

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HWI

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is HWI, but I use HWI as my forename. My date of birth is 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I left school at sixteen with 6 O-Levels. At the time I did not know what type of career I was going into and worked in different jobs, mainly in the bar trade. I also had a big interest in football and had trials with a variety of clubs including Celtic.
3. My father was and Mr Kane, head of St Philips at the time, were aware of each other. I can even remember that when dad was visiting St John's, he would take my brother and I with him. We would hang around the gym area and the swimming pool, while he carried out what he needed to do. I was 22 and working in the pub when I was contacted by Mr Kane, and offered a job at St Philips in Plains, Airdrie.
4. At the time of me starting to work at St Philips I did not have any social work qualifications. I did go onto obtain my Work Place Assessor SPQ3. During my time at St Philips, I put myself through two different trainer courses, one on trampolining and the other in skiing. I wanted to use facilities in the school and for trips organised by the school.

Posting at St Philips, Plains

5. I don't remember completing any application form or if I had to provide any references, as the recommendation had involved my father and his relationship with Mr Kane. I

did not have an interview as such, but I did meet with Mr Kane for a general chat. I started working there in 1982 and I was there until, I think 1990.

St Philips, Plains

6. St Philips List D School is situated in Plains by Airdrie. It is a residential home for boys aged between twelve and sixteen. When I arrived there, I cannot recall there being any induction or any other instruction as to what they required of me.
7. I remember my first shift there as it was so memorable. I was asked to help out with dinner duty in the dining area and while doing that a knife was thrown and bounced off my back.
8. I was due to finish that day about 5:00 pm. and I was offered a lift home by a member of staff. He said he had a boy to pick up and he would drop me off on the way back. We picked the boy up at the police station in Blackhill. When we picked him up, there was a crowd of people outside and they started throwing bricks at the minivan. As a result the boy started kicking off and the member of staff, who was driving the car, told me to sit on him to stop him doing anything else. We managed to get the boy back to St Philips, but I did not finish the day until after 9:00 pm.

Structure

9. Mr Kane was in charge of the school, and he liked to do things in a certain way. He was an ex-paratrooper and liked things to be very regimented. He would have the boys march to wherever they were moving to in the school and when lined up they were to be in a straight line. Despite this he had a very child centred approach. A lot of the staff did not like the army style in which he treated the boys.
10. During the day, the boys would be dressed in blue army style clothing and when the school day ended, they were back to their rooms where they got changed into normal, casual clothes.

11. Some of the other staff I can remember are Bill McEachan, Deputy Head, Richard O'Dowd, another Deputy Head, Jim Hughes, who was in charge of education and George McLaughlin. I can also remember when Dennis Ferrie arrived. He was good and I learned a lot from him. Brian Harold arrived at St Philips, having worked at The Good Shepherd. He took over as deputy head of the social work side of St Philips. He was another good change for the school.
12. The other members of staff I recall were John McGeoch, Jimmy Gibbons, Dermot Lamb, Margo Donnelly, Ian and Margaret Sweeney, Frank and Anne Livingston, Irene Tominay, Danny Hilferty, I can't remember his surname, Patricia McHugh, and John Mullen. There was also Mark Heffernan, Steve Coggan, Michael Gillan, HWJ Ian Sweeney, my ex-wife [REDACTED] Jimmy Lappin, Anne Livingstone and her husband Frank, Angela Kane, partner of John Kane, Eddie Kane, sons of the headmaster, and Margaret McFadden and her partner John.
13. There was a member of staff KMS who was sacked, I believe for the abuse within St Philips. I think this was in the mid 80's. The only thing I can say is that we might pass each other at a shift change.
14. There were two members of staff who covered each of the units. Each unit consisted of four dormitories, with four beds in each and there were two single occupancy rooms. I think there were perhaps six day pupils who travelled into the school by bus.

Time at St Philips

15. My title when I worked at St Philips, was a house parent. In the mornings I would wake the boys up, make sure they got themselves washed and into the dining room for their breakfast. I would then make sure they were all taken to the morning assembly and then drop them off at the classrooms. They would have a break in the morning, another at lunch and another break in the afternoon. I would have no contact with the boys during the school day. The boys would then be taken back to the living area about 4:00 pm. Their evening meal was at 5:00 pm. then there were activities at 6:00 pm. There supper would be at 8:00 pm. and into bed for 9:00 pm.

16. I had no line manager as such at St Philips, but Bill McEachan was in charge of the social work side of the school. We had a matron at the school, Mrs Aitken.
17. There were four units Mallaig, Morar, Arisaig and the unit I worked in, Lochailort.
18. I don't recall there being an appraisal system and if there was, I can't remember it affecting me. I did not have any direct manager, but Bill McEachan was a deputy. I suppose if I had any issues, he would be the most likely person I would go to.
19. Brian Harold came to the school as a deputy headmaster, around 1989/1990, a short time before I left the school. He was very approachable and would discuss any issue you may be having at the school.
20. Other than the two training courses I put myself through, the school did not put me on any other formal training courses.

Culture

21. I think the culture in the school, altogether was generally good. Some staff could have been better with certain practices, especially in the earlier days. I did see some teachers throw keys at pupils and some others who would slap children over the head and then laugh about it. I did not like that sort of culture. It never happened in my unit.
22. In my opinion staff doing that should not be employed at the school. I think there were many more good staff than bad. I think the bad staff were soon found out and would leave after behaving badly. They would be found out with their attitude, and some staff would report some of the behaviour to senior staff.
23. Mr Kane himself did not miss much, and he also had many staff going to him to report different issues. Mr Kane was there for all my time, apart from the last couple of weeks, when Paddy Hanrahan replaced him.

Recruitment of staff

24. I was not involved in the recruitment of any staff at St Philips. I am not aware of any of the policies of the school relating to recruitment. I can't remember there ever being any volunteer staff working at St Philips. I did not manage any of the staff at the school.

Training

25. My only involvement in any training was mentoring new staff when they arrived. I can recall the first two would have been John McFadden and Mark Heffernan. There was no strict time on how long the mentoring would last. I can also recall mentoring Angela Kane, daughter in law of the head. Mr Kane would not have allowed her to work with me if he suspected I was abusing any of the children.
26. Other than the mentoring I was not involved in formal training of any staff, and I am not aware of the policies on training held by the school.

Supervision/appraisal/evaluation

27. I never carried out any appraisals on any of the staff.

Policy

28. I was not involved in the preparation of any of the school policies, and I was not aware of any of the policies the school may have already had in place.

Strategic Planning

29. I was not involved in the overall school strategy planning. I think it would be more under the role of the headmaster to be responsible for strategic planning. I was not consulted about any ideas I wanted to put forward.

30. Any planning I did at the school would be around preparing care plans for the children I was the key worker for. We might have to prepare for assessments and panel meetings. I would have to keep in touch with the relevant social workers and the families of the boys involved. I think I would have had probably five or six boys who were allocated to me. I had the capacity to deal with this number of children. We all had a similar number of caseloads.
31. My wife has reminded me we did have staff meetings each Friday. Senior staff would be present along with residential care staff and teaching staff. I would try my best to avoid the meeting and volunteer to drive any of the boys who had weekend leave, into Glasgow, to the bus or train station. I think those meetings were mainly to discuss the events of the week. The agenda would have been prepared by the headmaster and we would not normally be able to add anything to the agenda.

Children / Routine at St Philips

Referral

32. The children, all boys aged between twelve and sixteen, who were sent to us would be from the children's panel system or they may have been referred to us by the social work department. They would be sent to us for a different period of time, and it all depended on why they were sent to us.
33. The children may have been sent to us for different reasons, which could include truancy, some having family issues or for persistent offending. Different care plans would need to be prepared for the children and those plans depended on the reasons for the children being at St Philips. They would be compiled in conjunction with the social work department.

Staffing

34. In each of the units there were two members of day staff supervising anywhere up to eighteen children. There would be permanent night shift staff. Senior staff rotating at night would supervise from Monday to Thursday and another senior member of staff for Friday to Sunday. Sometimes the headmaster would be on duty at weekends, and it was easier to get money from the budget for activities.

Sleeping arrangements

35. Each unit consisted of four units, with four beds in each and there were two single rooms. I think the single rooms were allocated as a privilege. The allocation of where a child was being placed depended on where the vacancy was.

Showering

36. Apart from the daily washes, there were showering facilities. There were three showers, and the boys would usually have their shower on a Thursday, before going home for the weekend and on the Sunday when they returned from home leave. The boys would not be allowed to have a shower on their own as there would need to be a member of staff supervising that area to ensure the boy was not going to run away. If that was to happen then that would leave the remaining member of staff supervising seventeen children, which should never be the case. If a boy asked for a shower in the morning and there was staff available to supervise then that was never an issue.

Food

37. I found the food served at the school was good quality. The staff ate the same food as the boys. I don't recall there being any issues with the boys eating the food and there was no force feeding. The boys either ate the food or did without. At supper time there would be pot noodles or some tea and toast available. The chef even made birthday cakes for any of the boys who celebrated their birthday while at the school.

Schooling

38. The lessons at the school may not have been the same as normal schools. They did have some of the same subjects such as English and maths. The other subjects would be art, woodwork, and gardening. I can't recall if any of the boys sat exams.

Chores

39. The only chores the boys may be asked to complete would be making their beds in the morning, some general dusting and hoovering to keep their dorms clean. Each of the units also had cleaners coming in each day. There was no fuss made of the standard of the cleaning carried out by the boys.

Leisure/trips

40. The boys would have been allocated some pocket money. I think it was £5 per week and it would have been handed out on a Thursday.
41. We would have swimming available for the boys. There was also a sports barn where we played football, and if I was playing, I would be in goal. We did have a gym at the school, but we could not use that as there was no one qualified in the use of the equipment.
42. We had a trampoline at the school and that was why I went to Bellahouston to qualify as an instructor, so we could use that piece of equipment.
43. In the evenings there was a television available in the living room, and we would try things like bingo, to try and make the evenings more enjoyable. In my unit, I don't remember there being a pool or snooker table, but I think there might have been something in other units.
44. I was also trained as a ski instructor but there was not much of that at St John's as it was deemed too expensive for the budget there. We did get more availability to go skiing when I went to St John's. I do remember we did get to go to Braemar when I was at St Philip's for a week of skiing. I know we stayed in the local community centre,

which had cooking facilities, but it was always freezing cold at night. I can't recall how many of the boys came with us.

45. I can remember we went to the Campsie's in the evening if it was nice. Once more, we had to have hiking certificates, along with a certified minibus driver. The driver would have gone through a course with Strathclyde Council to get his certificate.
46. There was another trip to Morar, which we did each summer. The headmaster knew a local farmer there and he allowed us space in one of the fields to set up the tents for the boys. If he came with us, he would make big pots of soup and mince and tatties. The male members of staff stayed in a caravan there. Any female members of staff stayed in a guest house in Mallaig. Whenever we went on that trip it would be one unit at a time.
47. You would not have any child being taken out of the unit on a one-to-one basis, the reason being, as I have said, that would leave the other member of staff looking after seventeen children.
48. I have said that children from the school would not be taken to the home of any of the staff. There was an occasion when my wife and I were asked to help a young boy, who was part of [REDACTED] caseload, with an issue. He was a special case that had been placed in her unit, he was only about eight and a half years old, with issues mixing with other children. We were asked if we could help as part of the care plan and have him mix with our children. This was all authorised and he did come to us and at the end of it, he made great improvements in this area.

Home leave

49. The home leave at weekends depended a lot on the individual care plan for each child. Some of the children could not go home because of family circumstances and would be in the home all the time. The other boys who were allowed home, would depend partly on any restrictions in their care plan and how they had behaved that particular

week in the school. They would have been told when they arrived how they were expected to behave.

Health

50. We did have a matron at the school, Mrs Aitken, who would provide any minor treatment or ailments the boys suffered. If it was something more serious, she would contact the local doctor to attend at the school. It was a similar arrangement with dental care. All arrangements were made through her. When they were in the home they would be registered with the relevant local practice.
51. We also had a psychologist, Jim Reid, come to the school and have any required session with boys needing his assistance. We were able to refer any of the boys we saw that may need some help with mental health issues.

Visits

52. As the boys were getting home leave the family visits were not that often. We did not usually have one to one visits as they would still need to be supervised and that would leave the other member of staff looking after the remaining boys on his or her own. We could make pre-arranged visits by parents, and we would make staffing alterations to help with this. If family did want to come during the week, I am not aware of that ever being a problem.
53. For the longer-term residents there were parents' nights once a year. The parents would be able to speak to the key worker about the progress of their child.
54. We did not usually have any outside visitors come to the school, but I can remember Brian McClair, former Celtic player, would come to the school and talk with the boys. I am not sure if his, or any similar visit were vetted, prior to coming to the school. When they did visit, they were never left alone with the children.

55. Any of the boys with an allocated social worker would have a visit from them and they would be able to speak with their worker on their own. If the boy raised any concerns the social worker would normally make the key worker aware. If it was more serious or about the key worker themselves then the social worker would speak with a senior member of staff.

Review of arrangements

56. The review of a boy's stay in the school would normally take place every couple of months. Depending on the reasons for being in our care they may have to attend a panel, where reports were compiled, and all would review the care plan, as necessary. Some of the review recommendations could include being released from St Philips, their stay extended or altered to a day pupil.
57. When it came to time to leave, any help the boy needed for going back into the community was usually arranged through the social work department.

Living Arrangements

58. At the start of my time at St Philips I would travel in each day from Shettleston, but that eventually became too tiring. I was then allocated a flat [REDACTED] and I stayed in that flat for about six years. I would always make sure I got on with the kitchen staff, and sometimes they would send meals to me at the flat.
59. Other staff, such as Mrs Aitken, would have living facilities at the school. She stayed at [REDACTED] within the school grounds. There were bungalows in the grounds for other staff to reside in. As well as Mr Kane staying on site, others who occupied the bungalows were Bill McEachan, Richard O'Dowd, Mr McLaughlin, Margo Donnelly, Frank and Anne Livingston. The bungalows were situated as you came into the grounds before you reached the main building.

60. At night, the only people who had access to the sleeping quarters of the children, were the night staff on duty. John McMullan was the person who worked night shift in my unit. I only worked day and back shifts.

Discipline and punishment

61. Discipline and punishments were administered by senior staff. During some of the time I worked at St Philips the school belt was still allowed. If a child had misbehaved in the classrooms during that period, then they might be given the belt, as happened in local schools. The belt was always over the palms of the hand and never any other part of the body. New national regulations came in during the time I was at St Philips where all forms of corporal punishment were banned. That would have been around 1986/1987.
62. The most serious form of punishment that we had was the loss of home leave. As well as residential staff marking misbehaviour in daily logs, the teaching staff would also mark how the child behaved in the classes. They would be marked as excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. There would be a meeting with unit and teaching staff, on the Thursday on decisions to be made about home leave. Any recommendations of removing the leave had to be approved by senior staff.
63. I am aware that if the children had the home leave cancelled, they could go to Mr Kane who would more often than not, accept their explanation and re-instate the leave. We used to call this Friday confessions.
64. I don't recall the policies the school had, with regard to discipline. When any child was admitted, the staff may have spoken to the boys about what was expected of them while they were at St Philips. There were no occasions when any responsibility for punishments, would be handed over to older boys to administer.
65. I don't know if senior staff kept a record of any punishment they handed out.

Running away

66. St Philips was really isolated, but there were boys who would run away. It was quite common to see staff trying to chase the boys over the fields around the school. We would have to report them as absconders. They would usually be brought back by the police. We would speak to the boys when they returned and more often, after listening to the reasons given, the punishment was the loss of home leave.

Restraint

67. Restraint was used when I worked at St Philips. There was never any training given in how restraint should be used. I rarely saw that being used in my unit. If someone was being restrained, they were only held until they calmed down.
68. If someone was kicking off, I preferred to pull them aside and have a conversation with them, to find out how it worsened to this stage. When I managed to calm him down, I would also point out the options that could be used if he continued misbehaving.
69. I do remember a time when I had to restrain a boy, at St John's, and that was because he was going for the headmaster. When he had calmed down, Mr McLuckie and I stopped the restraint. I then took the boy outside of the building to speak to him about what happened.
70. I do recall there were instances of excessive force being used when restraining, but I cannot recall the exact details. There seemed to be no repercussions for those who were involved and there was no intervention from senior staff.

Concerns about St Philips

71. During my time at St Philips, I am not aware that the school was the subject of any concern. About two years ago I was interviewed by two female police officers who were making enquiries into alleged abuse by some night staff. I don't recall the details about that.

72. I am sure that if a boy made complaints it would go to senior staff or perhaps the social workers. I know that Mr Kane would not stand for any kind of abuse against the children. I am sure when any concerns were raised, the parents of the particular child would be informed, usually by the social work, after discussions with the staff at the school. I did not have any child reporting any concerns to me.

Reporting of complaints/concerns

73. I don't recall any procedures written down about how complaints were dealt with. If someone was to report any complaint to me, I would immediately make the senior member of staff aware. Depending on the nature of the complaint I might also have to contact the social worker. If a complaint was made it would be recorded in the child's individual file. During the time I was at St Philips I never received any complaints.

Trusted adult/confidante

74. I am not aware that we had any trusted adult or confidante that a child could approach. To the best of my knowledge there was no bullying at the school. If it had happened, I would like to think we would stamp it out as early as possible.

Abuse

75. I am not aware that the home had a definition for abuse, and I can't recall there being any discussion on that subject.
76. The person who threw the keys was the woodwork teacher, KMT He had one difference in that his keys were attached to some sort of elastic, so when he threw

them at the boys, they immediately flew back into his hands. This teacher had arrived from another school and stayed in Helensburgh.

77. When I was at St Philips, I did see some things that were not right. There were two members of staff, **KMW** and **KMV** who were working as a team in Morar unit. **KMV** would have been in his 40's. I have seen both these men slap kids over the head for little or no reason, afterwards they would put the relevant boy back into his dorm and laugh at what they had done to him. I don't remember the names of the boys concerned. This happened on several occasions to different boys.
78. When things began to change in the school and the old style was gone, **KMW** did not like the changes coming in and decided to leave.
79. None of the above people I have mentioned were ever investigated. The senior management must have been aware of what they were doing. I did see some other staff who might have been heavy handed with the boys. That was when I first started. When the culture changed in the school, their behaviour improved. No children ever reported abuse to me when I was there. Although I never reported any of the abuse I saw to senior staff, I did have words with each of them at the time, about how it was wrong.
80. I am sure, if there had been any abuse in my unit, I would have found out about it at the time. There were also staff going to the headmaster all the time reporting issues and suspicions to him. During that time there was no whistle blowing policy

Child protection arrangements

81. I do not recall any guidance on child protection in my early years. As new staff arrived and new changes had been made, that helped some of the dead wood, decide it was time to leave. I don't recall child protection arrangements ever being raised at the team meetings. I don't recall any plans in place to reduce the chance of abuse taking place.

82. I think with changes such as the introduction of Childline and other charities, they had a positive influence for the kids and the ability to report any kind of abuse.

External monitoring

83. North Lanarkshire Council did send inspectors to the school. I think we were told when the inspections were being carried out. During those inspections they would have spoken to any staff they chose to, along with any children. It was kept really casual, and they usually just mingled with the children and might ask a question as they did so.
84. After the inspections, the headmaster would have been sent some feedback, but we never got to see the report he received.
85. I don't recall any unannounced inspections being carried out by North Lanarkshire or any other authority.

Record keeping

86. I never saw any historical records kept by St Philips, but my wife did remind me they may have been kept in the front office.
87. I used the daily sheets and records for my reports that I would have to compile on the children I was the key worker for. As a result, I would always ensure I would put as much into the logs to make the report writing easier. A small percentage never filled the sheets in regularly. I would try to advise them of the benefits of filling them in.

Investigation into abuse – personal involvement

88. During my time St Philips, I have never been involved in any investigation of abuse.

Reports of abuse and civil claims

89. I have not been involved in any reports of abuse or civil claims made against St Philips.

Police investigations/criminal proceedings

90. Other than the investigation I made comment about earlier in my statement, I am not aware of any other police investigation. I have not had to provide any statement to the Crown for any court proceedings.

Convicted abusers

91. The only person that I am aware of having been convicted of abuse at St Philips, would be ^{HYS} [REDACTED]. He was a night shift worker in the Morar unit. I am not aware what the offences were or when they occurred. As he was in a different unit from me, I had no work contact with him. As I never worked with him, I never had any concerns about him. This was long after I left St Philips and was hearsay.
92. I think the night shift staff would have been recruited in a similar fashion to the social care staff. I am not sure if he had any qualifications, but I do know he was a member of the maintenance staff before he took up that position. I am not aware if St Philips carried out any investigation into him.

Other staff working at the same time

[REDACTED]
HWJ

93. I knew ^{HWJ} [REDACTED]. He had started working at St Philips before I began there and was still there when I left. He is three years older than me, and he worked in the same position as me, House Parent, in Morar unit. I always thought he was a good guy, he was laid back, good with the boys and a good member of staff.
94. He was always doing little projects that he would get the boys involved with. That might include, flying the doves, and the breeding of the rabbits. As far as I saw he was always

good with the children, and I never saw him punish or abuse any of the children. Likewise, I never heard from anyone that he had abused anyone in the school.

Allegations that have been made to the Inquiry about me

HUI

95. I think I remember HUI I think he was a small boy with fair hair, but if that is him, I am not certain. I never sanctioned, punished, or abused that child.
96. HUI has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraphs 48, 49 and 62 he has said; *"Mr HUI was one of the staff and he was extremely brutal. He was in his late twenties, early thirties."*
97. *"Other than Mr HUI there were no issues with any of the other staff."*
98. *"When it came to staff supervision it could be any of them that would take us to the swimming or be with us in sports hall. If there were kids not going out for any activity then a member of staff would stay behind to look after them at the home. So long as Mr HUI was not involved, the atmosphere was quite good."*
99. I find it absolutely shocking to be called brutal. I worked for over twenty years in residential care and when I left, I met some of the boys outside. I always got on well with the boys. I would ask if the boy had given a description of me as I have a strong feeling he must have mistaken me, with someone else in the school. He may have me mixed up with someone else but did not want to name him. There is a possibility it is another member of staff, but I would rather not name him.
100. I worked with Dermot Lamb and then mentored John McFadden. I worked after that and mentored Mark Heffernan for years and we were always classed as being the favourite teams that looked after the kids. When we were working, and things were a bit quiet, we would use our own money and get a video from the shops and sometimes

we were able to get some prizes for bingo. All this was us trying to make sure the boys were happy.

101. I find the allegations being made are so far-fetched. The passage of time has not affected my memory and it is not in my character.
102. At paragraph 58 he has said *"The showers that were available were communal. If Mr [redacted] was on duty he would be standing watching as we showered. He would then mock each of the boys about the size of their penis. He was supposed to supervise the shower area to make sure there was no fighting."*
103. The first thing I can say is that we did not supervise the showers. The only involvement we would have at shower time was making sure the boys had enough soap and shampoo. There were only two of us on to cover the unit. We were always having to cover the corridors and doors, to prevent anyone running away. You could not leave the other member of staff to look after the remaining number of kids.
104. I have never made any comments about the size of the boys' penises. That is completely against my character. I have no idea why he is saying those things. I am aware he later goes onto mention the film "Scum." I wonder if he has taken some of the ideas from that film, I don't know because I have never watched the film.
105. If what he is saying happened then I would class it as abuse and I would expect it to be reported. I know if I had seen it or been told about it, then I would have reported it to a senior member of staff. Likewise, if someone saw me doing it, I would expect them to report it.
106. At paragraph 56 and 75 he has said *"Before our meals we had to line up together and then walk into the canteen. At mealtimes if it was Mr [redacted] that was on duty he would make everyone sing a song. This was based on a song from a film of the day, possibly "Scum" which was about life in a borstal. He would amend the song to his own version."*

107. *"Mr^{HWI} a member of staff, based a lot of how he operated in the home based on the film "Scum." He was forever approaching everyone asking who the top boy was. He would then arrange for that boy and some of the others who thought they were top, to fight each other. Again, this was something contained in the film. None of the fights organised by Mr^{HWI} were ever entered into the punishment book."*
108. This is nonsense, absolute nonsense. I have never even watched the film "Scum." I don't even think any of the other staff would do this. I am not sure that the singing would be classed as abusive, but the fighting was. I was never involved in that, and I never seen that being set up by any of the staff.
109. My memory has not been affected by the passage of time. If this was his honest recollection of his time at St Philips, then I really feel sorry for him.
110. At paragraph's 76 and 77 he has said *"One of the things Mr^{HWI} did, was he would arrange for a race involving all the boys. He would make everyone race to the racks where the shoes were stored. We would run along the corridor and scramble to get our shoes on. The last one to get his shoes would then be forced to run the gauntlet."*
111. *"Mr^{HWI} lined the boys, usually ten on either side of the corridor. The last boy then had to run between the two lines as quick as possible. As he ran the boys were all made to punch and kick him until he reached the other end. Mr^{HWI} also joined in. This was a daily occurrence that Mr^{HWI} was on duty. If he was backshift then Mr^{HWI} would still have people run the gauntlet, usually about 5:00 pm."*
112. I don't know anything about the gauntlet. I would not do that sort of thing and I cannot explain why he is saying this. If what he says is true then that would be abuse and reported as I said earlier.
113. At paragraph's 78, 79, 80, 81, 82 and 83 he has said *"Mr^{HWI} had favourites between the boys. He would encourage those boys to fight with me and some of the other boys. He would take one of them aside, ask him if he could beat someone in a fight and then tell the boy to fight that person."*

114. *"There were times some of the boys might be sitting and relaxing, perhaps watching television. It was obvious he had set one of his boys up, to be ready to fight someone. One of the boys, was given a nod from Mr [HWI] and went to another boy and came from behind him. He then put his fingers into the second boy's eyes and kept pressing. The second boy was almost blinded as a result of this. After giving the nod, Mr [HWI] would stand near the fire exit to give the impression he saw nothing, but in fact he could see clearly what was happening."*
115. *"One of the boys was also involved in hitting me on one occasion again on Mr [HWI] instigation. After I had tried to report what was happening he was told not to hit me again. Trying to tell what was happening made the atmosphere in the home worse for me as everyone saw me as a grass."*
116. *"Other times Mr [HWI] would say to people that two particular boys were going up the stairs to do some sort of cleaning. We all knew that was never the case and what was really happening was Mr [HWI] was setting two boys up to have a fight up in the dorm."*
117. *"There was one person, who was deemed to be the top boy in the school. When that boy left the school it did not take Mr [HWI] long before he was organising fights every couple of weeks to try and find who would be the new top boy. He would sometime rearrange the layout of the beds in the unit so it would resemble a boxing ring. He would stand at the side while the boys fought."*
118. *"There was one time it came to my turn with having to fight on Mr [HWI] instruction. I told him I would not be fighting anyone. The boy I was to fight just gave me one punch on the nose and that was the end of the fight."*
119. I find these allegations to be complete nonsense. One thing I would like to point out, is that there is not enough space in the room to rearrange the beds into a boxing ring.
120. My memory has not been affected by the passage of time but if what he is saying is true, then it would be classed as abuse. Boys were not allowed upstairs on their own.

121. At paragraph 88 he has said *"After my suicide attempt Pat McCluskey was taking me from the hospital back to St Philips. I told him as we drove back, part of the reason for my issues was the abuse we were all suffering at the hands of Mr [HWI] Pat did not believe me. When I got back to the home I was to go with him into a room where I was supposed to tell the headmaster what was happening. I was then asked by Pat to tell it again. When I went into the room it was Mr [HWI] who was actually there. I was never given any chance to speak with the headmaster."*
122. I have no recollection of this incident and I don't know Pat McCluskey. During my time at St Philips, I don't recall there being any suicide attempts. If I had been involved then I would have expected to have been reported to senior staff.
123. At paragraph 102 he has said *"I am also scared to go into Glasgow City Centre just in case I bump into someone from St Philips. I remember when I was on remand that there were many people from St Philips in prison at that time. I can say I felt safer in Longriggend than I ever did at St Philips. There was no Mr [HWI] or the like making me fight or make me watch others fighting."*
124. It makes me feel upset because I know this is totally untrue. I am upset he is blaming me for the emotional baggage he is carrying. The description he has of me does not match how I was when I was at St Philips. I am sorry the boy has been impacted by this, but it was not me. I cannot say strong enough much more that the allegations he has made against me, did not happen.

Leaving St Philips

125. When Brian Harold came to St Philips I had already decided I was leaving. He had spoken to me about St Johns, and I told him I had previously been turned down for the unit manager's job at St Philips as it had been offered to someone else. He was speaking to me as the job had been readvertised. I told him I had already decided to leave and had applied for a job at St John's.

126. Not long after Paddy Hanrahan arrived at the school, I received a call to say that I was being offered the job at St Johns, Springboig. I was later informed that this job had also been offered to someone else, but they had decided not to take it.
127. Normally when someone left the school, some people would just go for a pint to mark the occasion. I was given a full leaving do with the staff, held in the dining hall. I would not get that kind of celebration if I was causing issues in the school. Paddy came up to me and told me he was really pleased for me. He even made a comment that I had finally made it to where I wanted to be.

St Johns, Springboig

128. I presume when I left St Philips, they might have provided a reference for me. If I was asked to provide any referees, then I might have asked Brian Harold to do this, but I can't be specific, if that was the case. After submitting the application form, I did have to sit an interview. The interview itself was conducted in front of the board of managers, not including [REDACTED] who had left there a long time beforehand. I think there were seven or eight on the panel. The role I took up was a residential social worker.
129. When I started working there, I was allocated to Columba unit. Along with a senior female, we moved into St Mungo's unit at the same time, and we stayed there for about eight years. Together we helped draw up policies for the older boys.
130. When I went to St John's I found that they were much more professional, in the manner everyone interacted with the boys. The boys there were all aged between fourteen and eighteen. The rules at St Johns were much more relaxed and not like the ex-army style I first encountered at St Philips. I believe St Philips was making changes to be more aligned to those at St John's.

Guidelines/policies

131. At St Johns there were many more guidelines and policies, which were easily accessible for all the staff. Our case notes on the children were all overseen by senior staff. Should they see anything not quite right then we would have to provide an explanation to them. Every six weeks or so, we would have to speak with senior staff to ensure the records were all up to date and accurate.

Culture

132. I think we had a similar number of boys to St Philips and perhaps a few more day pupils there. The interaction between the staff and the boys being much more relaxed, provided a happier culture.
133. When Angus McIntosh arrived at St John's as the new deputy head, he was really good for the school. His main concern was really strong with regard to the rights of the children. I think he arrived a couple of years after I began working there.

Schooling

134. When it came to the schooling, apart from the English lessons, there were also courses built into their day including painting and decorating, gardening, and building. When the boys were moving about the school they did not have to walk in straight lines. I am not aware much about the schoolwork carried out, but I believe they were working towards the usual exams to similar mainstream schools.

Punishment

135. Similarly to St Philips, the main form of punishment at St John's was the loss of home leave.

Abuse

136. I am not aware of any abuse having occurred at St John's while I was there. I am not aware and have not been involved in any police or civil investigations.

Leaving St John's

137. When I left St John's I went to work with the [REDACTED] Project, in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which provided help and advice to the young single homeless 18 to 25 year olds. When I worked there, I can remember we received some referrals from St John's, and those people were really glad to see someone they knew, with a friendly attitude.

Helping the Inquiry

138. I think in all such establishments there needs to be a better and more in-depth induction when you arrive. I think they should have clearer guidelines on what is acceptable/unacceptable behaviour, and this should be for both the children and the staff.

Other information

139. 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.. HWI [REDACTED]

Dated..... 12th AUG. 2024