

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LOD
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No.

1. My name is LOD [REDACTED] my date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1967. I am 49 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Background

2. I am here today to tell you about my experiences at St Andrews List D residential School near Faslane, Helensburgh, Scotland where I was resident between 1970 and 1971. My memory is not good so a lot of my recollection is affected and I am not sure about a lot of more specific details.
3. I was born and brought up in Larkhall, South Lanarkshire. I was one of three children and my mother had been left on her own to bring us up. I am the eldest. My brother is called [REDACTED] and is 49. [REDACTED] suffers from cerebral palsy. My sister [REDACTED] is 44.
4. I was brought up in Larkhall and that is where I lived for most of my childhood. I don't remember my birth father who left shortly after my sister was born. My mother remarried and in about the year 2000 she moved to Ayrshire.

Life before being put into care

5. I was outwith parental control because my mother was a single mum bringing up three children and I was acting like a "ned".

6. Because of this behaviour I was put into a residential home called Loaningdale House, near Biggar, Scotland. It was a great place and I had no problems with it. You were there during the week and sent home at weekends. It was a bit like a boarding school.
7. When I was about fourteen years of age I was arrested for car theft along with another male called [REDACTED]. We were both remanded to Longriggend Prison prior to our appearance at court.
8. When [REDACTED] and I went to court we pleaded guilty and he got three months detention. I got a Court Order 413 for two years detention. I thought that I was to go back to Loaningdale and was quite happy about that. That didn't happen.
9. I was then taken by three social workers in the back of a big car to St Andrews List D Residential School in Faslane near Helensburgh, Scotland.

St Andrews and my arrival there

10. My first memory of St Andrews was going through the big gates and up to the big house where there were offices. There was a reception area. I also remember seeing the staff house that were in the grounds.
11. I first met three members of staff. HLL [REDACTED], FQG [REDACTED] and FQH [REDACTED]. They made me strip and then I was put into a gown. I was then taken to a cell which I was kept in for three days and nights. I later learned that most of the inmates had never heard of someone being kept in the cell for as long a period.
12. After three days in the cell I was taken to see Matron. She was not a nurse or anything like that. She was just a woman. She checked me over then I was sent to Fruin House which was one of the three houses at the institution.

13. There were three houses at St Andrews. Shandon was the main house where the reception and offices were, Fruin House was where I was first put. I think the other house was called Bruce but I can't remember.
14. There was a yard where you had to line up every morning before you went off to work. There were staff houses in the grounds. The headmaster had a big house [REDACTED].
15. It was an all-boys school and I think that it held about sixty boys. Most of the boys were aged between eleven and sixteen. Fruin House had about 25 boys, Bruce House would be about the same and Shandon House only held about ten boys. Shandon was mainly offices.
16. I remember that I was taken into the office and asked if I smoked. They told me that it would be better for me if I did because it would make me look harder and it would be easier to survive in the environment.
17. I was then taken up to my dormitory where I was shown my bed. I was told that I had to keep it neat and tidy. I was also shown the washing area where the showers were. There was a row of basins. The showers had no door on them but had dividers between them affording some privacy. There was a woman called Lesley who used to supervise the shower room.
18. Off the shower room there was also a boot room. Your dormitory could have two or four boys in it. There were also single rooms. I think that there were maybe three or four single rooms.
19. The next morning after I had been shown my dormitory I had to go on parade in the yard. That was when we were allocated our work for the day. There were several places you could work covering a variety of skills including woodwork and concrete slab making. You were able to try all four. I think that my first job was with the "brickies".

20. [ZF] and [ZG] were some of the staff at the work places. When you went to each of the places for the first time you had to go through an initiation ceremony with the staff and the other boys. In the cement workshop I was grabbed by the other boys and my head was put into one of the moulds where the cement was. In the paint shop they would paint the cheeks of your backside and your genitals. In the wood shop they would put wood glue on your face. It was always done to you by the other boys who were told to do it. They didn't want to risk losing leave days. [KOM] ran the metalwork shop and his initiation ceremony was to sit and have a cup of tea. He was a really nice person that you could speak to.
21. When I first arrived I was given clothes which were the same as all the other boys. I was also given my bedding. The clothing was a pair of boots and other working clothes to enable you to work in the workshops.
22. There was an incident book where there was supposed to be a record kept of any injuries. When I was assaulted by the woodwork teacher on one occasion I don't think it was ever recorded as an accident. If you got the belt I don't know if it was recorded. I don't know if the belting punishment was recorded or not.

Routine

Mornings and bedtime

23. I would get up at about quarter to seven every morning as I had to go down and lay the places for the boys breakfast. I would put the urn on for tea and then make the toast. I give the larger crusts, or as I knew them "the outsiders" to my mates.

24. The boys would then be put into their squads for work details. I would stay in and clean up the dishes. I would wash down the tables, the floor, the windows and all of the kitchen.
25. Preparation would then start for lunch and I would set all the tables. I would follow the same routine for the evening meal. Before every meal you had to say prayers.
26. Bedtime would be about quarter to nine. You were not supposed to be in your dormitory during the day. Showering and washing was at your own discretion. I remember a boy called [REDACTED] who was overweight. He wouldn't go to the showers because he was ridiculed by the other boys. I used to distract the other boys to help [REDACTED] get his shower in peace.

Staff

27. I remember the staff but not their full names. There was HLL [REDACTED] who was about 6'6" tall; I think that he was SNR [REDACTED] FQG [REDACTED] who appeared to be SNR [REDACTED]. He had red hair and a beard. FQH [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of the school. Lesley was a lady who supervised the shower room. There was one member of staff called KOM [REDACTED] who was alright. IZF [REDACTED] and IZG [REDACTED] were two members of staff who taught you how to do the work in the workshops. There was a man who taught woodwork. He was younger with dark skin and curly black hair. I don't know his name but he was responsible for throwing a woodwork tool at me and splitting open my head. There was another member of staff called Dorothy who just wandered about in a daze. Dorothy taught maths and English. "Daft Kev" worked in Fruin House and was responsible for running it. LOA [REDACTED] worked in the kitchen. He was known as a "perv" as he used to pat you on the bottom.

28. I remember that the staff used to make their own brew of beer and we used to steal it and drink it with the other boys. The staff also drank a lot of it and used to get drunk. You could always smell the drink on them.
29. I would describe most of the staff as "rats with teeth". There was good stuff. Like Dorothy from the education workshop use to take boys canoeing and swimming. She was a nice person. I do remember the football coach who had a big nose encouraging me to play football. I was a goalkeeper. I used to play for the staff football team. I was the goalkeeper. We used to travel to play matches. I remember being in the showers with FQG [REDACTED] who was a full back. FQG [REDACTED] shouted at me in the hearing of the other staff members "wee orange dick". It was very degrading. On reflection I should have let all the shots on goal go in.

Food

30. The food was fine. I was involved in serving it so I was never short. I have no complaints about it. You were not force fed or anything like that.

Pocket money/wages

31. You would get pocket money for working in the workshops. I worked in the kitchen and was paid £3.50 per week and £2.50 for working at a weekend. You could buy tobacco and sweets from the canteen with this money. Canteen day was a Friday.

School

32. There was a school room to teach you maths and English but it was optional and most of the boys elected to study electrical work, brickwork, woodwork, metalwork, painting or working in the kitchen. I chose to work in the kitchen with Big Kev. I remember we had to clean the floors and polish them till they were spotless. The staff would come along and deliberately scuff them out of pure badness meaning that you had to polish it all over again.

33. I didn't receive any schooling and I did not obtain any qualifications in my time at St Andrews. There was no requirement to go to the school.

Running away

34. If you ran away and were brought back you always got the belt. I ran away a few times and after getting the belt would be put into the cell to stop me running away again. It was easy to run away as you just walked out the school and got the train in Helensburgh. They also made you wear shorts and a T shirt to stop you from running away. The school was not fenced in so it was easy to walk out.
35. The police would usually arrest me at my mother's house. I didn't tell the police what was happening. I knew that if I told the police they would speak to the staff at the school and tell them that I was making allegations against them. This would make it worse for me.

Religion

36. I was a proud protestant but when I was at the school I was made to attend catholic masses at the chapel. I objected strongly to this and was punished because of it. I was not forced to take communion but when I refused to kneel and pray. On my first visit to the chapel I lost a day's leave as a result as I refused to comply with their demands to kneel.

Holidays

37. You would be home on leave during the holidays and at weekends. This is unless your leave had been taken away as a punishment.

Birthdays and Christmas

38. I don't recall what was done at Christmas or birthday time. I don't think that there was anything special.

Visits/Inspections

39. You would get weekend leave once you had been there for six weeks. You were allowed to go home to your parents' house or basically go where you wanted to. If you were punished and had leave days taken away it meant that by the time you were allowed to leave it wasn't worthwhile travelling home to have to about turn and come back almost immediately. You needed to be able to leave in the morning and not in the evening. If you lost the days leave you could not leave until the evening.
40. The only time my mother came to visit was with my step father [REDACTED]. They weren't allowed to take me out of the grounds as I had lost two days leave. As far as I know if my leave was cancelled my mother was never informed.
41. I do not recall ever being visited by a social worker or some official for the legal system. I don't recall any inspections being made by the authorities. If there was an inspection I would have told them what was happening.

Medical care

42. There was a matron but I don't think she was medically trained. If you had to go and see her all she would do was give you some paracetamol. On one occasion when I was hit on the head with a hydra plane thrown by the woodwork teacher she put a strip on my head to stop the bleeding.

Abuse at St Andrews

43. SNR [REDACTED] called me to his office when I refused to kneel and pray in the chapel. HLL [REDACTED] FQG [REDACTED] and KOM [REDACTED] were all there in the office waiting for me. They told me that I was going to get the belt for not doing what I was told in their institution. They told me that I was to abide by their rules and to follow their religion. I refused and told them that I was a proud protestant. HLL [REDACTED] and FQG [REDACTED] grabbed me by the arms and bent me over the desk. They lowered my trousers and SNR [REDACTED] gave me two of the belt over my bare buttocks. I was basically punished for following my religion. I was told the next time I didn't follow instructions it would be double.
44. The belt that was used was a tawse just like a school belt. It was made of leather and was extremely painful. When I first got punished my immediate thought was to run away. Instead I asked to go and see matron as the belt had injured me. I remember FQG [REDACTED] saying, "So you think you are a hard man you orange bastard? From that day on I was known as the orange bastard. You never got more than six of the belt but always on your bare backside.
45. When I first arrived at the institution I was place into the cell for three days. I was put into a gown with no explanation. The cell was "mauchit". I could hear the singing from the peace camp at Faslane when they played their guitars at night.
46. I was in the institution in the month of July. I'm not sure of what year this was. I needed to go home for the orange parades in Larkhall. I had a duty to perform in holding a rope for one of the large banners. I had lost a day's leave and needed to get it back so that I could get to Larkhall.
47. I asked FQG [REDACTED] to see SNR [REDACTED] so that I could plead my case and be allowed to go back to Larkhall. I asked SNR [REDACTED] if he would let me out earlier so that I could get back to support my Lodge number [REDACTED] on the march in

Larkhall. I was told that there was no way I was getting away. FQH then told me to take down my trousers to get the belt. I refused as this was about my religion. I got grabbed by FQG who wrestled me to the ground. I continued to struggle with them until they managed to get my trousers lowered enough for FQH to hit me six times with the belt. They were calling me an orange bastard. I crawled under the desk to try to get away from them. I recall FQG saying to me to "take it like a man".

48. I was then bodily removed by all the staff and placed into the holding cell once again. I was shouting at them that I would be doing a runner from the institution and would be reporting them to the police. I was up all night kicking at the door and I remember starting to cry and getting really upset. When they brought in one of my meals I asked to see the matron as I had a bad blister on my backside. When I did get out I went to see the matron and she just told me that SNR hadn't done much damage. She then put "deep heat" ointment on me which caused me to scream in pain.
49. I was in agony and refused to go to work. I went up to my dormitory and wrote a letter to my mother. You weren't allowed to use the phone. I told my mother what had happened and explained why I had not been able to come to the parade. Another boy told me not to send the letter as they were all read by the staff before being posted. I would liable for further punishment because of the letter content. I just crumpled it up and put it in the bin.
50. I once made a table at woodwork. I was at the finishing of stage and was told to smooth of the wood. The woodwork teacher gave me a rasp to do this. I started to plane the wood and the next thing I knew the woodwork teacher went mad at me. He told me that I had ruined a good piece of wood. He threw a woodwork plane at me. It had me on the head and caused a large cut.
51. The woodwork teacher was slightly younger with dark skin and curly black hair. I told him that I would have to go to Matron to attend to the injury. He said

that I had hit my head on a piece of wood and that he had never thrown anything.

52. When I spoke to matron I told her what had happened. She called me a fucking liar and that I shouldn't say things about the staff. The whole incident had been witnessed by another pupil called [REDACTED].
53. I then asked to go and see SNR [REDACTED] to tell him what had happened. [REDACTED] came with me. HLL [REDACTED] was also there when I spoke to SNR [REDACTED]. I told the story and [REDACTED] backed me up. SNR [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to leave and he took me into the office. SNR [REDACTED] then told me that I had lost three weekends leave for telling lies about the staff.
54. When I came out of the office I met [REDACTED]. I was speaking to him about a musical record that I was going to lend him. [REDACTED] got summoned into SNR [REDACTED]'s office. When he came out he told me that he had lost a weekend leave for telling lies about the staff. After that I never involved another pupil at the school in anything that was happening as I didn't want them punished on my behalf.
55. I got my jaw broken by FQG [REDACTED] on one occasion. I was standing in the smoking area in Shandon House. FQG [REDACTED] came up to me and called me an orange bastard. He then told me to fuck off back to my own house. He told me to come to him and asked me if I was any good at boxing. He punched me on the jaw. There was no noise just severe pain. I went to matron and she asked me what had happened. I told her that I was boxing with FQG [REDACTED]. She immediately said that it must have been an accident. I tried to tell her that I was not boxing with him he just hit me once on the jaw. I think that she recorded that incident as an accident.
56. Matron arranged for an appointment at Ganniesburn Hospital which was nearest to the school. I was unable to eat as my jaw was broken. On the way to the hospital FQG [REDACTED] reminded me that it had been an accident. When I was x-

rayed they found the break but there was also damage to my wisdom tooth. I think that they told the doctors that I had been fighting with another pupil. I had to say that or I would have been punished.

57. My mother and [REDACTED] were allowed to pick me up from the hospital. I told them what had happened and also about the other beltings. I went to a café with them and told them everything. My mother was not happy and she told me that they should not be hitting me under any circumstances. My mother came back to the home and asked to see [REDACTED] SNR. She was told that they were doing boxing training and it was an accident. My step father asked why there no boxing gloves used. [REDACTED] SNR got embarrassed at this. My mother told them that she would be reporting everything to the social worker but nothing ever came of it as far as I know.
58. There was one occasion when some of us got belted. We barricaded ourselves into the television room. From there we escaped out of the window and ran into the town. We were all rounded up and punished with our leave being taken from us. I recall on new boy called [REDACTED] who had just come to the home. He was sitting in the television room when this all started. We told him just to sit where he was and shouldn't be affected. When we were caught I was the only one put into the cell. For fourteen days after that incident we were subjected to all forms of abuse by the staff.
59. [REDACTED] FQG and [REDACTED] FQH were the worst abusers at the institution. They were clever enough not to assault you in front of witnesses. If you got the belt you had your leave cancelled as there would have been tell-tale marks left on your buttocks. On occasions they would draw blood. You would get the odd cuff round the head from [REDACTED] FQG. He would wrestle with you and give you a wee dig. [REDACTED] FQG never called me by my name. It was always "you orange bastard" and I found that quite hard. I was not aware of any sexual abuse apart from the odd pat on the bottom from [REDACTED] LOA.

Reporting of abuse

60. When I was out on leave and at home I didn't like to tell my mother what was happening. I didn't like to tell her that I was a protestant stuck in a catholic school. She was going to marry my step father [REDACTED] and I didn't want to worry her. I kept everything inside me.
61. When I got my jaw broken I told my mother and step father about what was happening. They did get an appointment with SNR [REDACTED] where he denied everything. She told them she would report it to the social worker but nothing ever happened.
62. I remember one day when Glasgow Rangers beat Glasgow Celtic in a football match. I was teasing the other boys and FQG [REDACTED] caught me. He set about me kicking me twice in the arse and my genitals. I shouted back at him that I would report him to the police when I got out.
63. I have now reported the abuse to my lawyer who is waiting for a judgement before he considers legal action. He is also waiting to see the outcome of this Inquiry.

Leaving the institution

64. I was at St Andrews for between sixteen or eighteen months. I was on home leave and was charged with possession of an offensive weapon. I went to court and was remanded in custody to Longriggend prison to await trial.
65. SNR [REDACTED] came to visit me at Longriggend. He told me that I was still under a court order for custody at St Andrews. My lawyer informed me that if I pled guilty to the possession charge I would get three months at Glenochil Prison and would be free after that as my court order would be cancelled. I did my three months jail time and was freed thereafter.

Life after the institution

66. I had a relationship with a girl called [REDACTED] from Larkhall. I was in a relationship with [REDACTED] for eighteen years. [REDACTED] couldn't have a baby for medical reasons. Her sister who was a drug addict had a daughter. [REDACTED] wanted to adopt the daughter but the powers to be would not let her do it while I was on the scene due to my violent past. I was left with only one choice and that was to end my relationship with [REDACTED]. It was the right thing to do.

67. I have had a chequered life and have been in and out of prison for various things.

Impact

68. I think that the biggest impact was the feeling that I had been put into a place where I should have been cared for and not abused. I know I was out of parental control and had committed a crime but I didn't think I was being sent there to be punished. I kept wondering why they were doing this to me. I felt that it should have been like Loaningdale where my experiences had been real.

69. No one would believe what I was telling them about what was happening to me. The first time I was told that I was getting the belt I held my hands out. I didn't expect that I would be belted over the bare backside. I remember that you were unable to sit down afterwards on the toilet. It was extremely painful. There was always three or four staff present.

70. I don't blame St Andrews for all of my later life but it was certainly a factor. I don't trust a lot of people who allege that they are only there to care and help you. I have this long memory of the belt which I found to be the worst thing. I would have preferred 6 months in the cell than getting the belt.

71. I remember being in jail in Kilmarnock when [REDACTED] was brought in. This did trigger all sorts of memories of my time in St Andrews. I never

received any counselling and the way I dealt with my issues was to forget about them. He told me that he would never have survived without being present at the incident when we barricaded ourselves in the television room.

72. I have been to see my doctor and have been prescribed medication as I keep having flashbacks. When I used to resist getting the belt I still see myself hiding under the table. It makes me feel like a small boy again starting to cry and feeling unable to do anything as I know they will succeed in belting me.

Records

73. I have never tried to recover any records but I assume that they must exist.

Lessons to be learned

74. I think that the authorities should make weekly inspections of the institutions. The authorities should speak to the pupils at the school privately so that the staff cannot influence what is said. Assure the pupils that they can speak openly.
75. Give the pupils good education opportunities if they want it. I know that it is "only me myself that can help me". Counselling only opens a can of worms. "If you can manage without it don't open that can".
76. The belting was the main reason I wanted to speak to you. There are other things about abuse in my head that won't come out. I think that FQG and SNR had looks of enjoyment on their faces when they were belting you. I think that SNR would have enjoyed belting you all day. What were they allowed to do as far as punishment is concerned?

Other information

77. Although I would be prepared to give oral evidence to the Inquiry I would not like my name to be known and I would like to claim anonymity. I don't know if the people I have mentioned are still alive. I can't remember many of the names of the other residents. I think that [REDACTED] will have been in touch with you as he told me he was going to.

78. 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..... LOD [REDACTED]

Dated..... 6.2.2017