

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

MOQ

on behalf of

CHJ

Support person present: No

1. My name is MOQ. I am known as MOQ. I am giving this statement on behalf of my brother, CHJ, who has now passed away. CHJ was known as CHJ. His date of birth was [REDACTED] 1951. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Family background**

2. My brother CHJ was at Carlekemp Boarding School from the age of nine, in 1961. I had left Fort Augustus Abbey School by the time CHJ started there, in 1965 or 1966. CHJ left the Abbey school in 1967 or 1968.
3. Around 1986 or 1988, I stayed with CHJ for about a week. CHJ and I went out for lunch and we got talking about the school. I don't know which of us brought up the subject of school.
4. I told CHJ a story about MEV and a kilt. I had been told that MEV had gone crying down to the Matron's lodge. One of the members of the church had given MEV a kilt as a present. MEV told the Abbot, who said that anything given to MEV had to go to the Abbey, it wasn't MEV's to keep. MEV had to hand over the kilt. MEV went down to the matron and burst into tears, over something like that.

### Abuse of others at Carlekemp School

5. CHJ mentioned a priest called Father MEZ whose nickname was MEZ. He said this priest had strange ways with the boys, getting them into odd positions whilst they were sitting on his lap. I never knew this monk, so I did not concentrate to what CHJ said very well. The main thing was, it appeared he never did anything to CHJ. This Father MEZ was an odd fellow by the sounds of it.

### Abuse at Fort Augustus Abbey School

Father MEV

6. I told CHJ about me being flogged at school and CHJ said he had something worse to tell me. CHJ spoke of Father MEV. I did not trust MEV when I was at school. I did not know why. He seemed insincere and did not involve himself in the school's extra-curricular activities. MEV enjoyed the company of the younger boys.
7. Father MEV was often in the company of Father MEY. They both came from Australia. Rumours floated around the school about these two being "homos", as they called them in those days. They were certainly an odd couple. Most of the boys considered the rumours to be a bit outrageous.
8. CHJ told me that he was at school and was lying sick in the sick bay. He was the only one in the room. The door opened and in came MEV. MEV closed the door. MEV came and sat on the bed. MEV felt CHJ's brow, said that he thought CHJ might have a bit of a temperature and that he had better check CHJ's temperature.

9. MEV told CHJ to roll over and he would check CHJ temperature. CHJ diligently rolled over. I don't know who pulled his pyjamas down, whether it was MEV or whether CHJ was told to pull them down. CHJ pyjamas were pulled down. CHJ explained it by saying, "MEV interfered with me by putting his finger in my backside." CHJ said MEV held his finger in CHJ backside for quite some while. I asked CHJ if he was sure that it was MEV finger that he had put in and CHJ said that he was sure.
10. There was a noise outside the door. MEV quickly pulled his finger out, stood up and went out of the room. He didn't hang around. CHJ thought the noise was the school matron because she lived in the lodge where the sick rooms were. CHJ said he felt very bad about the incident. He felt very uncomfortable. CHJ and I discussed the audacity of MEV doing it while the matron was there and CHJ was lying in bed sick. What sort of creature does that? CHJ said MEV was often hanging around the lodge to see the matron.
11. CHJ and I talked about the physical abuse. CHJ had been physically abused at school too. We were discussing the general floggings we both got. I am sure that his physical abuses were of the hand strapping kind and none of the severe canings that I got. The hand strappings never seemed to disturb him. CHJ indicated that he probably deserved his punishments, and there were none that he had which were grossly unfair.
12. He spoke of the regularity of the punishments. CHJ said he could not understand what he had done wrong to get so many whackings while at that school and that there was a whacking for everything. He made a joke of it by commenting that he wondered if there existed a 'Complete Roget's Thesaurus of Benedictine Whacking Methods'. I commented about being safer in prison. CHJ also said that he became annoyed at the way they just doled it out as if it were a blessing. CHJ did not mention the names of any monks who had physically abused him.

13. Father [MKT] would have been the [SNR] during [CHJ] time at the school. [MKT] although a violent man, did not appear to carry out naked canings. I don't think that [CHJ] would have been subject to any of this. He was probably left alone more as he was perhaps not as strong-willed or defiant as me. My physical abuse was worse. I had been caned after I had to strip naked, [CHJ] said he had never had any naked canings.

*Visits by Jimmy Savile to Fort Augustus Abbey School*

14. [CHJ] talked to me about Jimmy Savile's frequent visits to the school. Savile would park his Rolls Royce car outside the front of the school. [CHJ] said that Savile was allowed to roam freely about the school, even in the boy's dormitories. I took it that [CHJ] meant during the daytime. [CHJ] said the boys did not like Savile and, even though he was a big star, they felt uncomfortable in his presence. [CHJ] wondered why Savile kept coming to the school. There appeared to be no purpose for his visits. It was many years later that Savile was exposed as a sexual predator, well after [CHJ] told me this story.

**Reporting of abuse at Fort Augustus Abbey School**

15. [CHJ] said that he knew he had been interfered with by [MEV] as soon as it happened but he did not want to make a fuss. I'm sure [CHJ] never mentioned this incident to anyone at the school. He never told our mother. It appeared that I was the only person who [CHJ] ever told. [CHJ] never told me the year that it happened but I would suggest it happened in 1965 or 1966.

**CHJ** Life after Fort Augustus Abbey School

- 16. I was closer to **CHJ** than I was to my other siblings. We had the same sense of humour. **CHJ** was a self-made man and built his own, successful, business. **CHJ** was a hard worker. He was a family man.
  
- 17. 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.

**MOQ**

Signed.....

*8.5.2019*

Dated.....