

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

**Witness Statement of**

CCF

**Support person present: No**

1. My name is CCF My date of birth is 1948.  
My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Background**

2. I was born in Edinburgh and lived there with my parents until my father got transferred to Dumfries through his work with the North British Rubber Company. I don't remember living in Edinburgh at all. Although my family weren't farmers, we moved to live on a farm near Dumfries which is where I grew up. It was a fairly idyllic childhood.
3. I have a brother who is four years younger than me, and a sister who is one and a half years younger.
4. My sister and I attended a sort of kindergarten when we were young. I think it was a snobby thing to send us there. It was rather select. For some reason, my sister and I started getting the bus back home on our own when we very young. I don't know why my mother didn't collect us. I think she was shamed into doing it eventually because nobody else got the bus. Luckily we thought it was a bit of an adventure.
5. I started at a prep school, called Rickerby House, in Ecclefechan when I was about nine years of age. I was very unhappy there. My parents then moved down to Surrey and I was sent to another prep school called Hazlewood, which is in Limpsfield. After that I went to Loretto School in Musselburgh. My brother

came to Loretto four years after me. My sister went to various boarding schools in Scotland and England.

### **Rickerby House School, Ecclefechan**

6. Rickerby was a prep school for boys aged from about nine to twelve. It wasn't a very big school. I think there were about sixty-five to seventy boys there. It was in a large former country house just outside Ecclefechan. It's now a home for the elderly. I went there last year to see somebody and interestingly I didn't find it too upsetting at all, which I thought I would as I was really very unhappy there.
  7. It was run [REDACTED] whose surnames were [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] lived in the premises. I think there were about six teaching staff there, some of whom were very young and not qualified. I think they were in their gap year between school and university.
  8. I was a boarder at the school. It was really quite exciting going to a new school. I thought it was going to be a big adventure. In fact, I think my first term there was probably very happy and it was only after that that things started to go wrong. There was no particular incident. I had yet to experience being beaten. Two very good members of staff left and I was kept back rather than moving up a year after the summer term, which I don't think did my self-esteem very much good.
- Routine*
9. There was a fairly rigid structure to the day. It was a rather harsh environment. We slept in dorms, which varied in size. One dorm had only two beds and the others had between four to ten. You moved round the building to different dorms as you got older.
  10. There were rotas for baths as there were too many boys for us all to bathe at the same time. We had a bath about twice a week.

11. We all ate in the one big dining room. The food was pretty dreadful. I remember I actually fainted once. I don't know whether it was lack of food or nourishment, but I never saw a doctor or anyone like that. A school doctor used to come in, but he wasn't informed about that. It happened to another boy as well; we fainted within minutes of each other. My parents weren't informed. I told them when I went home at the weekend. I don't know what their reaction was. I don't think they ever followed it up, although they may have done and I wasn't aware of it.
12. We had lessons in the morning during the week and games every afternoon. I remember doing things like making Airfix models in the evenings. The weekends were more free. We used to wander round the grounds on a Saturday. Sundays were more structured. We went to a local church in Middlebie, which we walked to and back.
13. Corporal punishment was regularly used. There was no tawse, it was always a cane on the behind.

*Physical abuse*

14. The first time I was beaten was a dreadful experience. I had never been beaten before. The sheer pain of it all was such a physical shock. I went to [CFB] study knowing that I was going to be beaten. He asked me to take down my trousers and underpants. I think I got eight strokes. I noticed that he had an erection when he was beating me. I could see the bulge in his trousers. Back then I was really innocent and probably didn't realise what it was, but I do remember it. Perhaps [CFB] realised I had seen his erection as he shouted at me to get out of the room, which I did with my trousers and underpants still round my ankles. In the corridor I was seen by Mr Pescod and the matron, Miss Ostler, who initially laughed but when they saw the state I was in Miss Ostler took me to the medical room and she put surgical spirit on the wounds. I had blood running down my behind. Miss Ostler was quite sympathetic. I think she contacted my parents about it. I remember her coming

to visit us in a place called Rockcliffe when we were on holiday. She lived in Carlisle and I think she came all the way to Rockcliffe because my parents were wondering about whether to take me out of Rickerby. She was largely instrumental in the decision being made by them to take me out of there.

15. The reason for the beating was that I was playing around in the dormitory and I slid into a mirror and cracked it. I went to the matron and told her what I'd done and she said to me that it would be fine and I wasn't to worry about it. The SNR [REDACTED] then found out and hauled me in and asked me why I hadn't told anybody about it. At that point, I had forgotten I'd told the matron. However, I spoke to her again later and told her what the SNR [REDACTED] had said to me. She then told me that I wasn't to tell the SNR [REDACTED] that I'd reported it to her. I realised that she herself was frightened of CFB [REDACTED]
16. I was only beaten twice. I can't remember why I got the second beating. I think it was to do with the quality of my work. The second one was not quite the same shock. I perhaps knew what was coming that time. I think that one was done over my trousers. I remember wanting to run away. But, interestingly, I knew there was no point in running home so my big plan was to run away to my uncle's in the Lake District. Of course, I didn't.
17. I don't think beatings were a common occurrence. I think it was fairly rare for boys to be beaten. It was talked about among the boys a lot though.
18. I have subsequently spoken to people about Rickerby and I think the staff were more frightened of the SNR [REDACTED] and his wife than the boys were. About four years ago, I met a teacher who had been there and she said that all of the teachers were absolutely terrified of them. Her name is Elizabeth Hall. She lives in Moniaive. I've also heard the same from another teacher – Trevor Rabbidge – who didn't teach when I was there, but worked there subsequently.

*Contact with family*

19. Some of the boys went home every weekend, but I didn't do that even though we lived fairly nearby. I went home about once every three weeks. I remember when I was home I used to cry a lot and say that I didn't want to go back. Eventually the message got through to my parents because they removed me and sent me to a school in Surrey when they moved there.
20. We used to write letters to our families on Sunday mornings, all of which were censored. A code was actually invented for me to use. When I tried to explain to my parents how unhappy I was, they told me to write "Has the dog had her puppies yet?" They said that that would let them know I was really unhappy. I did use the code. I think that's when they began to realise that there was something not at all right there. However, I don't think they ever took anything up with the school until they announced that I was leaving. It wasn't just because they were moving to Surrey that they took me out of school. It was because they weren't happy with the way things were going.
21. I left Rickerby at the [REDACTED] in my third year there. I was about eleven. I had one year to go. It was the happiest day of my life.
22. I was then sent as a boarder to Hazelwood School in Surrey. My brother also went there, but he was a day pupil. I thought Hazelwood was the promised land. It was luxury compared to Rickerby. My brother said it was terrible. Perhaps I'm overdoing it a bit as to just how good it was. It had its faults as well but it was a garden of Eden in comparison to Rickerby.
23. Hazelwood had some very good teachers. The English teacher in particular was very good. His name was Vernon Scannell. He was quite a well-known poet and boxer. He was a very inspirational teacher. He gave me a love of English and poetry. I was at Hazelwood for just one year. I didn't do very well in the Loretto common entrance exam, apart from English. I wouldn't have got into Loretto if I had stayed at Rickerby. Ironically, that would have done me a favour.

**Loretto School, Musselburgh**

24. Loretto is a private boarding school. The headmaster was Rab Bruce Lockhart. It was a single sex school at the time. There were around two hundred and forty boys there. It was much smaller than somewhere like Fettes, which had double the number of pupils. I went in at secondary level but it also had a prep school, which was called 'The Nippers'. I started in [REDACTED]. I was twelve at the time.
25. I don't know why Loretto was selected by my parents. I think it was because they were Scottish and they thought a Scottish education would be appropriate. I was born in Joppa, which is near Musselburgh, and I think they had seen Loretto boys when they were living in Edinburgh. They did think about sending me to Strathallan, which is the boarding school my father attended, but they decided against it. I think Loretto was a smaller school and they thought it would be more friendly and less austere. There were quite a lot of boys at Loretto with Scottish parents who were living in England. This raises the old question of sending children away to school. I think it was pure snobbery with my parents. Certainly when we moved to Surrey, which was a very John Betjeman type environment, it almost would have been unthinkable to have gone to a local school.
26. I didn't go for a visit to the school before I started. I was put on a train at King's Cross train station with instructions on how to get to Loretto. The housemaster was absolutely horrified that I had had to find my own way there. Luckily, again, I thought it was a bit of an adventure at the time.
27. I didn't know any boys before I arrived. Nobody from my prep school was there. A cousin of mine had been at the school, but he had gone by the time I got there. My brother and I overlapped just briefly when he came. I did make some quite good friends there though, just not very many.

*Routine*

28. The routine was quite harsh. You got up, plunged into a cold bath, and then ran to the main school building which is where the dining room was. In fact, we ran everywhere; we hardly ever walked.
29. Loretto didn't have a house system as such. There were houses, each of which had a matron, but you didn't stay in the one house all the time. You were moved around from term to term. The number of beds in each room varied. The first dorm I was in had about eight to ten beds. That house was called Newfield. They built new buildings in my last year there and I got a sort of bedsit on my own.
30. Latterly, they did establish a house system with a housemaster and, I think, a wife as well so it did change a lot when I was there.
31. We got lessons in the morning. About two mornings a week we got PE, and in the afternoon we had games. The type of games depended on the season – we had rugby or hockey in the winter and cricket in the summer. I also sailed in the summer.
32. The evenings and weekends were free time. I remember my grandmother coming through and taking me out for the day on a Sunday. A cousin of my mother's lived in Edinburgh and I used to go to see her on Sundays as well. You weren't allowed to stay out overnight.
33. Communication with our families was done by letter only. There were no phone calls. The letters weren't censored there.
34. The food was not very inspiring or nourishing. I don't remember getting any fruit at all. We got porridge for breakfast and meat stews for lunch. I am now vegetarian but I don't think that's as a result of my experiences at school.

35. I didn't do very well academically. I don't think the standard was very high. I think it's a bit of a misnomer that it's an elite school. I think the standard of teaching was pretty dreadful actually.

*Physical abuse*

36. There were quite a lot of beatings going on, from prefects as well as staff. I was quite careful to avoid getting beaten. I think it only happened to me twice the whole time I was there.

*Sexual abuse*

37. I was sexually abused by a teacher called Guy Ray-Hills. He was known to his close friends as Tony. He taught French at the Nippers and was a very, very inspirational teacher. I saw boys coming up from the Nippers speaking a level of French which was almost on a par with the 'A' level students, who were three years their senior. I had no experience of Ray-Hills as a teacher. I got to know him because he used to invite boys from the senior school to his study for a meal on Sunday evenings. There were usually around four or five of us there. It seemed to vary quite a lot, not everyone got invited but quite a lot of people were asked. I don't know how he selected who was to be invited. I must say that I felt quite flattered. I really didn't enjoy Loretto and I thought he was something the school wasn't – civilised, cultured, and good fun to be with. He was different from the other staff. The others were fairly remote because there was no house system initially.

38. I went to these evening meals along with other boys about four or five times. There was a little bit of physical contact from Ray-Hills, which was nothing more than what I would call hugging. I think he then asked me for a meal on my own once and I went. I felt privileged that he'd invited me over for a meal. I was quite flattered at the attention I was getting. I would say that I encouraged it. Looking back on it, I was very gullible. I was certainly incredibly innocent. I had no idea what was coming. I would also say that back then there was incredible



- innocence. It's not like nowadays when everybody is on the internet and they know exactly what's going on. I think Guy was quite clever in that he made himself almost a figure of fun; he appeared quite harmless and a bit eccentric. He had a very upper class English accent and we used to mimic him quite a lot.
39. I think the invitation to dine with him on my own was mid-week. I can't remember the pretext for it; it certainly wasn't tutoring. His lodgings were in the junior school. He had a bedroom on the top floor of the main school building and his study was on the ground floor. I might be wrong about this. I can't really remember. I only had one visit to his bedroom.
40. I really can't remember very much about it at all. There's a name for this; I think it's called dissociation. You dissociate from what's actually going on and you concentrate on other things. The sheets on Guy Ray-Hill's bed were so very cold. That's my one vivid memory. I think we had a meal downstairs, and there was probably a lot of kissing and stuff. I think he asked me to go upstairs and I went up on my own at first. I say that because I don't remember him being there. I don't remember undressing with him or anything like that. I just remember lying between the sheets, which were incredibly cold, and thinking that I had made a terrible, terrible mistake. I think that's when I decided that I wanted to be dead. I wanted away from the whole thing; it had been a ghastly mistake. I had never seen another man masturbate before. We had oral sex.
41. Although there was just the one incident with Guy, I think there was probably a build-up. I seem to remember him hugging and kissing with me. It was a very long time ago. I was about fourteen or fifteen when it happened, so I was quite old. I think I blame myself for what happened. I think if I had said no to him, there wouldn't have been any comeback or anything. That would have been the end of the matter.
42. I remember thinking that I was quite pleased I hadn't enjoyed it and that I certainly wouldn't go back again, which I didn't. I was never invited back as part of a group for any Sunday evening dinner sessions either. I never told anybody

- about it at the time. I totally blocked out what happened. I only told my family after I had gone to the police in 2001.
43. I don't remember any immediate aftermath, but I do recall that I was behaving a bit oddly emotionally afterwards. I was sleepwalking at night and was sent to see a neurologist in Edinburgh because they thought it was something physical. I remember word got round that I was seeing the neurologist and Guy Ray-Hills was waiting for me when I got back from the hospital. He was obviously really worried that I had been affected emotionally by what had happened between us and that I might spill the beans. He said to me something like "You can surely trust an old friend. You won't let me down". That was about a year later. I thought it was an odd thing for him to do as I had truly blocked out what had happened between the two of us, and had had no contact with him since that night.
44. The blocking out continued for a long time. There were two things that happened: one was the first time I had oral sex with a girl and I realised it wasn't my first time, so that was the beginning of an awakening; the other was an article about Guy Ray-Hills in the Observer magazine section by a contemporary of mine at Loretto called Don Boyd. That's what really did it. It was a very good article. I think every parent should read it. Don had a totally different experience to mine. He wrote about being in a long-term relationship with Guy going on for about twenty years. He was only eleven when he first had relations with him. Guy had taught him and groomed him when he was at the Nippers. That's when it struck me that I wasn't the only one. I know it sounds incredibly naïve, but it was at that point I decided to go to the police.
45. I don't know how many of the boys who were asked over for dinner landed up in his bed as I did. I suspect not very many. I think I was probably slightly unusual. That was probably because I was quite happy for it to happen. I think it was a different case with the Nippers. Personally, although I have no way of proving this, I believe Ray-Hills abused a lot more people than just myself and Don Boyd – a huge amount more.

46. Another relevant thing is that on the Sunday after I had been to his bedroom, a female teacher at the Nippers caught my eye in the chapel and gave me a knowing nod. I realised then that she presumably saw me coming out of his bedroom or something. I think she knew. That look said it all. Her name was Ishbel White. What is really tragic is that when eventually I acknowledged that something had gone wrong and I wanted to do something about it, she had died of cancer. She was the one witness who could have corroborated it, as of course nobody else had been in the bedroom at the time. I think she could have made a huge contribution. It's such a shame that the police never got a chance to interview her.

47. I came across Ishbel White again in later life at Hopetoun House. I now repair [REDACTED] for a living, and I was doing the [REDACTED] there. She was the head guide and she started chatting to me. She commented on my unusual surname and said that she remembered there was a CCF [REDACTED] at Loretto. She also said that, although she didn't know why, the name had stuck in her head. I think the penny dropped with her afterwards as I never saw her again even although I carried on doing the [REDACTED] and I know that she carried on being the head guide there. She died about a year before I reported it to the police.

48. I think that other staff must have known about him. I can't be more precise than that. I would say that relations were very frosty with some of the other members of staff and Guy Ray-Hills. For example, he put on a staff play - Charley's Aunt - in which he was basically in drag. It was a sort of farce - like Oscar Wilde's Importance of being Earnest; good clean Edwardian fun. I thought there was a very sinister undertone to his particular production. Some members of staff had nothing to do with the whole thing at all. It's basically about someone who dresses himself up as his aunt and pretends to be somebody else. It definitely had undertones of somebody pretending to be what they are, in fact, not. Or indeed, more importantly, the other way round. It was astonishing looking back on it. He actually persuaded other members of staff to do it and he was the leading role in it. The school loved it, of course. Even then I thought it was

rather sinister. I now think it was very creepy indeed. I had forgotten all about that until now.

49. I don't know if any of the senior staff members, such as the headmaster, were aware and were turning a blind eye. I think they did. He was such a good teacher and he got amazing exam results. Even until quite recently, I couldn't help wondering why on earth a man of his talents was working in a second-rate prep school in Musselburgh. Of course, I now know why he was. It's a bit like Jimmy Savile and his fundraising. He was raising millions of money for charity so they put up with the odd 'eccentricity'. They probably didn't look too closely at what was going on. However, I don't know anything for certain. I was just a pupil. I didn't know what was going on in the common rooms.
50. There was definite talk about Guy Ray-Hills among the boys. We chatted about him dropping soap in the bath and all that sort of stuff, but it was all at that fairly harmless level. I'm not aware of any conclusive proof ever coming out.
51. There was another master there called Jonathon Quick. There was a lot of talk among the boys about him abusing boys. He moved on from Loretto and went on to abuse at Dollar Academy. He got jailed in the end.
52. My younger brother was at Loretto when Guy Ray-Hills resigned/was dismissed. I had left by that point. I don't think that he left voluntarily. My brother said that the whole atmosphere in the school changed totally. There was an underlying culture of homosexuality when I was there. For example, the boys compiled what we called the 'top ten', which was a list of the ten most pretty boys. My brother said that all that went when Guy Ray-Hills did.
53. To my knowledge, Ray-Hills continued to teach at other schools until retirement age. My understanding is that when he left Loretto, he went to Cheam School, which is where Prince Charles went. Ironically, Hamish Galbraith, who was the headmaster at Loretto Nippers, had also taught at Cheam school so I'm pretty sure that he arranged Guy Ray-Hills' appointment there.

**Impact of experiences**

54. I've had two suicide attempts, one of which happened when I was still at Loretto. Because I had blocked what had happened between me and Guy Ray-Hills, I thought that I was just very unhappy. I don't remember very much about the first attempt. I was on medication because I had been sleepwalking and [REDACTED] I eventually passed out and woke up in the sanatorium. I didn't tell anybody what I'd done, and I was given yet another pill to calm me down. I don't remember very much about it.
55. Nobody knew that I had made a suicide attempt. They just knew that I had passed out but didn't know why. I remember they did get a doctor in that night, just to check me over I suppose.
56. As I said, at one stage I went to see a neurologist and I think I was in the Southern General Hospital in Edinburgh for a week. They must have found something on scans or whatever, but I don't know whether it was neurological. I remember saying that I thought there was an emotional problem. Even then I think I realised that there was an emotional base and not something physical. That's not to say that there wasn't also something physical.
57. I went to see a psychiatrist at the Andrew Duncan clinic in Edinburgh. He turned out to be a former pupil of Loretto. He gave me the creeps. I just couldn't talk to him at all. The fact that he was an old boy of Loretto's put me off.
58. I really made a mess of my 'A' levels after that. I completely fluffed them. I didn't have any particular direction to go. I was very glad to leave Loretto. I was seventeen or eighteen when I left. I don't think I ever really enjoyed it.
59. I attempted suicide again at home four months after I left Loretto. I don't know if the two are connected or not. I suspect they probably are. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It's a bit odd that people didn't really question why I had done it. It's still difficult to talk about it.

60. I remember my mother asking me if there was anything I wanted to tell them and I said no, as I genuinely did feel at the time that I just didn't want to live. I remember coming to and I couldn't talk as I had a tracheotomy tube in and my face was a mess. I was trying to communicate with the nurse and I just wrote "I want to die", and she burst into tears. It was not a very happy time in my life.
61. My mother never knew about the abuse. I told my dad after I had been to the police because I've got a rather unusual surname and I thought it might appear in the press. He asked me why on earth I was bringing it up after all these years, but then phoned me about three nights later to tell me how sorry he was. He died two nights after that. I think it helped my dad quite a bit to understand why I had done what I did. A parent must wonder why on earth a child attempts suicide, and I think that partially explained it. I am not saying it was one hundred per cent because of that.
62. I saw a psychiatrist in Blackburn at that time for about four or five months. I'm very surprised that he didn't make any attempts to explore what had happened, or even fish a bit more. I think I talked about being unhappy at boarding school and all that sort of stuff, but the sex thing never came up. I never raised it and he didn't either. I do think that anybody who had been any good would have dragged out what happened between Guy Ray-Hills and myself long before the thirty years it took to come out. It took a long time for me to realise that my suicide attempt was partially due to the fact I had been sexually abused by him.
63. I wasn't prescribed any medication. To this day, I've not had any medication. I have a great fear of medication. I think I slightly question anybody in authority now, even if it is a doctor. It's the same with police officers. I have great trouble with authority figures.

64. I also have trouble with other male figures. That's why I work on my own. It's taken a long time to happen, but I did sort my own life out. I found a job I could do on my own without involving myself with other people.
65. It took a number of years before I found a job that I was happy doing. I went to Manchester College of commerce after Loretto to do an HND course in Business Studies, which I failed. [REDACTED] I was living at home in Blackburn and commuting into Manchester.
66. I seem to have a knack of attracting conmen. Guy Ray-Hills was the ultimate example. The first job I had was in Birmingham. I was a so-called management trainee in a chain of petrol stations. I then went to London to yet another petrol station and worked for a guy who was billed then as London's youngest millionaire. I was running petrol stations for him and opening up sites all over London. He was a real go-getter. Even then I realised he was not a nice person. He got richer and richer and more and more powerful long after I left and was eventually jailed. He was one of the Guinness Five.
67. A job in Glasgow then came up through a family connection. I didn't know Glasgow at all. I thought it would be a dreadful place to live but liked the sound of the job. It was actually the reverse – I really liked Glasgow but did not enjoy the job at all. It was a family business. I was about twenty-two, which wasn't old enough for a senior position but was too old to be an office boy. I had two years of total boredom.
68. I then decided to be an antique dealer in the 1970s. I started going to auctions and buying [REDACTED] It turned out that I was a hopeless dealer, but I really enjoyed making them work. I decided to learn how to do it properly and, for the first time in my life, I passed out top of the class every time. I started out in Glasgow doing [REDACTED] and then went to West Dean College in Chichester and did a course in [REDACTED]. After that, I worked for a restorer in London for a couple of years and came back to Glasgow really just

because I had a flat here. I was then in the right place at the right time as the National Trust were looking for somebody to do [REDACTED] and the Burrell Collection was opening, so I decided to do [REDACTED] again. Right from the word go, I've been really lucky that it took off and the real beauty is that I don't have to deal with other men.

69. I have to deal with customers and that's fine. There's quite an interesting story here and I suppose it explains quite a bit. The National Trust had a curator called [REDACTED] who was a real [REDACTED] enthusiast and was quite amusing. He gave me an awful lot of work. One day he let slip that he taught French at a boys prep school. After that, I couldn't even be in the same room as him, so much so that he wondered what was wrong. I had been to his house for meals and his wife actually rang me and asked me what on earth had happened. She told me that [REDACTED] couldn't understand what had happened and he was really upset. I then told her that, even though I knew it was irrational and dreadfully unfair, it was all because he had taught French at prep school. That's a good example of what I'm like. As long as I can avoid situations like that, I'm absolutely fine and reasonably successful. I do get caught out occasionally and I just can't cope with it.

70. I was never very happy sharing flats. It was wonderful to get a place of my own. I've had relations with various girlfriends. The sex has been fine. It's more the emotional bit. I once lasted two weeks living with a girlfriend. That's all I could cope with. My best friend now is a former girlfriend. We had a relationship going for about three years and she gave up in the end. She realised I couldn't cope with living with her. I still see her about two or three times a week and I'm close to her family. It's been a really good friendship, which I've been lucky to have had.

71. I thought I was in love once, but it was just lust. When the sex tailed off, I realised there was nothing else to it. There was no bonding emotionally. I think the issue is trusting people – male or female. I really have a hard time when I have to deal with other people and trust so-called people in authority. I think my



attitude towards other human beings goes straight back to what happened with Guy Ray-Hills.

72. I definitely have a feeling that I attract conmen. I've just built a house down in [REDACTED] and that's been a real nightmare, just because I couldn't trust the so-called experts. I also have the knack of always drawing blanks. For example, if I walk into a pub, I've got to wait forever in the queue; if I have a tradesman, it's a duff one – it's that sort of stuff. I don't know whether it's down to a past life or whatever, but I do generally think that.

### **Reporting the abuse**

#### *The Police and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service*

73. I reported the sexual abuse to the police in 2001 after I heard about the article by Don Boyd. Curiously enough, I didn't read it at first. The first person who showed it to me was the policeman who interviewed me. I wanted my statement to the police to be my statement; I didn't want it influenced by anything Don Boyd said. As it turned out, his experience was completely different from mine.

74. It was a friend who told me about the article. I had been through in Edinburgh and was telling her that I had found it a bit difficult as I'd been schooled there. She said that she had just read an article by a former pupil of my old school which was about sex abuse by a chap whose name was hyphenated. I asked her if the name was Ray-Hills and told her about me. I am very grateful to her as she told me that I had to go straight to the police to report it, and that's what I did.

75. I said previously that I always draw blanks, but on this occasion I rang a number which was the police headquarters and I got put straight through to DCI Imery, who was handling the case. Two days later he came and took a statement from me. He showed me Don Boyd's article and I later looked it up on the internet, where it can still be seen. I thought that that was the floodgates opened. I was

then surprised that [REDACTED] making a formal complaint to the police.

76. Even although Don Boyd went into very graphic detail in his article, he didn't press charges against Guy Ray-Hills. He did say in his article that he had warned him that he was going to publicly name him and Ray-Hills' response was that he couldn't live through any scandal. I think Guy Ray-Hills was in his late seventies then.

77. Having made my formal complaint, it took forever to come to court. I had lots of phone calls from the fiscal's office in Haddington about exactly when the case was going to come forward. In fact, an awful lot was said over the phone so there's no record of it. The surname of the fiscal I dealt with is Reith.

78. I had numerous phone calls with Reith and I also went to see him once when I was in Haddington. He had asked to see me. He commented on the fact that he thought the case was very weak, which annoyed me very much. I got quite angry with him.

79 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] What I think is very significant is that I was told by the fiscal's office that [REDACTED] decided to withdraw [REDACTED] evidence and I was asked, in view of it all happening so long ago [REDACTED] would I not also wish to withdraw mine. I said no and luckily I had the good sense to follow it up with a letter to Reith. It wasn't exactly a complaint, but I didn't want that conversation to be yet another phone call with no record of what was said. I've provided the Inquiry with a copy of my letter.

80. Before I wrote to Reith, I also had a phone call with him during which I told him that I had been asked whether I wanted to withdraw my evidence, and he said that I should never have been asked that question.
81. Given that Ishbel Whyte was dead, the only other possible corroboration was from my sister. She met Guy Ray-Hills at a rugby international in London. Her husband was at Loretto with me. He's a lot more enthusiastic about Loretto than me. A group of Lorettonians met after the rugby match and Guy Ray-Hills was there. He said to my sister "Do pass on my regards to <sup>CCF</sup> [REDACTED] I do remember him very well". I think that's significant because if it had actually got to court, he might have tried to say that he didn't really have any dealings with me given that I was never at the Nippers. My sister could at least then have said that he definitely did know who I was.
82. In the end, the case was dropped. I was told it was because Guy Ray-Hills was too ill to stand trial. In my letter to Reith, I said if he was too ill to stand trial that should have been the end of the matter; I shouldn't have been asked if I wished to withdraw my evidence.
83. I later made a formal complaint to the Crown Office about the way the case had been handled. At that point, Reith told the Crown Office that he had no recollection of having had a phone call with me during which he asked me drop the case. That was very naughty of him as it wasn't him who asked me that. It was a woman and Reith knew perfectly well that I had previously written to him about it. I wrote back to the Crown Office saying that Reith wasn't being straight because he knew perfectly well that somebody else had asked me that, and he also knew that I objected very strongly to being asked that question.
84. The other strand to my complaint was about how ill Guy Ray-Hills actually was. I wanted to know if he had just got off with a line from his GP or whether more detailed examinations had been carried out by professional psychiatrists. I know that he was an old man by then, and I really regret that it took so long to come out. I've provided the Inquiry with a copy of the Crown Office's reply to me. You

never really know if what you've done does any good. In this instance, it may have done because I wrote saying that it wasn't fair that Ray-Hills had got off with a line from his GP and I got the usual standard reply. But, when Jonathon Quick tried exactly the same thing, he was told by the court to leave his wheelchair at home as all the theatricals were not needed. Was that a result of what I had said in my letter? I have no way of knowing that, but I like to think it might have been. Jonathon Quick got jailed for abusing a boy who later committed suicide.

85. Some of the replies I got from the Crown Office amounted to fobbing off and some of it was fact. I've got to face facts. Ray-Hills may have been too ill to stand trial. I don't know that. I shouldn't have been asked though if I wanted to withdraw my evidence. I had made a statement to the police and if I had gone back to them to say that I wanted to withdraw it, they would have told me that I couldn't. If I had then said it was all lies, they would have had me up for wasting police time. You just can't do that.

86. I got help in relation to my complaint from Pauline McNeill, who was my MSP at the time. She was very good. She wrote a lot of letters to the Crown Office on my behalf. She got a lot further than I did about Guy Ray-Hills' health situation, but in the end she drew a blank. I also tried other sources such as Westminster MPs George Galloway and Tam Dalyell, but they also drew a blank. I have provided the Inquiry with the letter from Tam Dalyell and Pauline McNeill's letters.

87. I did feel very let down by the prosecution system and the Crown Office when the case against him collapsed. I still don't feel that I got a good answer from the Crown Office about the complaint I made. All I can say is that at least I got Ray-Hills formally charged. I can't say that I'm pleased at that, but at least he knew he'd have to find a really good lawyer to get him off, which he did.

*Loretto School*

88. When the Observer article was published, Loretto mailed everybody who had been taught by Guy Ray-Hills and also sent a letter to people like me who'd just been in the upper school. The boys who had been at the Nippers and taught by Guy were invited to contact the Clerk to the Governors with any complaints they might have. The address was <sup>PYK</sup> [REDACTED]. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of the letter sent to me and the one to the Nippers. The letters contained the usual waffle about how they would "co-operate fully, fairly and quickly with any legal or police enquiry", and how pupil wellbeing was their major priority. They also said that the school would pass on to Lothian and Borders Police any correspondence which it felt was relevant to the situation, but I really didn't trust them. They did, however, have the grace to say that there was nothing to stop anybody contacting the police directly.
89. As I said, I went to the police when I heard about the article but I also wrote to the <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] <sup>CFL</sup> [REDACTED], to tell him what I'd done. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of the letter <sup>CFL</sup> [REDACTED] sent back to me. He's handwritten a bit in it. I thought that was quite nice of him. I don't think he wanted even his secretary to know what he said to me. I think that was a personal appeal from him.
90. Although I have no proof, I am quite convinced that <sup>CFL</sup> [REDACTED] was abused by Guy Ray-Hills too. He was my age, but had attended the Nippers and I remember there being talk of him having some sort of nervous breakdown while at the Nippers. He went on to become a very eminent <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED]. He went to <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED]. Interestingly, because of a sex scandal, he was dismissed from there and landed up as <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED]. He had to handle the press when the Don Boyd article was published. He communicated with all the former pupils, but if I'm right, and he himself was a victim, I think it put him in a very difficult position. I'm really not that surprised he had a heart attack and died aged sixty-seven. It was just too much for him. He

had only just retired too. I think he really did feel some of what I was trying to say in the letter I wrote to him.

91. I have been told that thirty-five people contacted Loretto School to say that they had been abused by Guy Ray-Hills. I've got no way of confirming this figure, which I got from a [REDACTED] journalist, [REDACTED] who got it from Don Boyd, who said the figure came from <sup>CFL</sup> [REDACTED]. I don't know if it can be verified. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of another article about Don Boyd which was published in the Scotsman newspaper on 26 August 2010. It says:

“... when he finally revealed his secret in 2001, Loretto acted immediately, contacting everyone who'd ever been taught by Ray-Hills. There were 35 letters back from people saying similar stuff had happened to them”.

That is as near as I can get to any evidence of Loretto sitting on thirty-five complaints.

92. I personally believe that the school made quite a deliberate attempt to cover up the extent of the abuse. If I had told the police at the time of the abuse, a lot more might have been done and probably there would have been a lot less cover-up as well.

93. If you were to ask the police or the press, they would say that there were [REDACTED] people who made a complaint, [REDACTED] but there's a [REDACTED] difference between [REDACTED] and thirty-five. I think there's certainly a question to be asked of Loretto here. If they did receive those letters, I have no idea what they did with them. I did write to the police again about it, but DCI Imery wrote back saying that because it had passed from them to the procurator fiscal, they really couldn't make any further comments. I've provided the Inquiry with a copy of his letter.

94. I think there's a lot to say about the cover-up. I think there's two sections to the cover-up business: one is Loretto School covering things up; and the other is

the fiscal's office or, as I saw it, the establishment closing ranks and doing it. Loretto School is supposedly one of Scotland's top private institutions with various old boys in high positions. Peter Fraser, who is a former Solicitor General, was an old boy, as was Andrew Marr. These names were dropped around a lot in the press coverage.

95. I can get a bit carried away about the cover-up. I don't know if it's imagination, but I do think it's significant that there was an old boys' reunion of Lorettonians the year after the Don Boyd article was published, and at the reunion the health to the school was proposed by the Chief Inspector of Lothian and Borders Police, David Strang. I didn't attend the reunion, but I heard about it and I know that the toast did happen. I naturally assumed there was some sort of awful cover-up going on; it seemed that they were getting the nod and assurance that it was nothing to worry about. I still feel that the school got away with a huge amount. I was very disappointed in the reaction they had.

96. I also heard that an article appeared in the Lorettonian magazine for former pupils two years after Guy Ray-Hills had left, which was very apologetic about him. It spoke about how much benefit he had been to the school and that it had been a stupid misunderstanding that resulted in his leaving. I don't have a copy of the article. I'm not sure of the reasons for his departure. I think that the parents of a boy had complained to the headmaster about his behaviour. I know that Guy was interviewed by Rab Bruce Lockhart, and that he left the school as a result of that.

97. All of this came out after Rab Bruce Lockhart died and the school made a big point of it; they were making out that they didn't really know the circumstances of his leaving and, because Rab Bruce Lockhart was now dead, there was nobody who could shed light on it. What the school did not reveal, however, was that the Nippers had had their own headmaster at the time. That was Hamish Galbraith, and he was still very alive and well and living in Strathpeffer.

98. There was also an email comment from Don Boyd's cousin after the article came out, trying to make the point that what had happened to Don wasn't a very widespread thing. He was trying to make out that Guy Ray-Hills probably only had one or two 'special friends' at the time, and it wasn't as if he was on a constant orgy with other boys. He asserted that Ray-Hills probably left most boys alone or, at the very least, there was just minor flirtation and nothing more serious. As I said, he was a brilliant teacher and I can well understand pupils being absolutely devoted to him.

99. I think Loretto wanted a damage limitation exercise and I think they got away with it.

*Publicity in the press*

100. As well as making a formal complaint to the police, I also went to the press to try and get publicity. I felt the whole thing was being covered up, so I went to the Observer in the hope that they would do a follow up of Don Boyd's article. I was interviewed by a reporter called Stephen Kahn and I was horrified with what he came up with. I thought that the Observer was a quality newspaper and that the article would have been in the same vein as Don Boyd's. It wasn't. It was rubbish and I'm not surprised that the editor didn't print it.

101. I also went to the Glasgow Herald and they printed something, but at that stage I remained anonymous. It was the usual story: 'pupil devastated at case being dropped, etc'. They door-stepped Guy Ray-Hills at his flat in Twickenham and he talked to them through an intercom. I wanted to keep the case alive in some way. I think I realised it wouldn't be recalled and I assume Guy Ray-Hills is long dead now so it's not going to be recalled.

102. I also told the Herald about Hamish Galbraith and they door-stepped him as well and asked him about Guy Ray-Hills and the abuse. He just said that it was so long ago, he couldn't remember. I also wrote to the fiscal telling them that he was a potential witness, but I got various replies basically just fobbing me off.



They said that they had contacted him but didn't feel that he could make a contribution. I also wrote to DCI Imery about Hamish Galbraith and he wrote back advising that his details had been included in the report that was passed to the fiscal. I feel very upset and angry at this cover-up.

103. I know that there was also a university professor who contacted the Glasgow Herald to say that he had been abused as well, but because he didn't want his family to know about it and wanted to remain anonymous, he never made a formal complaint.

104. There was also an article about me in the [REDACTED] It was principally about my work. I had tried to make it a story about my abuse. They didn't print it for about a year. The journalist, [REDACTED] then came back to me when there was a change of editor and said that they could run the story as the new editor thought it was quite good. The main theme was about my [REDACTED] but the article did make reference to the fact that I had been abused at school. It didn't name Loretto, but it did name me. I think people at Loretto realised who I was referring to. There must have been people who saw it. I have had some knowing looks but I've never had a discussion with any former pupils. I also told the story in the article about being unable to talk to my former colleague when I found out that he had been a teacher at a prep school.

105. Whenever there was publicity, I tried contacting the press again. I had contact with [REDACTED]. He interviewed me and said that he was going to print something about Loretto School. I don't think he is going to though. He would have done it by now. He was the journalist who exposed the [REDACTED] scandal so he obviously had much more important, and rightly so, matters to write about. He also did an article about a pupil at a school in London who had committed suicide. I think that is very similar to the sort of article he would have written about me. He still insists that the story is not dead and he's just waiting for the right time. I rather doubt him. I've rather given up on him ever writing anything. I do think that any publicity is good from my point of view and bad for Loretto School's point of view.

**Treatment and support services**

106. After the police interviewed me, they insisted I saw a counsellor at Stobhill hospital in Glasgow and they made sure the GP set it up. However, they basically concluded that the cure was going to be more painful than the symptoms, and advised against any extensive counselling. I think they were quite right in a way.
107. I also went to an organisation called Thrive, who offer support to male adult survivors of sexual abuse. That wasn't very satisfactory. This was after the case was dropped and I felt really bad about it. I let slip the fact that I was feeling suicidal and the next thing I knew my GP was calling me to say that I wasn't to go back to Thrive, I was to see a doctor instead. I was then referred on to do something which I can't remember the proper word for. I think it was called 'tapping'. It was sort of like acupuncture, so we didn't discuss what had gone on in my life. It was all to do with the fact that I'd had a suicide attempt. I do feel there's a great sense of failure. I wish I'd been successful, but I wasn't. By and large I'm fine with it, but it's just the feeling of total injustice and the rage I have at people getting away with things.
108. I also feel that I was very unlucky with the various psychiatrists and counsellors I saw.

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

109. One of the reasons I wanted to give my evidence to the Inquiry is because I think there is a misconception that it's just places like Quarriers homes or the Catholic Church where abuse takes place.
110. I am pleased that this is at long last happening, although I am also concerned that this Inquiry might not get anywhere. An awful lot of what has gone on, particularly what's been reported in the press recently, is about people who are

are dead or schools like Fort Augustus that have closed. It's the same with my abuse: it all happened a long time ago and a lot of people are now either very old or dead. I find that difficult, although I think I'm more disgusted with myself for not having the guts to come out before now. I am, however, really concerned that, because of the cover-up that's gone on in schools, it could still be going on today in spite of all the publicity there's been and in spite of what is now known about people like Jimmy Savile. I do feel bad about the abuse, but in a funny way I feel much worse about the covering up that went on as it could very well happen again.

111. I feel that Don Boyd's article should have blown the whole question about abuse in private schools wide open and it didn't for some reason. I think Don Boyd back-tracked. He had his five minutes of fame. He was on television and radio and he then back-pedalled. He named Guy Ray-Hills and I think he regretted doing what he did. I also think that Don sat on the article I gave to Stephen Kahn for the Observer because he wrote a novel and there was a sort of Ray-Hills type character in it and a guy who attempted suicide called Callum. I think there's a link to me there - Callum and <sup>CCF</sup> [REDACTED] it all goes together.

112. Also, according to Don Boyd's article, the scandal followed Guy Ray-Hills around so he had to resign from Cheam and he then went on to Holmewood House in Kent. The Loretto register says that he went straight from Loretto to Holmewood and I've had no contact with Don Boyd so I don't know for sure if he did go to Cheam first. However, Holmewood House is where that other master, Jonathon Quick, who had been at Loretto and went on to abuse at Dollar Academy, taught. I believe the headmaster at Holmewood House had been at Loretto School as well, so I think there's a definite link up. I don't know if there's a paedophile ring operating here, but there are too many coincidences and an awful lot of covering up going on.

113. I think if I had been abused, for example, at Knightswood Secondary School, they'd have had Guy Ray-Hills. But, because it was Loretto School, which is a so-called exclusive private school, there was a cover-up and he got away with it.

I think I probably do regret the fact that my suicide attempts weren't successful. That's a difficult one, as in many ways my way of handling it is to make statements like the one I'm doing today for the Inquiry. By doing this I feel that I'm still doing something to try and right the wrong and I'm not just conceding it, or pretending it never happened. What makes me very sad is when people say it never happened, or it was all such a long time ago.

114. 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..... 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2017. ....