

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Donald William Robertson BOYD**

Support person present: yes

1. My name is Donald William Robertson Boyd, known as Don. My date of birth is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I have been married to my wife [REDACTED] for 45 years and we have two daughters and two grandchildren. I have another daughter from a previous marriage when I was very young and another two grandsons with her. I have worked in the film and television world all my working life as a director, writer and producer .
3. I have [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I was the [REDACTED] then it was [REDACTED], then [REDACTED] who has [REDACTED] then my [REDACTED] My father, [REDACTED] was Scottish while my mother, [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. She was born in Manchuria and had spent the first 27 years of her life in China.
4. In that sense she was an alien to the social backdrop my father represented. She had been part of the diaspora but had somehow miraculously not been interned during the time the Japanese were in Shanghai. Both my parents are now dead.

**Life before going into care**

5. My father's family had been extremely well off and he had worked in military intelligence as a young man but joined the Tobacco Industry in Shanghai which was where he met my mother. I always got on well with my mother but not with my father whom I never had a great relationship with.

6. I was born in Nairn in Scotland. My parents had been married in Shanghai but came to Scotland for me to be born. After I was born they received a telegram telling them they couldn't return to Shanghai so we went to Hong Kong. When we arrived there I was four months old.
7. We lived in Hong Kong until 1953 or 1954 then we moved to Jinja in Uganda, Africa which had a big tobacco factory. From there we moved to Nairobi in 1956 during the Mau Mau uprising and it was at that time my father decided he wanted me to go to boarding school in Scotland. He was obsessively patriotic about Scotland and wanted us to have a private education.
8. We were shown numerous prospectus from a variety of schools like Fettes, Loretto and Gordonstoun and my father eventually settled for Loretto in Musselburgh. I felt very traumatic in leaving as I had been doing extremely well in school in Nairobi. It was a school for both boys and girls of mixed races and I had been very happy there.
9. My mother came to the airport to see me off and that was one of the worst days of my life. My mother was in tears. I hadn't yet turned ten and I was then on my own for an eighteen hour flight with stops at Khartoum, Tripoli, Rome then London.
10. I had loved Africa and everything about it. It had been my home but when I got on the plane it was as if a switch had been flipped and I knew it was simply something I had to get on with.
11. I was met in London by my godfather's wife and they then organised various things that I was required to take to Loretto with me and I later went from King's Cross to Edinburgh. There I was met by Hamish Galbraith who was the headmaster for The Nippers in Loretto. It was either him or his wife.

**Loretto, Musselburgh**

12. When I arrived at Loretto I was placed in North Esk Lodge which was the main building for The Nippers. The Nippers was the prep school for Loretto and therein there were about fifty to sixty boys aged between nine and thirteen. I was the only boy there for the first few days and I think I was shown where I would be staying when the school started.
13. On that first day I felt bewildered if somewhat intrigued. There was a sense of protection about the place though I was soon to find out how rigid and regimental the place was. The school motto was "Spartam Nactus Es Hanc Exorna" which translates as "You inherit Sparta, rise up to it".
14. The Nipper's School was run as a separate institution from The Upper School and was split into 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> forms. I was put straight into 3<sup>rd</sup> form due to the fact I was way ahead academically. There were two lodges that were run by Jim Buchanan and Guy Ray-Hills. Each lodge had dorms one of which held four beds, another held eight and I would say there was a total of eight dorms.
15. There were domestic staff and a matron who was in charge of our health. There were three main teachers as well as some teachers who came from outside. There was also, of course, the headmaster and his wife who I recall used to hand out the pocket-money.
16. North Esk Lodge had two approaches and the headmaster's quarters were at the front. There was a TV room then the dining room and the master's study on the ground floor.
17. There was a staircase opposite the dining room which lead up to two floors each of which had dorms of different sizes. The higher up dorms were for the older boys. On the top floor was the room that Guy Ray-Hills had.

18. On my first night, when the other boys arrived, I recall meeting a young boy from Dingwall called [REDACTED]. He cried that night and every night thereafter simply because he was home-sick. His parents eventually took him away from the school after only a week.
19. I stayed at The Nippers and then, when I was thirteen, I moved to the upper school after the first term of the academic year there which meant that I was joining one term late. Consequently I sat my first O Levels at just thirteen years of age. Despite the fact I was actually made head-boy of The Nipper's School that was something I always regretted as I felt I was pushed up too soon and too fast

#### **Routine at The Nippers, Loretto, Musselburgh**

20. In the morning, we were woken by a bell which I think was rang by the housekeeper. You then went to the tub room where you had to immerse yourself in a cold bath and you had to at least let the water go over your shoulders or you would be punished. After the bath you would go for a run before going for breakfast.
21. You would then make your bed, which had to be done in a very precise hospital manner. After that you would go to class. We didn't have any chores to do other than making our beds. We even had somebody to clean our shoes for us.
22. At lunchtime, we would all eat in the same dining room and then it was back to school for classes or PT. On Saturdays we had classes in the morning then games in the afternoons. On Sunday we would have chapel and free time.
23. Sport was a big thing at Loretto and you had to do at least two hours of games every day. Even on a Sunday you had to go on a walk. If you didn't run when you were supposed to, you were given a beating.

24. There were free periods when you could do as you pleased though you were not allowed into the dorms during the day. You could read or do sports or perhaps go out into the grounds. There was always plenty to do.

*Mealtimes / Food*

25. The food in general was quite good and you could help yourself to it at meal times. There was tapioca which was disgusting and the meat was rarely without fat but, on the whole, the food was good and well balanced. Of course you have to remember that due to all the exercising we did we were always hungry.
26. What I do recall was that when you got something you particularly liked you had time to enjoy it. The food was above average quality and was balanced. The staff ate alongside us. I don't recall anything happening if you didn't eat something.

*Washing / bathing*

27. There were no showers. After sports you would have a hot bath but you always had to have a cold bath immediately after it as well as in the morning. Showers weren't introduced until years later and that was in the Upper School.

*Clothing / uniform*

28. We had a daily uniform which was blue serge shorts, long red stockings, a vest, a white shirt and a blue jacket. During the day you had a Tweed jacket. Red and whites were a red blazer, white shirt, white shorts with red stockings. These were used for more formal occasions.
29. On Sundays I wore a Royal Stuart kilt or tartan trews with a formal black dress jacket and waistcoat with a stiff-studded Eton collar. There was another kilted uniform, green stockings and a Tweed jacket which was different from the earlier one I described. I think we also had a tie with that and a waistcoat. This is what we wore when we travelled outside the school when not wearing red and whites. So we had

four different uniforms plus an overcoat and a raincoat. We also had different clothes for games depending on which sport you were doing.

#### *School*

30. The schooling was fantastic. As well as the regular teachers we had two teachers who came in from outside to teach us art, woodwork and scriptures.

#### *Trips / Holidays*

31. In the Nippers, when it snowed, you would go out tobogganing instead of class which was great fun. When I was in the Upper School we used to go to The Usher Hall in Edinburgh on a Thursday which introduced me to classical music which I have a love for.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

32. I think I went to Dundee for my first Christmas in 1958. I stayed with a family called Wallace who were friends of my parents. Other than that I flew home for Christmas. My birthday was in [REDACTED] so I was always away from the school at that time. I have no recollection of other boys having their birthday celebrated.

#### *Pocket money*

33. You handed over the money your parents gave you and it was given back to you on Saturdays. You could then go into town and buy fruit or sweets though you were only allowed these at certain times.
34. It was different in The Upper School where we had a tuck shop. Rich children tended to get more and they actually got quite a hard time about this from some of the others.

#### *Visits / Inspections*

35. I didn't receive visits from my parents and would only see them if I flew home. I received no phone calls but did get aerogrammes from my mother now and again. Boys who lived nearby could go out for the day three times a term with their parents and now and again some of these boys would invite me out with them. This was normally between church and tea-time.
36. There may have been visits from officials who inspected the school but, if it happened, I wasn't aware of it.

#### *Healthcare*

37. Mrs Galbraith, the Headmaster's wife, was the matron and there was a sister who looked after our health. I had a lot of trouble with my teeth and was regularly taken to see an orthodontist in Edinburgh when it was required.
38. One health factor that set me apart from the other boys was that, during that era, I suffered from an extreme form of migraine. On occasion I quite literally couldn't function and was semi-hospitalised in the sanatorium in the school for a day or two each time it happened.

#### *Discipline*

39. There were different hierarchies at the school and caning was the main form of discipline. In the Nipper's it was the masters who caned you and I certainly recall Ray-Hills doing it. You would be allocated a specific time when you went to receive your caning. The cane was a thin bamboo cane about three feet in length.
40. You could be punished for a variety of things like talking out of turn, listening to a radio, which everybody did, having dirty shoes, not taking a cold bath and numerous other things. The place was very regimented and punishments were regular.

41. Ray-Hills only beat me once and while he was supposed to beat me on at least two or three other occasions he let me off due to what had developed between us which I will explain later.
42. In The Upper School there were school prefects and house prefects and when I first went in to the school these prefects could beat you with the cane without being monitored.
43. However, this later changed and, if a caning was being given, there had to be two others present. The prefects were the utter rulers of The Upper School. There was an "owning up" policy in relation to those who were due a beating for not taking a proper cold bath in the morning.
44. A prefect would ask if anybody was willing to "own up" and if you did then you would receive fewer lashes than if they found out afterwards and you hadn't owned up to it. When it happened, at tea-time, they would read out the names of those to be beaten and it would then take place in the tub-room. You would have to line up and wait to be beaten.
45. I was only beaten once in The Upper School. A prefect called [REDACTED] had found out that I had never been beaten and was due to leave the school. One Sunday I did what everybody else did and bought a morning roll on the way back from Church which was against the rules but an accepted practice.
46. [REDACTED] called me up and he told me he was going to beat me. When I asked him why he told me it was because I had bought a morning roll. I tried to explain that everybody, including him, did this but he still gave me three strokes of the cane.
47. Later that night he asked to see me again and when we met he asked me to agree that what he had done was correct. I refused to ease his conscience in such a way and refused to agree that what he had done was correct. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were two other prefects as I recall.



48. Many other boys were caned far worse, more often and for far more trivial reasons. As time went on it was realised that, for certain minor offences, the canings were inappropriate and we had to do what was called maps. However, the overall regime was one of brutality.
49. The Headmaster would cane you for more serious matters. I recall that [REDACTED] once got caught smoking. The Headmaster's room was below the room I was working in and I had the dreadful experience of hearing him give [REDACTED] six strokes. This was on my last day but one at the school.
50. Afterwards [REDACTED] came into my room in agony and told me what had happened. I checked the damage and saw marks and blood on his buttocks. We were certainly both aware of the damage that the caning had done to him.

#### **Abuse at Loretto, Musselburgh**

##### *Guy Ray Hills*

51. It may be difficult for me to remember some of the specifics of the abuse but it concerned a teacher by the name of Guy Ray-Hills.
52. He was a brilliant teacher who taught us French and all the boys loved him. He made the classes almost like a street theatre with him as the leading man.
53. In the class we were only allowed to speak in French and we were all given animal names. I was Le Singe which means monkey. As he arrived at class Ray-Hills would start a song which we would then join in with. For us it was our favourite class of the week.
54. The first task was what we called "Les Renseignements" which meant "the news or information of the day". We would write on the blackboard before he came in, in

French, the date, the weather and whatever was of interest to those of us at that age.

55. When we had finished Ray-Hills would summon one of the boys and help him rub out what we had written leaving certain letters. This was done in a slow and sensuous manner and the letters left always referred to some sexual innuendo.
56. When the final letters had been finally erased Ray-Hills would give a very tame spanking to the boy that had allegedly left the suggestive letters on the board. The whole class always found this very entertaining.
57. The boy who had been "spanked" would be given a hug by Ray-Hills and would then walk back to his desk proudly and glowing because he was one of Ray-Hills chosen few.
58. At the same time a long piece of wood that was propped next to the blackboard would fall to the floor that Ray-Hills would then scoop up. On this piece of wood was sculpted a naked woman with breasts, red lips and a bushy vagina who he called "Caroline".
59. Ray-Hills would pick this up and kiss it. We were only ten or eleven years old and would laugh nervously each time but we clearly caught the gist of this overtly sexual innuendo.
60. Ray-Hills made the French class a huge pleasure and I was particularly good at French. It was accepted that he was one of the best French teachers in Britain. Even his PT classes were entertaining, certainly more popular than Jim Buchanan's.
61. His great obsession was horse-racing and he would often bring his copy of Sporting Life in at breakfast. Ray-Hills would often invite us into his room to watch horse-racing, cricket or rugby on TV.

62. If you did well with him Ray-Hills would give you presents. For example I often won bottles of lemon squash for scoring cricket but the best prize was a small box of Black Magic. To get these gifts and to be one of his special friends was a fantastic feeling to somebody so young.
63. I'm not sure how it was that he inveigled me to come to his room that first time. This was a huge risk for him so he must have been very careful in his planning of it. It couldn't have been when we were supposed to have been in bed as that would have been too risky. So it was probably between the free time between prep and when we went to bed.
64. There were many jokes going about the school about Ray-Hills having a large penis and I recall in particular him rubbing himself up against me in the classroom. There were rumours amongst the boys about "special friends" going to his room. He also had a reputation as a womaniser, especially with regards to one female member of staff.
65. I recall that his room wasn't particularly big but he did have a big bed and the window looked out onto the ash court over to Newfield games fields. His hair brushes were always laid out on the window ledge and there was an aroma in the room. There was also a tube of something that he later used when we were having sex.
66. I don't recall how it was I was in the room but he kissed me and I remember not liking it as he had effeminate looks and ruby coloured lips that I didn't like. He helped me undress then undressed himself. I recall being shocked by the size of his penis. He was clever in manipulating my hands to do what he wanted.
67. He wasn't brutal, there was no sadism in it and it was almost, certainly to him, affectionate. At that age your hormones were going wild and you couldn't help but react to it albeit you were being manipulated.

68. I recall that on that first occasion I ejaculated and then so did he. There was no penetration of me on that first occasion and after we were finished he put his finger to his mouth and told me that we were special friends and it was our secret.
69. I recall that as I left I felt anxious about being caught. I was twelve years old and had been at the school for about two years. He stayed in the room when I left and it was obvious that he had been very clever in the way he had organised it.
70. Once I had become initiated it became exciting and easy to do. After that first time, the sexual element of it increased. I couldn't believe how ghastly it was the first time he penetrated me but he seemed to find that important as part of the process.
71. Touching the penis was very important to him and I remember the horrible smell when he ejaculated. Subsequently the sensations surrounding the experiences aroused in me a need, a sort of sexual excitement.
72. This wasn't masturbation, it was above that and it somehow made me feel that I was empowered in a way that the other boys weren't. This made no difference to my attraction to women. This was separate from that and, since school, I have never had a homosexual relationship with another man in my life.
73. As is the case with all boarding schools, male and female, there was a subtle atmosphere of adolescent homo-eroticism at Loretto. We were young men with no women about and there was a culture that fostered innocent sexual experimentation between the boys.
74. However, somehow Ray-Hills raised in me some feelings that, at that young age, was some sort of sexual need. At no stage was I aware that what we had been doing was against the law.
75. In my time in The Nippers I think I was in Ray-Hills room four or five times though I think this was due to the lack of opportunity. The way he would get me to come to his

room on these occasions would be to subtly suggest that that evening would be a good time for me to go up.

76. I moved to The Upper School which was the part of Loretto attended by older boys aged thirteen and up who had passed the common entrance exam. Early on in the term I was coming out of chapel when Ray-Hills approached me. He invited me for a "session" the following Thursday after prep.
77. This then became the intermittent pattern over the next three years though I couldn't guess how often it happened. All the time I was absorbed with the sexual excitement of it enough to overcome the shame of it. Afterwards I felt guilty. I realised that I was hooked and I didn't appreciate until many years later that I had actually been raped.
78. I was only a young teenager whose family were thousands of miles away and there was something special about the fact that this ever so popular adult found me so special. His insistence that I was his special friend reaffirmed in my mind that I couldn't tell anybody.
79. During my last summer at Loretto school, my parents' marriage had become intolerably alcoholic and abusive. My mother had moved back to Edinburgh by this time. My father thought it would be better if [REDACTED] stayed away from home during that holiday and myself and [REDACTED] went on holiday with Ray-Hills to St Gilgen and Salzburg.
80. This was the music festival of 1964 and between bouts of Mozart and The Marionetten Theatre, between games of Bridge and trips across the lake, Ray-Hills tried to engineer two or three sessions with me for old time's sake. I went along only partially with these and only very reluctantly. Frankly, the idea of further sex with him disgusted me and I felt ashamed of my previous behaviour with him.
81. By then I knew that I was heterosexual and that my experiences with Ray-Hills had been something completely different.

**Leaving Loretto, Musselburgh**

82. Towards the end of my time at Loretto my parents' marriage had become damaged and my mother was an alcoholic and came to Edinburgh to see a psychiatrist. During this time I spent a lot of my holiday time with her. Prior to this [REDACTED] I had spent three holidays with people who had no connection with us.
83. She moved to North Berwick and during this time there were intermittent trips to Africa. After my mother arrived things couldn't have been much worse. She drank all day and hated [REDACTED] She would beat [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] spent most of [REDACTED] time out of the home playing golf or football.
84. During that time, I felt that school was safe and I just wanted to get back there after the holidays. However, I fell apart academically. I had only been thirteen by the time I had taken my first O Levels and by fourteen I had sat ten and had been fast tracked to A Levels. However, I had no idea of what I wanted to do with my life and had little input from my parents.
85. I used to argue a lot in class and the academic environment and atmosphere was oppressive to me. Looking back now, I feel as if what was happening with Ray-Hills had a lot to do with it.
86. I eventually left the school in 1965 just before my seventeenth birthday. On the last day the Headmaster said that I shouldn't be leaving school so early and that I should stay for at least one more year. However, my father could no longer afford to keep me there and he simply wanted me to get my A Levels and go to university.
87. I think subconsciously I also wanted to get away from Ray-Hills.

**Life after being in Loretto**

88. After a short period of messing about in Edinburgh labouring and working for a chartered accountant I worked at the greyhound racing stadium at Powderhall and hung out at The Edinburgh Dramatic Society. Thereafter I went to The London School of Dramatic Art. I was terrible at acting but knew I wanted to work in that field and started my own theatre company.
89. I took six shows to The Edinburgh Festival and while there I went to see as many films as I could. It was then that I realised that that was what I wanted to do with my life. I applied for entry to The London School of Film Technique but was told I required a degree or a scholarship.
90. I got a scholarship from the ILEA, graduated, then I worked in television with the BBC and went on to write and direct commercials, documentaries and feature films.
91. I married when I was nineteen to a seventeen year old girl and that marriage only lasted a year. We had a daughter during this time who thereafter gave us two grandsons. I met my present wife [REDACTED] in 1973 and we have been married for 45 years. We have two daughters and another two granddaughters.

### **Treatment and Support**

92. I saw a psychotherapist for two years in 2000 to 2002, Dr Jill Vites. That changed and saved my life. It helped me put all that had happened into perspective and showed me all the signs that I had missed. I realised that many of the things I had been doing in my life were classic signs of somebody that had been abused and taught me how to recognise and understand such things.
93. I also tried Cognitive Behavioural Treatment (CBT) but it wasn't for me.

### **Impact**

94. I honestly believe that every moment of my life has an association with my time in Loretto in an unhealthy way. Every relationship I form, every ambition I have, every emotional reaction I have, in some way or another, I give it context to my time in Loretto. Ray Hills stole my childhood.
95. In some ways that can be normal. For instance if I go to Murrayfield it reminds me of having gone there when I was at Loretto but it also invokes other horrible memories of Loretto.
96. Probably the biggest impact was on my marriage before all of this came out. At that time I was not a good husband. I was unfaithful and, partly due to my work, I had an itinerant life moving from place to place. I didn't see my daughters nearly often enough or get to enjoy being with them. I even wrote a letter to them once apologising.
97. Ironically, in revealing the abuse and handling the consequences of it, there is an upside in that, by confronting it, I realised I had the opportunity to right the wrongs of my behaviour with my wife and children. Consequently I can now safely say that I have a powerful and intimate relationship with them that is relaxed, loving and is everything our relationship wasn't prior to me confronting the abuse.
98. I was unpredictable and self-obsessed and must have been a nightmare to live with but my wife was and is the love of my life and such a wonderful person. When all of this came out, I went into two years of therapy as our marriage was in a state of collapse and [REDACTED] warned me that I had to change my ways. That therapy changed and saved my life.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

99. I never reported Ray-Hills for the abuse he did to me. If his name came up I eulogised about his amazing brilliance as a teacher and more or less promoted his sainthood.



100. However, about twenty years ago I was at a party at a friend's house who had an obsession with 17<sup>th</sup> century artefacts. We were all drunk and we challenged him to load and fire his antique blunderbuss. To our amazement he did but the explosion triggered an emotional explosion in my brain.
101. Within minutes I was bleating out the story of Ray-Hills. I found it impossible to see what had happened as anything but my fault. I was appalled when one of the other guests said I should immediately report it to the police and she asked me if I did not realise that I had been raped by a paedophile.
102. I couldn't understand such a hysterical attitude to it until one of the guests asked me how I would feel if one of my teenage daughters had been raped by a teacher. Suddenly the penny dropped and I realised that what Ray-Hills had done was rape me.
103. I thereafter went on to spill out various snippets of what had happened to me to some members of my family and close friends. This eventually lead to me writing an article which was later printed in The Guardian on 19 August 2001 during which I gave full details about what had happened to me with Ray-Hills.
104. Prior to the article being printed I wrote to Ray-Hills and told him about it and I received a barrage of phone calls and two begging and apologetic letters from him. He accepted all the allegations but, more importantly wanted to meet me. We arranged to meet at The Hyde Park Hotel.
105. As we sat there I told him that he had committed a crime and that in different circumstances he would be in jail. I told him of the harm he had caused me, how disgusted I was, how ashamed I felt.
106. I reminded him of my vulnerability at the time. I was thousands of miles away from my parents. I had no relations to see regularly and how I had been frightened, lonely, trusting, innocent and sexually ignorant.

107. He listened and apologised. He used all the standard defences about how it had been good clean fun, that it had happened so many years ago and how I had been a special friend. He questioned why I should want to bring it all up now.
108. He started talking about his lonely existence and slowly but surely I was coaxed into taking pity on him and told him, at that stage, I would prevent the publication of the article by the journalist who had interviewed me.
109. However, several months later after talking to my wife, I realised I had at last reached a point in my life where I could deal with the consequences of writing an article about the entire experience. A long article was thereafter commissioned and published by The Observer. This created considerable public furore and I was featured in a variety of high profile news programmes.
110. After the article was published I was contacted by the police who said that three or four other boys were likely to make a complaint against Ray-Hills and that if I didn't also make a complaint it could somehow be construed as protecting Ray-Hills.
111. I told the police I did not wish to make a formal complaint. Ray-Hills was arrested but on the day of his trial his lawyer said that he was too unwell to appear and I believe that the case was thereafter put on the backburner. I do not know how it was eventually dealt with if it ever was dealt with.

### **Records**

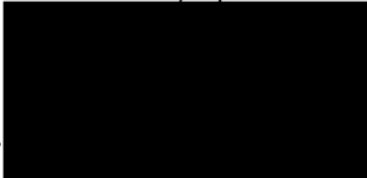
112. I have never applied for my records but after my article was published, all those who had been at Loretto received a letter from them. It spoke about how Ray-Hills had been questioned by the school about his approach to boys. There had been no allegation of physical abuse though Ray-Hills left the school immediately.

113. The letter went on to say how much assistance the school had given to boys over the years and how they always encouraged them to speak to counsellors and how the philosophy of the school was one of openness and decency. The school has certainly never contacted me in these matters since my article was published.
114. The school also said that they had met with a senior member of the police and were cooperating fully.
115. This was the last time I heard from the school until they sent a letter to all ex-pupils when The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry was announced. The thing about that was that I only found out about this letter from somebody else as it turned out that I was possibly the only ex-pupil who did not receive a copy of that letter. They subsequently did send me a copy of the letter.

#### **Lessons to be Learned**

116. I would never send my children to such a school as Loretto. I feel that such schools are outdated and it's really only Britain that retains such places. They give privileges to people that shouldn't have such privileges and disadvantages those who should have such privileges and should be given a chance to reach their potential.
117. The idea of sending a child to a boarding school, away from the possibility of a loving family environment, must rank as one of the worst decisions a parent could make for a child. I'm actually ashamed of the fact that I sent all my daughters to private schools though they all say they gained from it. However, now, they would never dream of sending their children to a fee paying school.
118. The problem is that things have changed since I was a boy. I would try to encourage an environment where children feel totally safe to express their anxieties and concerns without fear of reprisal to both teachers and parents. This has to include being able to say why they don't like teachers. I couldn't possibly have done that.

119. The boarding school system should be banned. Obstacles have to be put in place to stop such things happening without it being done as if it's run by secret police. The good things that happen have to be considered as well as what has gone wrong. We should learn from the positive things. Parents should always be encouraged to be involved.
120. I feel strongly about the fact that children should be taught that it is not wrong to be homosexual. I passionately believe that. The secrecy that existed when I was a child would not have occurred were it not for the laws that were in place at the time. There was a stigma attached to homosexuality at the time and I feel it is vital that schools educate children that to be homosexual is not wrong.
121. What has to be absolutely clear is that it is wrong to initiate children into sexual activity and that as soon as a child thinks that that is what is happening there should be somebody that they can talk to about it.
122. The homosexual community are appalled at the possibility of children being abused in such ways and could never condone paedophilia. I think it is vital that that distinction is made when you deal with such behaviour in schools or other places where children are at risk.
123. 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..........

Dated.....*26<sup>th</sup> July 2018.*.....