

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

HSD  
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My full name is <sup>HSD</sup> [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I live alone, but I have a partner, we just live in our own separate houses.

**Life before going into care**

3. As a child I lived in Royston in Glasgow. Our family home was in [REDACTED] and I went to St. Roch's Primary school. My father was [REDACTED] and my mother was [REDACTED].
4. I have one brother, five sisters and a half-sister. My brother is [REDACTED] who was born in 1948 and my sisters, from eldest down are, [REDACTED], born 1949, [REDACTED], born 1950, [REDACTED], born 1952 and [REDACTED], born 1962. [REDACTED] passed away in 1964 from silent pneumonia. My half-sister, to my mum, is [REDACTED], she's the oldest and was born in 1947. [REDACTED] went to the USA in 1967 and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] moved out when they were young.
5. My mother and father were both alcoholics and I've heard they were like that from well before any of the children were born. At that particular time I just accepted that as normal.

6. I have no recollection of social work involvement with me until I started playing truant from school.
7. [REDACTED] was seven years older than me and in secondary when I was in primary and I spent a lot of time with her. She was an academic, very astute and clear. She surprised the rest of the family and was always first in her class. She was way ahead of her fellow pupils.
8. [REDACTED] was a big influence on me and I looked up to her. She spent more time with me than any of our other siblings. She helped me and spent many hours reading with me. As a result I was too advanced when I started primary school, which was actually a bit of a problem. The school didn't provide me with any knowledge I hadn't already acquired and I found myself reading Wind in the Willows when other kids were learning the alphabet and reading Janet And John books.
9. Looking back now I probably found that all very frustrating. I was just so bored at primary school. They would have registration in the morning and by play time I'd be out the back door. I'd go off to the library and study and I'd be there until three o'clock, when I'd go home.
10. The school eventually got in touch with mum and dad and then the 'green lady' turned up at our house. She was the truancy officer.
11. I was also getting battered by my mum and dad, they would both beat me, although it was mainly my dad. I always had bruises under my clothes. Most of the time he did it when he had a drink in him but sometimes he did it when he didn't have a drink.
12. Then I started shoplifting when I was playing truant and the police started to get involved and I ended up at Children's Panels. I was put on probation or something similar. I did have a social worker back then and I also saw a psychiatrist. This was as an assessment and I passed that with flying colours.

13. My father encouraged me to shoplift anything and he would give me a pat on the back instead of any kind of punishment or a belting. So, I just continued doing it.
14. My first care home was Larchgrove. I don't think it was a sentence I was just told I was going there to stay on remand in that home. I think I was eight or nine and it was about 1969.

### **Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow - 1969**

#### *General*

15. I was at Larchgrove on three separate occasions. First time was in 1969 for about six weeks and again, for short periods, in 1972 and 1975. There was physical and sexual abuse of boys, at that place, on each of the three times I was there.

#### *First day*

16. I remember I went in a car to Larchgrove, I think the social worker took me there straight from the Children's Panel. I was one, if not the youngest in there at eight or nine years of age. There were older boys up to about fifteen or sixteen and the dormitories were boys of various ages.
17. The first time I was abused was on the day of my arrival. I was slapped about the head by <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED]. I can't remember his name. It was when he was explaining how it was going to be in there and setting out the rules to me.
18. I was also given a cold shower on the first night by a master, he was a member of staff. There were three wings in Larchgrove, I can't remember their names but it was the master of our wing that gave me the cold shower. When I came out the shower I was flicked with a wet towel.

19. The staff were mostly male other than the kitchen staff but we didn't have much contact with them. I do remember a Mr MKI who was one of SNR, certainly part of the hierarchy at Larchgrove.
20. There was a female nurse. I often went to her with bruises, black eyes and broken teeth and she would ask what had happened but I'd just say I'd been fighting. It was at the back of my mind that if I had said anything the nurse might have told someone in the hierarchy and it would just have come back round to me getting beaten or locked in the cell by SNR again.

#### *Food*

21. We were forced to eat the food we didn't want. Porridge, semolina and tapioca, which was like frog spawn. Staff would force it into your mouth and put a handkerchief over your mouth to stop you spitting the food out. There were two or three main offenders who were supervising the meals.
22. We were told that if we didn't eat our meal, next time we'd get nothing. My response to getting no next meal was good, as the food was so bad anyway. It was just mass produced horrible food. It was probably edible but basically it was just slop.

#### *School*

23. At Larchgrove the education was very basic. No disrespect to my fellow pupils, aged between fourteen and sixteen, but 50% were probably dyslexic or had no education. Some were being taught the alphabet so I was way ahead of that. There were no categories or subjects, everything just seemed to be lumped together.
24. Teachers came into the school and they dished out corporal punishment but it was nothing compared to the other punishments we got in Larchgrove.

*Visits*

25. I did have a male social worker, I can't remember his name, he came to see me when I was in Larchgrove. I told him what was happening at Larchgrove and he said they would look into it. I told him about the beatings, the cold showers and all the rest of it. I heard nothing more from him.

*Running away*

26. Many of the boys ran away, that was inevitable. They always got caught and then they would get punished. That was a sufficient deterrent for me not to run away.

*Bedwetting*

27. I constantly wet the bed and I got battered for that every morning. Staff would check the beds in the morning and batter you if it was wet. Then you picked up your wet sheets and took them to the shower room where you washed them and had a cold shower. Staff would be there and make you do that. That happened to all the bedwetters in all the dorms.

**Abuse at Larchgrove**

28. I was abused each time I was at Larchgrove. I was flicked with a wet towel many times after coming out the showers. That happened to me and many other boys, every time I was there. It was always the same members of staff.
29. There was also a night-watchman, who, on the second night fondled me under the covers when I was in my bed. I froze, I was so frightened. There were ten or twelve other boys in the dorm, of various ages. I watched that happen every night, to me and to other boys, but no one ever spoke about it. The night-watchman was about fifty or sixty back then, so will be dead now.

30. After about the fourth time of being fondled, I spoke to <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED], the same man who battered me on my first day, and his response was just to give me another battering for telling lies. He used a belt and his hands to hit me.
31. After I told him, I was put in a cell overnight. It was like a six by four room with nothing in it and I was locked in all night. I had one blanket and nothing else. No food and no drink. I was told that if I said any more about it I would be in that room for the rest of my time there.
32. After that, I was too frightened to say anything. It was the same for other boys as well, they were all too frightened. We just all kept ourselves to ourselves after that.
33. We were all continuously slapped and battered, and for all the most trivial of things. It was such a strict regime. All the staff without exception behave like that. In Larchgrove I witnessed many things of a sexual nature being inflicted on other boys by the teachers, and by the night-watchman.
34. I saw other boys being raped by staff in the toilets and in the showers. Staff would rub the boys' private parts in the showers. It was the same two staff that did all that, I just can't remember any names. I wasn't raped but they did try. It was in the toilets but some other boys came in to the toilet and I was just battered and told not to say anything.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Larchgrove**

35. I reported abuse to <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] and he hit me more and called me a liar. I also told the social work who did nothing as far as I was aware.

**Leaving Larchgrove**

36. I was told by the social work when I was at Larchgrove that there was a vacancy in a List D school and that I was going there, that was it. That's when I was moved on to St. Ninians.

**St. Ninians School, Gartmore, Stirlingshire - 1969***General*

37. Two men in a car took me from Larchgrove to St. Ninians near Aberfoyle and it was a very similar introduction to what I got at Larchgrove.
38. It was run by the De La Salle brothers, who wore big black robes. I remember the first person I was introduced to was a Brother <sup>MJP</sup> [REDACTED] and he explained that I'd be there for some time, but didn't say how long. He also said that if I was a good boy I could get home for weekends, every two weeks.
39. I was given a number, No. [REDACTED], it was on my locker and everything. I was in a dormitory. I was about nine and there were other boys of various ages, younger and older than me, just like Larchgrove.
40. There was a Roman Catholic Chapel and we went there and did benediction, communion, catechism, everything to do with that. That was all within a small annexe. It was mandatory, if you didn't go home on a Sunday.

**Abuse at St. Ninians**

41. I don't know if they were child abusers or paedophiles but it was systemic, as it was just like Larchgrove. There was Brothers and civilian staff. The civilian who was abusive was called McKinstry.
42. Just like in Larchgrove he visited at night in the dorms and would fondle you under the covers. It was just the same. The first time he fondled me was on the second night, then most nights after that, and to other boys as well.
43. I would pretend I was sleeping and then see him go to other boys beds. I would hear other boys crying. There was always loud sobs through the night in that dormitory.
44. There was bedwetting there as well, many times. The Brothers would force boys to lie in it all day sometimes right through until bed time again. Sometimes you had to put the sheets around your neck and stand outside in a gown, bare foot, and in the winter. That all happened to me and I saw that many times. The brothers would then get other boys to come out and laugh at you. I did that as well.
45. Sometimes they would pick you out to go for a hot shower and they would molest you. That could be Brothers or staff that did that.
46. There was a Brother HSE and a Brother Benedict, who we called 'Bootsy'. I think Bootsy was an assistant head. There was also a Mr McKenna who taught woodwork. They would all molest boys in the showers. That happened at shower or wash time, so always early in the morning. I'm thinking they all stayed there in retrospect.
47. Brothers HSE and Benedict were bastards, they hit boys with planks of wood, tied boys up with boot laces and whipped them. They took your shorts down and smacked your bare bum and grabbed your genitals. You would faint with the pain when they did that. It happened, systematically, every day. It could be every hour or every half hour and they always picked on the most vulnerable.
48. Older boys, maybe 15 years old, could handle themselves, so they would then pick on the younger ones. There was a lot of bullying and the brothers would stop it but



that would usually only be for sexual gratification. They would want sexual favours to intervene and stop the older boys. That happened to me and in return the brothers would want masturbation or oral sex performed on them. I had to do that to them. It happened to me and to other boys.

49. McKinsty and Benedict both raped me. I reported that to SNR and he called me a dirty liar.
50. Mr McKenna tried to rape me once when I was alone in the woodwork class with him. If your woodwork wasn't to his specifications he would get you up in front of the class, pull your shorts up from behind and stick his fingers up your backside, up your anus. He positioned you in such a way that you were concealed behind his desk so the class couldn't see, but he actually did that in the classroom.
51. We went camping at weekend sometimes and we always went with the Brothers and staff. We went to Saltcoats, I remember that, and other places. I was abused on those trips and so were others.
52. I remember once we were tied to a horse and battered by staff and by the brothers. There was a rope around the horses girth under the saddle and they belted the horse and it would take off, with boys tied on. That happened to me, it was terrifying. The horses were owned by St. Ninians.
53. I remember another time being stripped down to my underpants and thrown into a bunch of nettles.
54. There was an electric fence, which was used to keep livestock in a field, and we were made to put our hands on that by Brother Benedict.
55. There was an electric box in the boot room, like a generator, but I didn't know that back then. The brothers would make boys hold two wires and then they would turn up the voltage until it gave you an electric shock.

56. The food was awful, if you vomited it up the brothers and staff forced you to eat your vomit. It was always the same kind of horrible sloppy food. They would stick their fingers down your throat and you'd be sick. Then they would force feed your own vomit back into your mouth. That happened to me and to younger boys. Brother Benedict was the worst, he would lift boys up by their ears.
57. Sometimes you got a cold shower for wetting the bed and you would get battered, by staff and by brothers. They would actually batter you in the shower, punch and slap you, kick you or just hit you with anything that was within reach.
58. Many times I had to get medical treatment. I once had a tooth knocked out and I had to go and see the nurse. You just didn't tell anybody because you were told that if you did, you'd get more of the same.
59. After the first time, the abuse was just systematic. That was fifty years ago now and I can't remember everything, the abuse happened so often.

#### **Reporting of abuse at St. Ninians**

60. I told you that Brother <sup>MJP</sup> [REDACTED] called me a dirty liar when I told to him that Brothers McKinstry and Benedict had both raped me. When I was on a home visit, I went to the police in Glasgow and reported that abuse. I went to St. Andrews police station and they said they would look into it. The police then spoke to my father who didn't believe me and battered me black and blue the next time I was home. My father had to be told what I'd said to the police but after that I heard nothing more about it.
61. There was never anything said about me making that report to the police, at St. Ninians, so I don't know if the police even made any enquiry with them.
62. I also spoke to my mum but she was the same and just gave me a slap.

63. We did have confession at the Chapel, there was one priest there and I actually told him everything at a confession. To be honest, it didn't matter, it was irrelevant, as they could have you say ten Hail Mary's for committing a murder.

### **Leaving St. Ninians**

64. I was at St. Ninians for about 18 months and I didn't have visits from anybody. My mum and dad were too busy at off licences to care about me.
65. After St. Ninians I'm not too sure where I went or exactly what happened but I think the social work were involved. I'm sure I went home for a while, I remember that. I remember a neighbour coming out and telling me that my mum and dad had split up. My mum had gone off to California to live with my sister and my father had moved to London, so I couldn't live in an empty house. I was only about ten or eleven.
66. The social work must have got involved, and I remember I went to one of my grans. It was about a mile away and I remember it was winter and close to Christmas. My gran then told me to go to my half-sister, [REDACTED], who had been raised by my gran.
67. I tried to stay with [REDACTED] but she had six kids and there was really no room so it began to look like I'd go back to St. Ninians. That was the last thing I was going to do. So I ended up homeless for six months as a ten year old. I just stayed anywhere and everywhere. I was shoplifting for food and clothes and I would steal anything and sleep anywhere. I then met my father who was staying in a bedsit in Finnieston.
68. I remember being caught for shoplifting by the police and for not being in school. I then had to enrol at St. Patrick's Primary School in Finnieston. I was there for a day, I think, and I remember seeing my dad there.
69. I also remember, about then, my mum came back and moved into a bedsit and I stayed there for a while. There was about seven families and only the one cooker.

70. Then in 1972, I think it was, I got into trouble for shoplifting again, and I was back in front of a panel and the social work. I was sent back to Larchgrove for a few weeks.

### **Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow - 1972**

71. Larchgrove was pretty much the same the second time. I was in a dormitory and nothing had really changed. I hadn't been there for quite a long period but one or two of the same boys were there. It was like a remand centre, that's what I thought anyway. It was certainly all run exactly the same as before.
72. I think there had been a few additions in staff but many of the previous staff were still there. Mr <sup>GVB</sup> [REDACTED] was <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED], although I wasn't aware of that at the time, and the night-watchman was still there. I think some of the staff recognised me from before, but it had been a while.
73. The abuse was very much the same, in the showers and the night-watchman in the dorms. It was all very much the same and after what had happened to me the first time I didn't see any point in saying anything to anyone.
74. There was a half hour or one hour meeting with the social work but I didn't say anything about the abuse. There was no real opportunity to say anything and they were only concerned about where my next placement was going to be. They certainly didn't ask about how things were, they weren't interested.
75. The social work looked at individuals with apprehension and they had a reluctance to come to any conclusions. I had real trust issues with them, but I had trust issues with everyone.
76. It was all much the same and I was there for roughly six weeks, although it felt like six years. Then I was moved to Kerelaw.

**Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston - 1972***General / routine*

77. Kerelaw was also in 1972, and I stayed there for a couple of months. I was told by the social work it was a placement and that it was a private school.
78. I don't remember much about arriving, but I was transported with another boy from Larchgrove, I forget his name. I don't know who took us. Kerelaw was all open, as opposed to Larchgrove with its bars on the windows, but the boys who were in Kerelaw did describe it as being like a prison camp.
79. Nothing was explained to me, I went to my dormitory and there was about eight boys in it. There was maybe fifty boys in total in the place, ranging from about twelve to sixteen in age. The ages were mixed in the dormitory.
80. We were woken by staff about 7.30 am, went to the bathroom, washed our faces and got ready. All the boys sat together at tables in the dining room, for all the meals.
81. We would have porridge in the morning, a slice of toast and a cup of tea. The food at Kerelaw was always edible but it was exactly the same every day. Lunch seemed to always be mince or stew with potatoes or chips and then we'd have custard, tapioca or semolina. We never had any choice, you just ate it and looking back now, it was awful food. Not much would be done if you didn't eat the food and there was no force feeding, it was pretty much just take it or leave it.
82. I remember being at school, maybe once or twice a week but there was no real education. We did English, or were meant to, but it wasn't a good education. I just seem to remember doing a lot of cleaning, playing a lot of sports and games or just doing nothing. We played things like cards, draughts, chess and bat and ball.

83. In the evening we would maybe watch a film together and bedtime would have been about 9.30 or 10 pm. Staff members were around to help with all that, I think they worked shifts.
84. We had a shower room with about twelve showers. That was communal and all open. The staff decided when we showered, it was maybe three or four times a week.

### **Abuse at Kerelaw**

85. I don't remember any written discipline code or anything like that and I don't remember anyone being given the belt. There was a cane and the staff would get your trousers down and hit the backs of your legs. Sometimes it would be one staff member, sometimes it would be two and one would watch or have a punch or two at you as well. It could be for the most trivial of things or perhaps the staff were just in a bad mood. It could be for nothing, really.
86. There was also abuse in the showers in Kerelaw, just like Larchgrove. Staff would pick out boys for a private shower. That happened to me once or twice. The staff member would wash you down. It was done just one at a time but there was more than one staff member that did that.
87. If you protested they would punch you in the side, in the kidneys. That would disable you and then they could take advantage of the situation. That happened hundreds of times at Kerelaw.
88. At night it was the exact same procedure as at Larchgrove with staff going round the beds fondling the boys under the covers. That happened to me and many other boys.
89. I never ran away but other boys did, every day. If you ran away, the staff gave you a beating. They would hit you in the ribs and to the body to minimize what could be

seen. I saw lots of boys with bruises on their bodies but I didn't need to ask what had happened to them, I knew deep down what had happened.

90. Abuse happened once or twice a week, it was tyrannical, the staff were absolute bullies at Kerelaw. I can't remember the names of any of the staff at Kerelaw.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw**

91. We did get visits from the social work but there wasn't any real opportunity to say anything about the abuse. You just did as you were told.

#### **Leaving Kerelaw**

92. I was told by the social work there was a new school in East Kilbride and that I'd been picked, along with some other boys, to go there. That was Lawmuir, I was told it was a residential school. It was a different social worker from before that told me that and I was the only boy from Kerelaw that went. I remember being taken there in a car.

#### **Lawmuir Boys School, East Kilbride - 1972**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving Lawmuir

118. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I was told I was going to Holyrood Secondary School on the south side of Glasgow. My father had moved to Muirhead in Glasgow and it had been arranged by Jessie, my social worker, for me to go and live with him and to go to that school.

119. It was difficult being back at my dad's and being in a mainstream school. I had subjects like French, which was no good at all. In 1975 I left school and then I started getting into trouble with the police.
120. I stole a cheque book and presented a forged cheque, for £10. I got arrested for that and I was placed on remand and put back into Larchgrove. I was back in about three years after I'd last been in.

#### **Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow - 1975**

121. When I went back at Larchgrove, for the third time, I was there for about five weeks, but things were different for me that time. I was a bigger, stronger boy, and I could tell people to 'fuck off'. Some staff were new but some were the same and some of the same things were still going on. There was still boys being sexually abused, I know that many of them were living in denial, but I'd seen it all before, so I knew it was still going on.
122. In [REDACTED] 1975 I was sentenced to two years in prison for the cheque fraud. I was fourteen, but I was sentenced as an adult. I thought I'd be going to Larchgrove but I was sent to Longriggend Young Offenders Unit. I don't ever remember having any opportunity to appeal against that sentence.

#### **Longriggend Detention Centre, Airdrie - 1975**

123. I was in Longriggend with people aged up to seventeen or eighteen. I was only fourteen and I was in with adult prisoners, or as good as adults. I was in a room with

a guy who had thrown a baby out a skyscraper window. There was no differentiation between what anyone had done.

124. I did have abuse issues at Longriggend, but not sexual, it was physical, and every day. They had wardens and they would hit you and beat you all the time.
125. I was there for two months and didn't get any visits. I did see a teacher, just one, who came in from outside and taught all subjects. He told me I was meant to go to a young offenders institution but said I merited the chance to go to an approved school to improve my chances of an education. I then went to St. Andrew's Approved School in Helensburgh.

### **St. Andrew's School, Shandon, Dunbartonshire**

#### *General*

126. There was about fifty or sixty boys at St. Andrew's. All the boys were between fourteen and sixteen. We had dorms but we also had single rooms and fortunately I got a single room, which was good and meant I could study.
127. The meals were okay at St. Andrew's and washing was all private. It was residential but I got home at weekends to see my dad, although he only had one room. I had no real contact with my mum.
128. We were put into groups relating to skills. Things like gardening, to prepare you for moving on in life. There was school education as well and a classroom, but only two boys got picked to go the classes. I was one of them, so that suited me, it was perfect.
129. The staff weren't too bad, they lived on the premises and the teachers were either living there or coming in. There was no abuse at St. Andrew's. I was there eighteen months and I was released on my sixteenth birthday.

130. I had to go through a parole board and apply to the Home Office for release, it was some arbitrary thing. I was the only person in St. Andrew's that had to apply for that.

### **Life after care**

131. I stayed with my dad from age sixteen and I went to the Job Centre. Then I went to North Wales with my sister [REDACTED] for a weekend and ended up staying there for thirteen years.
132. I had no money and I wanted to go to college or university but I didn't, I got myself a nightshift job working in an assembly factory. I was there for about two years working and saving money. Then I joined a band and I was playing guitar and singing at pubs and clubs for £10 a night. That was good money in 1977. I did that for about two years.
133. Then I went to Mijas in Spain. No one spoke English there and I specifically wanted to be in a place where no one spoke English so I could learn Spanish. I ended up staying there, playing in a band and making many good friends. I can now speak and write fluent Spanish.
134. I did go back to North Wales and I met my wife in 1981. We were married in 1982 and I'd saved a few bob so I had enough to buy my first house. I worked on that house, did it up, sold it and moved on to another house in Glasgow where I did the same, turning it into flats.
135. My wife and I divorced in 1989. She was the first person I had any sexual relationship with at all. I had been with her for twelve months before anything sexual happened and we had over five years without any sexual contact when it ended.
136. I then met an Irish girl who came over and lived with me in Glasgow. In 1990 my daughter was born, she's now 28. Her mother found it difficult understanding my

situation, she accepted it and we stayed together for about twenty years but we split up in 2009.

### **Impact**

137. It's been a massive step for me to come and speak to the Inquiry, but it's something I have to do. I've lived with it for over fifty years so perhaps this is a therapy for me, to get it out in the open and to discuss it. I just hope it doesn't have an adverse effect on me. It is embarrassing to talk about, because you come to thinking it's your own fault.
138. I am a headstrong, resilient person. I can deal with this, and want to deal with this, on my own. I have to deal with it on my own.
139. I struggled with relationships with people, I wondered at one time if I was perhaps homosexual as I just couldn't have people touching me and I had no sexual relationship with my wife.
140. The abuse has lived with me every day and every night, it's always on my mind. I have nightmares. I fight in my sleep and I then wake-up.
141. In 1978 I attempted suicide and I was detained in Llandudno General Hospital. I've been on anti-depressants since then. I also booked myself into the Kershaw alcohol treatment unit about seven years ago. That was tremendous, I was there for three weeks and that helped. Sadly, I was only out about five months when I was diagnosed with cancer.
142. So, I have seen doctors and I got pills but the doctors weren't interested in talking to me. I've not had actual counselling as I just didn't think it would help make it go away. I'm not sure if it would make it go away or not.

143. I did a lot of drinking, I could consume a litre of whisky and it would have no effect on me. When I drank, I could make it go away for a few hours. I don't drink now so it's there all the time. Maybe counselling would help and is something I should try.
144. In my opinion I put the cart before the horse with my drinking. I had a cancer operation five and a half years ago on my throat. After that operation I had to teach myself to speak again.
145. I now attend at hospitals and cancer units and speak to people with similar cancers to mine. I help them with advice about their operations, the outcomes and the post-operative treatment.

### **Reporting of abuse**

146. I have told the authorities and family members about the abuse. My partner also knows, she understands and is fully supportive.
147. I spoke to the police about six months ago and they contacted me again since I've been speaking to the Inquiry. Unfortunately I'm going to have to go through the whole thing again with the police, so I'm not looking forward to that.

### **Records**

148. I have been in contact with Future Pathways and Birthlink and they're helping me access my records. I'm finding that extremely useful, I'm just trying to do all I can. My lawyer, Daniel Canning, is also in the process of attempting to retrieve my records so that may help identify some of the individuals whose names I cannot remember.

### **Lessons to be learned**



- 149. Now what has happened is out in the open perhaps we can minimise anything like that happening again.
- 150. I certainly think that any employee working with children should be vetted thoroughly. There also has to be an assessment of the children's needs. Kids should be listened to, they can't all lie. Respect the kids as humans, not as a number, respect is mutual.
- 151. The opportunity was there when I was in some places of care. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 152. The perpetrators should be tracked down, but most of all, it's about the future and prevention, that is the number one priority. We should not be having this very same conversation in twenty years' time.
- 153. I think an independent should be appointed to assess the staff at all care institutions. My concern is about kids in care now. If things like that are still happening, something has to be done now.
- 154. I just hope my contributions help towards some form of resolution.

**Other information**

- 155. 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..... HSD .....

Dated..... *29<sup>th</sup> October 2018.* .....