years old. I had a really bad temper then and I would snap really quickly. My dad and I would fight all the time. My dad wouldn't think twice about taking the belt to me or slapping me across the face. He just did it to me, not my brother or sisters.
7. Social work became involved when I was about ten or eleven years old. I believe it was because I couldn't be controlled. I did try to run away. I seem to remember the words child protection or CP being used. I think it was the school that got social work involved because I was getting into trouble and fighting.
8. I've had more social workers and been to more children's panels than I have had hot dinners. That's how it feels anyway. I do remember some of the names of the social workers. There was Mrs Thomson. A lot of the people in my street had her, I think she may have been my first. There was Mr Green, he was nice. There was another social worker, whose name I can't remember but was well known up in Cumbernauld, he had a beard. I dealt with a lot of different social workers in amongst those ones but I don't remember names.
9. I went into care the first time because the school didn't want me in it. I did not like getting told what to do. I would be okay for a bit and then I would lose my temper. I did bunk off school a lot and I would get caught by the truancy officer.
10. Outside of school I was fine, I didn't get in trouble with the police it was what was happening at school and the tensions in the house that ultimately got me sent to an assessment centre.

11. I first went into care when I was about eleven years old and stayed in care until I was sixteen and a half. I did have short times back at home but that was only while they found somewhere else for me.
12. At the panels I would be asked how it was at home and how I was feeling. To be honest they were deciding what my life was like. I just wanted to go back to school I was so frustrated but I couldn't get my words across. I don't really think they were listening to what I was saying. It probably didn't help that my parents didn't want me at home either.

Cardross Park home, Cardross, Dumbartonshire

13. One minute I was at school and the next I was told I was going away. I was told that it would only be for a few days but it went into a few weeks. I believe it was the children's panel who decided. I think it was social work who took me but I am unsure who. All I knew was that school didn't want me and that I was causing friction between my family. I didn't really know what was happening. I was only eleven or twelve years old. I stayed there for two weeks.
14. Cardross was a big old stone building. It had a long driveway and big grounds. It housed boys and girls from about nine to thirteen or fourteen years old. I remember it had a big staircase inside the house and up on the stair way there was a myna bird in a cage.
15. Cardross was a secure place, the doors were locked.
16. We slept in dormitories with single beds. I only remember bits and pieces of my time in Cardross, probably because of my age and I was only there for a couple of weeks.

Routine at Cardross Park

Mornings/bedtime

17. I know staff woke us up in the morning but I cannot recall at what time or anything.

Mealtimes/food

18. For meals I remember we all sat at a big, long table. I don't recall what the food was like but I know there wasn't any choice and you ate what you got.

Schooling

19. I wasn't schooled at Cardross we would play games like snakes and ladders during the day.

Work/chores

20. We had to tidy up the place and mop and polish the floors.

Leisure time

21. I don't recall ever getting out of Cardross and playing in the grounds. I maybe did, I don't remember.

Visits/inspections

22. I only got a visit once while I was there it was from my mum and my sister [REDACTED]. I got upset and my mum never came back, ever. I believe she would have had to organise the visit and I know the visit took place in the hallway. We sat on a bench and there was no privacy.

23. I seem to have some memory of another visit when she took me for a walk to the railway station but I'm not sure at all.
24. I never had any other visits from social work or anyone.

Running away

25. I did run away from Cardross. It was only a few days after I arrived. Because it was a locked place it was quite difficult. In the mornings they would leave the door open. I saw my chance one morning when I went to put something in the bin that was outside. I ran away and I managed to get over the golf course and got a train back to Cumbernauld. I was taken back after I got picked up by the police.

Bed wetting

26. I did wet the bed in Cardross and did until I was sixteen years old. Because I wet the bed I remember always being woken up during the night to go to the toilet.
27. If you had wet the sheets in Cardross you would lift your sheets and take them downstairs to the laundry. The other kids would see this and you would be singled out and called names. Staff didn't do anything about that. You didn't get a shower after the bed wetting so most of the time you would end up stinking all of the time.

Discipline

28. They had a room at Cardross called the 'cooler'. It was basically a cupboard that was padded, there wasn't a window or a seat, there was nothing in it. I was taken to that at Cardross, I spent about two hours in there. You would get taken there for things like fighting.
29. They also used the belt as discipline in Cardross but I never got it while I was there. I did see others get it.

Abuse at Cardross Park

30. After I ran away that first time I was taken back by social work I think. When I got back I got a slap from a member of staff and got the belt. It was just like being back at home but a different house.
31. I got slapped a lot in Cardross. I don't remember who did it, it was mostly the older staff.
32. I saw children being restrained in Cardross, being slapped, being dragged about the place by the hair.
33. Not one of the staff in there showed kindness.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Cardross Park

34. I never told anyone what was going on at Cardross.

Leaving Cardross Park

35. I went back to a children's panel and they decided I was to come out of Cardross. I remember going home for a couple of weeks but I knew I was going somewhere else. I found out at some point I was going to Bellfield.

Bellfield Remand home, Dumbarton

36. I went to Bellfield when I was twelve years old. I am unsure exactly how long I stayed there but I have eleven months in my head. It may have been two months but it felt like a while.

37. Bellfield building was similar to Cardross. It was situated on a hill and had football pitches and tennis courts at the back. It had quite big gardens. It was on two levels with the bedrooms upstairs and the dining room and living room downstairs. There were about fifteen to twenty boys in the home and no girls. The boys were aged from twelve to fourteen years old. It was an older man in charge but I don't remember his name.
38. I slept in a dormitory at Bellfield.

Routine at Bellfield

Food

39. The food was okay. We had porridge, cereal and toast for breakfast and it would be a roast at dinner time.

Bathing

40. I remember a row of showers there but not much else.

Schooling

41. There was a teacher who came into Bellfield who did one to one teaching. She came in once a week but there were weeks you wouldn't see her for about three weeks. That was all I got, there was no other schooling in there.
42. There was a place we were taken to in the grounds, it was a hut and a member of staff would show you how an engine worked that was another bit of learning we got.

Work/chores

43. It was similar to Cardross in that we tidied up and washed and polished the floors.

Leisure time

44. There was a television room at Bellfield and we also used to play football quite a bit out in the grounds.

Weekends

45. We used to get home at weekends at Bellfield. I think it started straight away after I got in there. I would be taken to Dalreoch train station and then had to make my way to Glasgow. I would leave on the Friday and return on the Sunday night. I always remember it was really difficult returning on the Sunday.
46. One of the ways in which they disciplined us was that they would stop your weekend visits as a punishment for something you had done.

Birthdays/Christmas

47. If there was anything that happened at birthdays I can't remember. Christmas is the same. The only Christmases I remember were when I was very young at home.

Visits

48. I never had any visits from my parents or social work while I was at Bellfield.

Smoking

49. I started smoking in Bellfield, I was only twelve years old. It was staff that used to give us the cigarettes. Thankfully I managed to give up about twenty years ago.

Bed wetting

50. I was still wetting the bed at Bellfield. Staff used to wake me up during the night to go to the toilet but I would still do it. If I had, I had to strip my bed and take it to the

laundry in the morning. Staff would make crude comments and therefore everyone would know what I had done.

Running away

51. I ran away once at Bellfield but I can't remember where to or what happened after I was caught.

Abuse at Bellfield

52. I got the belt at Bellfield once, I think I got three hits with it, I believe it was because I was fighting. They would aim for your hand when they were giving the belt but the staff would miss and it ended up hitting your legs. When I got the three that time there were marks on my stomach.
53. I saw lots of kids getting the belt and then saw the marks that it left on them after it.
54. The staff at Bellfield would instigate fights with kids against kids. They would wind us up and play each other off against each other. They would watch the fight develop and only get involved if someone was going to get really hurt. It seemed to be the older staff that would do that, the ones with grey hair.
55. The staff would also slap you to the face and pull you about. I can't say that happened daily but it would happen after fights.

Leaving Bellfield

56. I probably went to a panel for it to be decided I was leaving Bellfield. I returned home again while they looked for a place. I couldn't go back to school as they were apparently having trouble with other kids and they didn't want me back. Shortly after returning home, I got sent to Woodilee.

Woodilee Hospital, Lenzie, Dumbartonshire

57. I was in Woodilee for less than a week. I think I was placed there as they were trying to find somewhere else for me. It's strange, because Woodilee was a mental hospital but I don't know if it had an assessment part to it that I was in. I remember it was 1976 and the film Buggy Malone was out at the pictures. I think I was about thirteen or fourteen years old.

58. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

59. I ran away from there in my first couple of days. I went away in pyjamas and I took another resident who was there and who was the same age as me, with me. I left him at one point and I know it sounds cruel but I took his shoes off him. I told him if I didn't return he was to hitch a lift back to Woodilee. He got back fine.

60. The police came to my parents and I was hiding in the attic and so I gave myself up. I was taken to Cumbernauld Police station after it and a plain clothes police officer was asking me about different break ins that I knew nothing about. He then slapped me in the face because I wasn't telling him anything.

61. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Woodilee

64. I probably went to another panel and I was then told I was moving again. They took me to St Marys closed block in Bishopbriggs but that was only for a day. I think that was to scare me. The staff at St Marys told me to throw a chair at a window to show that there was no way out of there. I do think they were considering St Marys for me but they were still looking.
65. I was then told I was going to St Andrews, in Helensburgh. It was the same as all of the other places in that I didn't get to visit it first.

St Andrews school, Shandon, Dumbartonshire

66. I went to St Andrews at about fourteen and stayed there until I was sixteen and a half.
67. Before I went I had been told it was a List D school but I wasn't told how long I was going for. I was told if it didn't work out then it was St Marys for me and then borstal.
68. St Andrews was a home for boys only. I think there were about sixty boys there in total. Their ages were from about thirteen to sixteen years. I think it might have been run by priests and I know nuns came to visit at times.
69. It was a big old beautiful castle building. There were three separate houses unattached to the main building – Shandon, Douglas and another I can't remember. There were also staff houses in the grounds. There was also a building for the laundry and a member of staff had a flat there. In that building there was also a cell for the kids to be put in.
70. I was allocated to Douglas House and Major Thomson was in charge of it. I remember him as he had a funny moustache. For some reason I knew his age of thirty six then. He was really nice. He stayed there with his wife and two kids. His wife worked in the kitchen attached to Douglas House.

71. There was a main kitchen in the main building and the food was taken from there and delivered to the smaller kitchens in each of the houses.
72. We slept in dormitories in St Andrews and if you were there long enough you were given your own room. There were five other boys in the dorm with me. I was there long enough and I got my own room at some point. I didn't want my own room as I didn't like the dark and being on my own. I wanted back in with the others. They moved me in anyway.
73. I was given number [REDACTED] as my number. I wasn't called that but everything was marked up with my number, things like lockers.

Staffing

74. SNR [REDACTED] had the nickname HLR [REDACTED]. I'm not even sure of his actual name. There were also two others [REDACTED], HLL [REDACTED] as he was known as because of the size of his hands, like a shovel and the other I can't remember.
75. There was another member of staff who had a motorbike but I cannot recall his name or what his role was.
76. HLR [REDACTED] had a house on site at [REDACTED] the school. I think the majority of staff lived on site. There were seven or eight houses on site.

Routine at St Andrews

First day

77. I think it was Mr Green, my social worker, who took me to St Andrews for my first day. I was introduced to the headmaster and I was warned straight away about my

behaviour. I was allocated to Douglas house and that was it. I was already thinking how I could run and get out of there.

Mornings and bedtime

78. I think we got up about 7 am as we were woken by a staff member. After we got up we did polishing on our knees on the floor, then we went to breakfast and then the day started.

Food

79. The food was okay in St Andrews, you didn't get a choice and if you ate it you ate it, you didn't get punished if you didn't.

Bathing

80. We got a shower every night. There was a row of shower cubicles in St Andrews and there was no curtain on them. There was no privacy whatsoever and as soon as you took your towel away to get in them, everyone could see everything. The staff would tell you how to wash yourself telling you to wash this, wash that. The staff who were on duty would be at the showers watching and supervising. Even then I knew it wasn't right that everyone could see everything. You would have another kid outside of the shower waiting to get in as well. I always felt uncomfortable showering.
81. I remember they put on this lotion on your head once a week or once a month. We called it jungle juice. It nipped like hell. I think it was for nits or something.
82. We even had one of the staff one day strip off and he went in for a shower, or he certainly took all of his clothes off. I can't be certain he went in the shower and in hindsight he may just have got changed, I'm not sure now. That was weird. I think his name was IQC or IQC he was one of the youngest staff there and the only single guy there.

Schooling

83. There was a teacher and a classroom in there, Mr Boland was his name. He was really nice. You only went to see him every so often and it was very on and off.
84. There was other education like painting, joinery and building skills. I enjoyed the joinery. There were different teachers for those subjects. Mr Burnside took the painting and we would paint the outside of the building. There was Mr and Mrs Thomson, he took joinery and Mrs Thomson was the house mother in Douglas House. I cannot recall the building teacher. There was another teacher, Mr Cockroach I think he taught in the classroom and also taught judo. Boland and Cockroach now live in St Andrews if they are still alive.
85. I would say I got more education in St Andrews than anywhere else.

Work/chores

86. We did chores in the morning and afternoon. The afternoon ones were specifically on a Friday before we were going home for the weekend. We would polish the floors or clean the toilets and if the work wasn't up to scratch according to the member of staff on duty then you wouldn't get home. I never heard of anyone not getting home because of it but it was always a threat.
87. I was put in to work in the kitchen for a while. I worked there in the morning so would be up earlier than the other boys. I helped the chef prepare things and take it to the house kitchens. It was okay as I got a bit more to eat then.

Leisure time

88. We definitely did more in St Andrews than any of the other places I stayed at, or it felt like that anyway . We often played football out in the grounds a lot. It didn't feel like you were stuck inside as much.

Trips

89. We were taken to Campbelltown or Glencoe by Mr Boland on one occasion to do litter picking at the side of the road.
90. Another time we went into Faslane naval base with placards to see how the guards would react to us. Luckily we never got shot. I believe it was in the papers.
91. Sometimes they would take us into Faslane and we would do a sport's day there. I still have a medal from when I came third in the three legged race.
92. The teacher who did the building classes would take us out in a boat to the loch near the home and get us to swim back to the shore, it wasn't far. I was a good swimmer so I was fine.

Weekends

93. We got home for the weekends, we would get the bus around teatime and they would drop us in Glasgow. We would get ourselves the rest of the way home.

Birthdays/Christmas

94. I think I got home at Christmas, I can't remember. Nor can I remember birthdays.

Personal possessions

95. We had lockers down the stairs to keep things in but I don't recall having any things of my own.

Pocket money

96. I think we earned money for doing certain jobs, though I don't specifically remember. With that money we could buy sweets and tobacco in the home. The items we bought in the tuck shop were taken off us by staff to look after.

Healthcare/welfare

97. The housemother was there if you wanted to talk, though I never did . I think she also fixed the laundry and did something with the meals.
98. There was also a matron who wore a hat and uniform. She was for the whole school. I had to see her but I'm not sure why. Maybe it was for my reading and writing, I don't know.
99. The matron also gave out cream for things like scabies.

Religious instruction

100. We had an assembly every morning and had prayers and sung a hymn. We also said Grace before our meals.

Visits

101. I only had two visits at St Andrews. My sister [REDACTED] and sister in law [REDACTED] came up for a sport's day and my dad came up one time but that was only because he had to. I think it was to get results of an assessment.
102. Social work never came that I can remember.
103. I also remember a priest coming in every now and again . We had to go and listen to him preaching. Two nuns also came from Ireland one time to visit.

Bed wetting

104. I was still wetting the bed in St Andrews and they made sure everyone knew about it. They made you take your stuff to the laundry and get it changed and walk past the other kids. This meant you were called names. I did get a shower at St Andrews every day though so that meant I wasn't always stinking like in the other places.

Discipline

105. They had a cell in St Andrews. I saw it, but I was never put into it. It was used if kids misbehaved. It was just a room with bars. I think there were two of them. I am aware of boys going there and having to stay overnight.
106. The belt was also used as discipline. We would put slippers down our backsides to try to soften the blow.

Running away

107. I was about to run away and I don't know if they recognised that that was about to happen but I was given some home leave. That helped and I never ran away.
108. There were other boys who ran away. A boy called [REDACTED] from my unit ran away and I know he got put in the cell for a couple of days. I think he was maybe drunk and had possibly broken in somewhere.

Abuse at St Andrews

Staff

109. I had staff pull and push me in St Andrews and throw things at me but it certainly wasn't as bad as the other places I stayed in.

110. HLR [REDACTED] used the belt a lot. He would run from one end of a room towards you and hit you with a thick school belt. It could be a distance of say ten metres. You could get up to twelve. He would aim for the bum but it would land on your legs too. That happened to me and I know it happened to others but I didn't see it myself.
111. I had three at once and six another time. The time I got three I had been mucking about in class. I was taken by Mr Boland to see HLL [REDACTED] and I got three of the belt from him. Another guy was there too, a pupil called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] got it first and I saw him crying. It was my turn next. I said to myself I wouldn't cry. There was a chair I had to bend over and I held onto the table. He just whacked me over my clothing. I did let out a squeal. He did check I never had anything down the back of my trousers to soften the blow first, but I didn't.
112. HLR [REDACTED] gave me the six at once another time. I can't remember what I had done, maybe it was fighting. He ran from one end of the room to the other each time he whacked me. He made sure he put his full power into it. I had marks from it.
113. I never experienced twelve but I heard the boys that did had their pyjamas on that time. I saw guys with marks all over their legs.
114. HLR [REDACTED] never slapped me nor HLL [REDACTED] but I heard both of them did to other boys but I never saw it.
115. Mr Boland was really nice, he was probably the one that helped me the most in St Andrews. I think the difference was he tried and took time with you. Mr Thomson was nice too but he just did his job and no more. There were other teachers and staff in there who weren't as nice.
116. I was lucky with the unit I was in. You would hear stories from the other boys about things that went on but I still say it doesn't sound like it was as bad as some of the things in places like Bellfield.

117. I did hear that there was sexual abuse that went on in St Andrews but I never saw or experienced that at all but I heard of it. I believe it was in the other unit of which name I can't remember. As youngsters we heard about it that boys were being touched. I heard years later, from someone that I don't want to name, that someone had been caught.

Peer abuse/bullying

118. If it was your birthday or you were leaving you would get a pounding. What that was, you would lie down on little chairs and the staff would allow the boys to kick into you and hammer you. You had to lie in a little ball and hope that you didn't get hurt. Staff were there, they knew it happened. I only had two in there one for my birthday and the other just before I left. I remember that one well, we had just watched 'The Sweeney' on the television and the staff were in the corner watching the boys hammering into me. There were only so many boys that could get round you but there were usually about seven of them doing it. They made sure no one hit your head but you would get kicked all over your body. You did end up with lots of bruises after it. The staff should never have allowed that to go on.

119. I was lucky I was in a dorm with boys my own age but it was your luck or not. There was a bit of bullying that went on in there with the older kids. They would kick you or hit you. The staff knew it went on but didn't do anything, I got kicked into a corner by two brothers, I had a habit of answering back. I ended up with a bleeding nose after the incident with them. There would also be fights in toilets. If the staff saw fights they would break them up.

Leaving St Andrews

120. There was no preparation for me leaving care. I did get told I was being kept on the Childrens panel once I left. This was so that if I got into trouble I would go before the panel for any decisions and not to court. I think that was until I was eighteen.

121. I left St Andrews at sixteen and a half. I just got told about a week beforehand.

122. I remember I got to pick a hymn for the morning I was leaving and got my pounding the night before. On the morning I was leaving all of the boys were up from all of the houses and they clapped me out. That wasn't organised by staff, that was the boys who organised all of that, that's just what happened.
123. I went home from St Andrews and I was just trying to find a job. I wasn't getting any money and it was really hard to find a job because my spelling and reading were virtually non-existent. I remember going for one job at Woolco in Cumbernauld, it was a shop and I was given an application form and I thought I can't fill this in. I tried to explain to the guy but I was told because I couldn't read or write I should just go.
124. I tried to get into the Army as my dad and brother had been in it but I couldn't pass a test for that either. I just had to take anything I could.

Life after leaving care

125. I still wasn't getting on with my dad when I went home. My mum decided we were going to move house a couple of streets away. That was a good move as a lot of the people in my old street were getting into trouble, drinking or taking drugs.
126. I managed to get a job in a bingo hall. I then went to Butlins to work there but I only lasted one day. I got sacked from there and that's when I think I realised that I had an issue with authority and a bit of rebellion because I couldn't do things.
127. People just class you as stupid when you can't read or write. I do think that people with dyslexia can excel at other things though. I know I can fix things quite quickly and can work through problems in my head and fix things that way. I can work out situations involving people quite quickly. If something is going to happen I can usually pick up on it.

128. I met my wife [REDACTED] when I was twenty two and she was nineteen years old. I had known her as a child. It was only supposed to be for one night but we have now been together for thirty seven years. We don't have any children.
129. I've had various jobs because I've had to take any job I could. Our last jobs have been working and managing camp sites. I am currently working as a handyman.
130. [REDACTED] and I have travelled extensively in Australia and Europe. I'm really lucky I married the person I did as life may have been different.
131. I've taught myself things. I can read now and I can work a computer but it takes me ages.

Reporting of abuse

132. I have never reported the abuse at any of the homes to anyone. I have told my wife though.

Impact

133. I never had a great relationship with my dad but that was before I went into care and it never got any better. I think he did regret the way he had treated me. It was never like he was a relation to me. It got a bit better as we got older but even when he passed, it was like losing a friend not my father.
134. Being in those homes affects you a lot. Things like I couldn't say I love you to my wife or my family for years. I can now say it to my wife easily but it took a while.
135. I told my mum I loved her only just before she died. She had Alzheimer's. When I did, she sort of came back to real life and said to me I had never said that to her before. She then went back to her normal self. I'm glad I did say it to her.

136. I never really get as close as I should to people either. As I was growing up I never had long term relationships, they would only last weeks or a month at the most.
137. I also don't trust anyone either. Even coming to meet the Inquiry, I was questioning should I come or not. I wouldn't let the Inquiry down but I was questioning why I should put myself in the situation and that is down to trust.
138. Being taken away from my family did affect our relationship in a way. We are close in one way but not in others. We see each other now and again. I don't want to lose contact but I like to be able to step away as that's what life was like when I was young . I don't go out of my way for them but I would be there for them.
139. I think about my time in care on and off. I do feel I missed out on a lot of things, especially my education. They definitely deprived me of that. Maybe I could have done better in life had I been educated. They did not help me with jobs either.
140. To this day I struggle with people who give me orders or are cheeky to me. That stems from my time in care. I have learnt to deal with my temper and manage it but it has been difficult.
141. When I was in these homes I did see psychiatrists. I went to Carstairs to see one of them at some point . I think that was when I was in between Bellfield and Woodilee. It was no use to me. I remember them asking me what I thought at the time were stupid questions. I have not, as an adult, sought out counselling or anything. My wife thinks I have ADHD but I won't go and see about it.
142. The whole smoking thing bothers me and the fact that I was smoking from a young age, also that it took me so long to stop. It should never have happened. I wouldn't have touched a cigarette if I hadn't been in these places. Yet, it was so accessible and the fact they were given to us by the adults in the homes.
143. It definitely depends on what track you take in life. There was a guy I was working with up until not long ago when he passed away . He told me he had been in care

from a young age and he was a heavy drinker and smoker. He looked so old as well and he was only a year older. Before his passing I used to think that could well have been me, in the way he looked and the addictions he had and the lifestyle he had.

144. There are many a people who thought I would have been in jail at some point but luckily I took a different track. I'm so thankful.

Records

145. I have never attempted to get my records from my time in homes. I have thought about it but not done anything about it. I guess I am curious.

Lessons to be learned

146. I was looking at the internet one night and was looking up St Andrews school and that's when I saw there was the Inquiry going on. I thought I would phone to clarify that abuse did go on in these homes. There were a lot of kids that got a lot worse than me and I wasn't sexually abused. At the end of the day, it should not have happened.
147. Education in these care homes should have been A1 and I would hope that the way I was treated about my education does not go on anymore.
148. I do think that kids need to be disciplined. The belt didn't bother me too much but was it wrong? Yes. It was in the way it was used excessively was wrong. They shouldn't slap you either or hit any part of your body.
149. Staff need to be really well trained in these establishments. There also needs to be really good vetting because it's the staff that make these places. I've visited a niece in a home a few years ago and I do think things have changed.
150. I was never visited by social work, there has to be more time with them and I hope that is the case nowadays.

151. Kids need someone to talk to as well. You would find that kids spoke to each other about what went on but not to any adult.

Hopes for the Inquiry

152. I hope that it will help to get justice for some kids who are in that situation now. I really hope that these places don't exist now. If society can learn from the information then that has to be good.

153. 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.

ICB


Signed.....

Dated..... 1. 8. 2023