

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PYF

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is PYF. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. I have come forward to give evidence about my brother, PYI, who was born on 1962 and died on 1972.

Background

2. My mother's name is and my father's name was. I was one of ten siblings. is the eldest and just less than two years older than me, is ten months older than me, PYI, known to me as PYI, was just over a year younger than me, then was born in 1964, PYJ in 1966, in 1967, and were born in 1969 and was born in 1970. My mum and dad didn't waste a lot of time. It was a little bit like two families because we didn't have a ten seater table. The little ones ate first and then we ate our meals afterwards.
3. The first home that I remember was on in the Raploch area of Stirling. I was born somewhere else, but we moved there when I was about two years old. My mum stayed in the house all the time, looking after us. My dad worked as a miner until I was about five years old. He then worked on the construction of Stirling University, Dunblane Hydro and other places. Just before my brother PYI died in 1972, someone mounted the pavement and drove over his foot. He was off work for about six months because he had a crushed foot. PYI died while my dad was recovering from that. He recovered from his foot injury but he never recovered from PYI dying.

4. It was chaos in the family home. It was a busy and crowded household. There were four to a bed, two at the top and two at the bottom, but I would say that we were all fairly happy. I was close to my siblings. Most of us still are. Even the ones who have moved away still come back. The younger siblings weren't as close to the older ones, but they were close to each other. [REDACTED] is quite a vibrant character and is often still in my house. I was very close to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] PYI. We went everywhere together. We didn't have all the things that kids get nowadays. We made our own fun with rope swings and things like that. We lived right next to Stirling Castle so we would go up there and play in the trees. That was our playground.
5. My siblings and I all went to St. Mary's Primary School in Raploch. I did well at school. I was clever and top of the class. [REDACTED] PYI was in the year below me. He was dyslexic, but nobody understood what dyslexia was at that time. I certainly didn't understand it. He used to spell things back to front. I would try and tell him but he would say that what he'd written down was right and the same as what I'd written down. His brain was wired differently so he saw it differently. I don't know whether he was ever diagnosed with dyslexia. I don't know if they bothered to do that in those days.
6. [REDACTED] PYI had absolutely no problems with numerical stuff. He was smart. I remember an older boy whose father was friends with our father. He lived down the road and he was always messing around with cars. He was about seventeen, eighteen at the time. Still to this day, I couldn't tell you how to fix a car. When [REDACTED] PYI was at most eight years old, he would be in dismantling car engines and putting them back together with the older boy. I still see the other boy and he'll say to me that [REDACTED] PYI was one of the smartest kids he had ever met.
7. [REDACTED] PYI struggled with writing. He had no problems with mathematical stuff, it was just English and words and anything that was written down. Everything was jumbled up for him. It used to frustrate him. He could get quite angry when somebody tried to correct him. He started to get the belt in about primary 3, primary 4. At that time, the belt existed to concentrate your mind. If you were smart, you just sat there and got on with it. There were always half a dozen kids in every class who were regularly belted, in

every class in every school. I know that because I saw it on many occasions in my own class. Kids who struggled academically got the belt almost every day in life.

8. At playtime and dinnertime, PYI would tell me when he had been given the belt. It wasn't just once a week. It was almost a daily occurrence. It was quite unusual if he didn't get belted. He hated school. He despised going. For about the last year that he was at home, he would be off and away by about playtime. They put him into a class with a teacher who was always reeking of alcohol. I can't remember what her name was, but she got all the difficult kids from about primary 4 to primary 7 to teach. She was really abusive. She wasn't just strict, she was abusive. She was a horrible teacher.
9. There was no other additional support given to PYI at school. Putting him in the class with the horrible teacher was all that they did. Every pupil in the school knew to avoid that teacher, but they put all the troubled kids with her and closed the door. If she couldn't beat them into shape they were put into a school called Dawson Park. It was that teacher who belted PYI more often. He was belted every day by her. He was quite tough and he wouldn't show any sign that she was hurting him, but she was absolutely hurting him. I think he was in her class for at least a year. It might have been a bit longer than that. He rebelled against it and he wouldn't go to school.
10. PYI refused to go to school when he was about seven, seven and a half. Social work became involved because of that, but I'm not clear on timescales of all that. I can't remember there being any social work involvement with the family before that time. I only remember a social worker called Miss KYO taking PYI away. I remember her physically dragging him into the car one day when he was being taken back to either Cultenhove or Corsbie Hall. Miss KYO came to the house quite often. She was quite a stern looking woman. She was tall, compared to my mother who is about five foot six. She always wore twin-set suits. She wore glasses and had blonde-grey hair. I reckon she would have been in her early forties. I can remember her because I really didn't like her at all. PYI didn't like her either.
11. My dad became quite angry and aggressive with PYI. He used to use the belt and thought that would shut us up. That was his way and it had probably been his mother's

way. His dad was killed during the War so he didn't have any other role models to do anything differently. At that time, most of the fathers in the Raploch area were exactly the same. You didn't do anything wrong because you knew that you'd get it. All my pals were in a similar position. My dad was worse on PYI than he was on the rest of us. He wasn't really aggressive with me at all. It's easy not to be aggressive with children who are only doing things that make you proud. PYI was getting beaten at school and he was getting beaten at home. My father wasn't a devil, but he was old-fashioned and his view was that you shouldn't spare the rod and spoil the child.

12. PYI was taken into care in 1971. He was taken into care for no reason. That shocks me. I don't know why he was taken. For me, that's the most important thing. I'm fairly sure in my own mind of what happened elsewhere, but I want to know what happened before he was taken into care. I want somebody to tell me why it happened. If it turns out that my mother or my father signed him into these places, it would shock me but it's something that I want to know. I need to know the truth about it.
13. It was really difficult for his brothers and sisters, especially the older ones. [REDACTED], who died two years ago, and [REDACTED] remembered PYI well. [REDACTED] was the same. He was sort of the bridge between us and the younger siblings. We all need to know what happened to him. At the time, there was no discussion with my parents about what was happening to PYI. It was never spoken about. It's always troubled me that my mum could get on with life when PYI was taken into care. I don't know whether PYI was put into care because of her, my father, social work or a combination of all of them.

Cultenhove Children's Home, Cultenhove Crescent, Stirling

14. I think PYI went to Cultenhove just before [REDACTED] when he was nine years old. He was absolutely distraught. I remember it vividly. It was one of the most horrible things that I've ever seen. Miss KYO came and dragged him away and he did not want to go. I was ten at the time. I don't know whether my siblings and I were given any

explanation as to where PYI was going and why, but we knew that he was going to Cultenhove Home.

15.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16.

17.

18.

19. He was in there for three months at the most. It may even have been less than that. I don't know how it came about that he moved from Cultenhove. The decision was taken by Stirling Social Work. PYI came home and I can remember my dad talking to his friend from the building site. Very few people had cars in those days. My dad's friend had a car and said that he would run my father and PYI up to Fife. PYI didn't want to go, but he was frightened of my dad.

Corsbie Hall, Thornton, Fife

20. PYI went to Corsbie Hall in 1972. He was nine years old. The age range was from seven to fourteen years old. I think it was all boys there. PYI never mentioned any girls. He would tell me about Corsbie Hall when he ran away and made it to Raploch. He also talked about it when he was at home for the Easter holidays. He told me that it wasn't a nice place.
21. In recent months, I've researched Corsbie Hall at the National Records of Scotland. I understand that SNR was a man called GUL. He was loaned the building by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Routine at Corsbie Hall

First day

22. When my dad took PYI to Corsbie Hall, they wouldn't let him in to see it. I was quite close to my dad and we had a conversation about it when I was in my twenties. The staff told my dad that it wasn't good for PYI for him to go in. Nobody was allowed in to examine the conditions in the place. I told my dad that I would never have driven PYI up there. I also told him that the minute the staff said told me that I wasn't getting

in to see the place, I would have turned back around and taken him to Stirling. If I wasn't getting to see inside then I wouldn't allow my children to stay there.

Mornings/bedtime

23. When he ran away, PYI told me that there were about nine boys sleeping in a big open room. A man and a woman looked after them, but they didn't look after them very well. PYI said that they were quite nasty. He said that he was locked up in a cupboard at night time with only his underpants on. He would be there from 8:00 pm until 6:00 am and that he wasn't given a blanket or anything. I think the man and woman looking after them in the dormitory were the ones who locked him in the cupboard. He did tell me at the time who locked him in the cupboard, but I would hesitate to say it was definitely that man and woman.

Mealtimes/food

24. PYI told me that he wasn't getting fed. I should have been able to ask him questions, but I was only young. I remember him telling me that they were starving the boys. I said that they must be giving him something and he told me that it wasn't enough. He never told me about the meals, just that he wasn't getting enough to eat. I definitely noticed that he wasn't as fit. He hadn't been a waif when he left home. We were pretty well fed. I did see a difference after he went to Corsbie Hall.

Washing and bathing

25. PYI told me that all the boys went into a big communal shower. They made them go into freezing cold water and stand there for ages. They never gave them hot water.

Clothing

26. We didn't have a lot at home, but our clothes were clean. When PYI came back from Corsbie Hall, he was filthy looking. He had trousers with no knees in them and things like that. They were the same trousers he had gone up there in. There was no uniform

or anything and he was really grubby looking. The clothes were a bit small for him because he had grown taller. He was taller than me by then but he had become really thin. I got the impression that he wasn't being well looked after. He didn't look well when he first came home. His hair wasn't nice. My mum used to cut our hair herself and she always kept it short. When he came home from Corsbie Hall, it wasn't nice. His clothes were dirty and he wasn't clean looking. It wasn't just after he had ran away that he looked dirty. The school sent him home for the holidays in that condition.

Schooling/work

27. PYI told me that they didn't get school lessons as such. He was sent there because he was missing school, but not once did he mention any schooling. He told me that the boys were made to carry rocks and dig. I remember that clearly. He never once mentioned doing any schoolwork at all. That might have suited him because he wouldn't get the belt for making mistakes. He also told me that they were made to clean the place. They had to scrub floors and things.

Leisure time

28. PYI told me that he didn't get to play. He never mentioned football or sport or anything like that. He never once managed any playtime and I don't think they had a TV. He actually hated the place. They didn't have much spare time and he didn't get to interact with the other kids at all. All the boys did was fight with each other. When he came back home he was really aggressive. He hadn't gone away to that place aggressive, but he came back aggressive. He actually started a fight with me. I was still a bit bigger, older and stronger than him. I managed to stop him. He told me that was what happened at Corsbie Hall. He came back a totally different person. He was like a shell of a person.

Trips and holidays

29. I don't think PYI ever went away on any trips while he was at Corsbie Hall. He was given leave to come home for the holidays. I'm sure it was at Easter time. They shut

the place down for the holidays and sent all the kids home. He was at home for just over two weeks. He was there from before we broke up for the holidays and I think he went back the day after we returned to school. He was happy at home. He did not want to go back. He was hiding and my dad was pulling him out, telling him that he would go back.

Healthcare

30. PYI was a really healthy laddie so I don't think he would have needed any medical treatment at Corsbie Hall. I think there is mention of a doctor in the documents I've found about the place, but PYI never spoke about having to see a doctor.

Religious instruction

31. We were Catholics and we went to church every Sunday. I don't think PYI got the chance to go to church when he was at Corsbie Hall. He was probably quite happy about that because he didn't really like going to church.

[REDACTED]

32. PYI went to Corsbie Hall after [REDACTED]. He never made his 10th birthday. He died on [REDACTED].

Visits/inspections

33. Nobody from the family got into the place to visit him. My dad's friend, [REDACTED] told me that dad hadn't been allowed into Corsbie Hall. My dad wouldn't have admitted that. [REDACTED] told me when he came up for a funeral when I was in my twenties. We got onto talking about PYI. He told me he had driven PYI and my dad up there shortly before he was killed and that there was no danger he would have left his son in there. His son ended up in prison, but [REDACTED] stood by him all the way. He told me that he had driven my dad up there on two occasions and they wouldn't let my dad in to look

at the place. There were no planned visits. As far as I know, families were actively discouraged from visiting and told that there would be no access.

34. I don't know whether PYI got any visits from his social worker while he was there. He never mentioned a visit from Miss KYO, but he probably wouldn't have mentioned it. He didn't like the woman.

Family contact

35. I think that I saw PYI twice when he was in Corsbie Hall. The first time was when he ran away and made it back to Raploch. The second time was when he got home for the Easter holidays. That was the last time I saw him.
36. I didn't have any contact with PYI when he was in the place. He did send a letter to my mum, but she doesn't know where that letter is now. I can remember reading the letter in later years and it was pretty badly written. It said that he had nothing to eat. He had told us all that as well. We never went hungry at home. If we were hungry, we would go to my gran's house or my great granny's house. We were big for a reason.

Running away

37. PYI ran away from Corsbie Hall nine times. He was only in there for about five months. There were always at least two boys together when PYI ran away. The first contact I had with PYI was when he ran away. I remember him hiding under the bed and asking me to bring him up food. By that time, we had moved house and lived in [REDACTED] in Raploch. PYI had come upstairs and they were coming for him, to take him back. I don't know who it was that took him away but I know that it wasn't the police. I think somebody might have come from Corsbie Hall.
38. I can remember one occasion when the police came looking for him. I could hear my mum and dad arguing. My dad was telling her that she couldn't let PYI in if he came to the house. I can remember my dad saying that it would be him who would end up in the jail.

39. PYI tried to get to Edinburgh a couple of times. He ran to the home of a Corsbie Hall teacher who lived in Edinburgh. PYI was put in the cupboard overnight to stop him from running away. He would have ran away every night if he hadn't been in that cupboard.

Abuse at Corsbie Hall

40. When he was at home, PYI told us a lot of stuff about teachers hitting him. I really don't remember any names. He spoke about nasty and aggressive teachers. He became quite aggressive himself while he was there. He said that the teachers would lock him in cupboards. He told me that he was locked up in a cupboard at night time with only his underpants on. He would be there from 8:00 pm until 6:00 am without a blanket. He also told me that he never had enough to eat. He said that the staff would hit children willy nilly with sticks and things like that. I don't think they hit PYI hard enough to leave marks, but they were generally abusive. Even at that time, I found it quite incredible. I thought he was embellishing stuff but now I'm not so sure. He just hated it and he did not want to go back to that place.
41. PYI told my sister that the boys were sexually abused in the showers. The teachers made them go into cold water and then stood and watched them. I don't know the names of the staff involved, but they would touch boys when they were going in and out of the showers. They would flick them and things like that. I remember PYI telling me about the cold showers, but he never told me that the teachers touched him. PYI told my sister [REDACTED] that when he was home from Corsbie Hall. He told her that he was being sexually abused in that way along with other boys. He didn't talk to me or [REDACTED] about that. [REDACTED] only told me that recently and I was horrified. She said that she'd assumed I'd known about that because PYI spoke to me quite regularly. I learned from my sister-in-law that PYI had also disclosed the sexual abuse to my brother [REDACTED].

PYI 's death

42. I remember sitting down in the living room and being told that **PYI** had been knocked down. We were told that he was in the hospital. I was eleven years old. I was glad that he was still alive, but my dad knew the reality. He knew that **PYI** was never going to come out of the coma. My siblings and I all held onto hope. We didn't think he was going to die like that. A week later, my dad came in and told us that they had turned off the life support. He wasn't a man to embellish things. He just told us that **PYI** was dead and the life support machine had been turned off.
43. When I as an adult, my dad told me the information he was given at the time by the authorities. They told him that **PYI** was running away and trying to get to the art teacher, Mr **KUR**, in Edinburgh. He was running along the side of the motorway with another boy. He was going in and out the bank at the side of the road, trying to hide. Someone must have seen him and called the police. The police knew who they were looking for. The police came from above the motorway and chased the boys down the way. They chased **PYI** onto a motorway.
44. **PYI** was a nine year old kid. The police chased him right down a bank and onto oncoming traffic because he was running away from a home. At best, I would have thought that it's highly irresponsible to chase kids running way from a home into oncoming traffic. Why did they not stop the traffic on the motorway? They were just kids.
45. **PYI** was chased onto the motorway on [REDACTED] His brain probably died instantly, but he was taken to one of the hospitals in Edinburgh. He was kept on a life support for a week, but there was never any hope that he was going to come out of that. When they carried out the post mortem, they determined that there was no chance that he could have survived. They turned off the life support machine on [REDACTED] 1972. There was no inquiry. No blame was attached to the school. Nobody went in and examined the place. Corsbie Hall was closed down permanently in August 1972 and all records were destroyed.

46. PYI's death was in the press at the time. I can remember journalists waiting outside the house. They were trying to get me and [REDACTED] to speak to them. I don't think either of us spoke to them, but we might have tried to tell them to go away. I think, as children, we assumed that there had been some kind of investigation at the time and that questions had been asked. My mother never spoke about what happened and my father only started asking questions laterally. He just wanted to know what had happened in the place, but he was never able to get any information.

Impact

47. What happened to PYI at Corsbie Hall has scarred me for most of my life. The memories of my brother are vivid because I've kept them. For at least five years after PYI's death, it made me a totally different person than the person I had been before. I was really quite sad and bitter. I couldn't understand why my brother wasn't there. It changed me for a while. It ruined my childhood. I had to grow up very quickly. It also made me a bit resentful to people.
48. When you look back, it's easy to see the timeline and what happened. We weren't given counselling in those days. I did have a wonderful teacher at St. Mary's, Mrs Malloy. She used to sit with me regularly. I went to the High School about a year after PYI died. In that time, Mrs Malloy made sure that I was looked after. She was a lovely woman.
49. I came out the other side, probably a lot stronger, but it certainly affected my schooling. I went from trusting people and doing well at school. I was the dux of the school. From PYI's death onwards, I wasn't interested in people at school. From then on, I just relied upon myself. I didn't trust the teachers. I know now that there are a lot of people you can trust, but people in power are still the same. They do what they want and they look down on the rest of us as if we just have to put up with it.
50. Although my dad was a bit strict, the house was fairly happy before PYI died. After his death, my dad became an absolute demon for five or six years. PYI's death

destroyed my dad. A lot of it was guilt. My dad was under the care of a psychiatrist for years. I think that started after PYI died, but I don't know because he wouldn't have told me if he had been under the care of a psychiatrist before that time. He was given medication that he should never have been on. He was grieving but the normal grief process didn't take its course because of the medication. He blamed himself. PYI's death really did affect his life a lot more than anybody else's. It split his marriage up. My dad blamed himself 90% and he blamed my mother 10%. As time went on, he blamed my mother more and more. She blamed my dad. The marriage couldn't survive it. My mum and dad split up about three years after PYI died. It was a horrible time and I was glad when they split up.

51. My dad died in 2009. He was never the same again after PYI's death. He never got over it. He became a bit better the older he got. He became more child-friendly. He kept hitting brick walls when he tried to find out the truth about PYI. He was just about driven to distraction. He blamed himself for a lot of it. There are certain things that I find hard to accept about what he did, especially after becoming a father myself. You would need to prise my children out of my hands. I don't know whether there was a fear factor for my mum and dad. My dad was so scarred after what happened that I could never asked him why he didn't intervene.
52. My mum was more capable of getting through it than my dad. She got through it and she gets by. My brother [REDACTED] affected in a similar way to me. He was quite a clever guy but he couldn't be bothered with education after PYI died. He hated the teachers. I don't think PYI's death affected my younger siblings as much as the older siblings in the family. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were too young to remember much about him, but they were affected by my mum and dad splitting up. My parents blamed each other for what happened to PYI for years. They never remarried, but they never sat together. They never communicated with each other at all. Before PYI's death, they were happily married and my mum was absolutely besotted with my dad.
53. PYI did everything with [REDACTED] and me. He was taken away from that. In some respects, maybe PYI was lucky that he didn't survive. It had already turned him aggressive, being in that place. It might have made him nasty and changed who he

was going to be. I have a big family and none of them are anything other than nice, decent people. You can fall out with them every now and again, but they're not nasty or horrible. The circumstances that they put PYI into were changing him. He was changing from being a nice, easy-going boy to someone who thought he had to scrap for everything.

Reporting of abuse/investigation into PYI's death

54. At the time, I didn't have any concept of what sort of investigation was being carried out after PYI died. You don't think about that when you're eleven. As I got older, I saw the letters my dad had received saying that there was no case to answer. The letter that I saw came from the Fife Constabulary. There used to be a pile of letters in my dad's house, but they disappeared. He had letters that he had written to Willie Hamilton, the MP for Fife, and the replies that he received. My dad asked me to write a letter to the social work department in Stirling on one occasion, asking for information. He never got a reply. Years later, I phoned them and asked if they had received the letter. They denied all knowledge about any letter and said that they wouldn't release information.
55. My brother, [REDACTED], was killed in an accident in 1988. They uncoupled a train at Crewe and failed to lock the back door. The British Transport Police were terrible. There was no alcohol in his system, but they tried to throw mud and dirt at him. It was horrible for my mother and father. He was thrown off the train at 125 miles per hour and dragged along by the suction of the train. There was an eye witness or they would have got away with saying that it had never happened. They tried to cover it up. I remember that vividly and I tried to fight every bit of that. I realised that when you're fighting the system in this country it's almost impossible. It made me even more cynical about people in authority.
56. Willie Hamilton asked questions about Corsbie Hall in Parliament repeatedly. He was asking questions before PYI died. They can all be found on Hansard. He had concerns about the place. The building was owned by the Secretary of State for

Scotland or one of the under-secretaries. Margaret Thatcher was the Education Secretary at the time. She put a stop to English kids attending Corsbie Hall in 1971 because she decided that it was unsuitable. Willie Hamilton asked why Scottish kids were still being sent there. My mum and dad both received letters from Willie Hamilton. I've been unable to find my father's letter. My sister had spoken to my mum about the letter, but she's 82 and she doesn't keep well. My mum doesn't want to rake it all up. I don't want to ask her about it. It wouldn't do her any good at all.

57. My father got letters from Willie Hamilton quite regularly. In the last letter he received, Willie Hamilton said that it was going to drive him mad if he kept going at it. He had moved back to Yorkshire by that time. He said that for his own sanity, he had to let it go and apologised that he couldn't take it any further. He said that he was hitting brick walls. He died not long after that. He'd been trying to expose how high it went. Corsbie Hall was being protected by the highest offices in the land. The Secretary of State for Scotland was protecting the man who owned the school.
58. My dad never let it go. I think he instructed a solicitor, but I'm not sure whether that was someone Willie Hamilton got involved. My parents would have had to pay for a solicitor because they weren't given legal aid. Not long before my dad's death, I learned that he had been trying to get information about the circumstances of PYI's death. He had been trying since shortly after PYI died. The police wouldn't give him information about the circumstances leading up to PYI's death or their involvement in it. They claimed that he just ran onto the road. Boys don't just run onto roads. Something happens to make them run onto the road. The police also told my father that the home had done everything that they could. They told him that they didn't intend to hold an inquiry. I received that information first hand from my dad. Later on, just before I got married, I did some detective work myself, trying to get to the bottom of things. As my dad got older, he got a bit more clarity and started looking into it again.
59. My wife spoke to a guy online who was also in Corsbie Hall. His name was GDK. We're not sure of his timeline and whether he was there at the same time as PYI. He had been hit by a car and had suffered a brain injury. He had made and featured in about the school. He had a lot of

information [REDACTED] about what had happened at Corsbie Hall. My wife managed to find him [REDACTED]. She messaged him and there was no reply. She then messaged his partner and found out that he had died just months previously.

60. My daughter, [REDACTED], works in social work in the Stirling area. A few years ago, she became aware that the Inquiry was going in the course of her work. During lockdown, we were going through a box of my dad's things in [REDACTED]'s bedroom. We found a tiny clipping from the newspaper about PYI's death. We started looking into things again after that.
61. It astounds me that a nine year old boy was taken away from his family. Initially, he was put into a care home then taken from there and put into a place that had been totally discredited by all the agencies involved. He ran away nine times and finally got killed. There was neither a police inquiry nor a fatal accident inquiry. I want information about my brother because I think it goes a lot higher than that home. It has to. They couldn't have covered it up without help from elsewhere.

Records

62. [REDACTED] knew how to go about obtaining social work records because of her job. She submitted a Freedom of Information Request to Stirling social work, signed by my mother. She's tried but hasn't been able to get any information about PYI. Stirling social work have no records, no school records, nothing. It's as if they got the information out of the way because it's uncomfortable. It's definitely uncomfortable for somebody. At the time, they probably followed the protocols that were in place. I'm not saying that they did anything wrong, but why not release the information? If my dad had been given everything, it might still have driven him mad. For my own sake, I really want information about PYI from before he went into care and information about his death.
63. When we didn't get any records from Stirling social work department, we went to Police Scotland. They didn't hold any records of PYI either. In February 2022, my sister,

daughter and I went to the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. Before we went, [REDACTED] had requested that they make any documents relating to Corsbie Hall and any documents relating to PYI [REDACTED]'s death available. The lady at the National Records asked what we were researching. She found information about Fatal Accident Inquiries. Nowadays, PYI [REDACTED]'s death would automatically prompt a Fatal Accident Inquiry but in those days it had to be exceptional circumstances. I'm not sure what would be more exceptional than PYI [REDACTED]'s death.

64. When we went to the National Records of Scotland, we were handed a massive amount of stuff. Most of it wasn't really relevant to PYI [REDACTED], but it was very interesting to read. We learned that Margaret Thatcher had decided that the place wasn't suitable for kids. She withdrew English kids from it in 1971. I hadn't been aware of that until coming across these records. Willie Hamilton raised the issue in Parliament during Scottish questions. He asked the Secretary of State specifically about Corsbie Hall and why it was suitable for Scottish kids and not English kids. The Secretary of State said that it was a good and honourable organisation and that Willie Hamilton was besmirching people's reputation. Willie Hamilton kept every newspaper clipping about the school and everything that he had submitted to newspapers. He kept everything and put it into files, which are kept at the National Records of Scotland. There was a letter amongst his files that he had received about concerns about the state of two boys' clothes when they returned home to Grangemouth.
65. I discovered information in the National Records that was extremely disturbing. They put two teachers into Corsbie Hall who had been disqualified in England because they had interfered with children. That horrifies me more than anything. Were the education authorities not checking anybody at that time? They were disqualified in England and then put straight into a residential children's home in Scotland. I find that absolutely extraordinary, even in 1972. It's beyond belief.
66. We found a letter from a teacher who had worked at Corsbie Hall dated 26 May 1972. The teacher's name was KUR [REDACTED] and his date of birth was [REDACTED] 1949. We found his date of birth on a staff register. He raised concerns about the school, including unsatisfactory food and the use of excessive corporal punishment. He also

stated that there was too little for boys to do leading to boredom and too many domestic duties being carried out by boys. We were at the National Records of Scotland all day. It was quite hard to read all those things.

67. The fact that there are no records of PYI and that there was no police Inquiry makes me think that it's absolutely a cover up, from top to bottom. There's no other conclusion that any sensible person can reach. If I went out now and knocked down a nine year old child, there would be a massive inquiry. There would be a record of it now and forever. For a child to be taken away from his home by social work and for them not to have notes as to why astonishes me.

Lessons to be learned

68. I don't think that what happened to PYI could happen nowadays. I think that there's more scrutiny and people don't get away with the things they got away with then. I think that there are still kids who they need to try and understand before they lock them away. PYI wasn't a criminal. He wasn't aggressive at all until he went into that place.
69. The only people PYI had to speak to were myself and . I've also recently found out that he spoke to my older sister, . I think it would have helped PYI if there had been staff at Corsbie Hall who were compassionate and nice. The people who worked there shouldn't have been near kids. They were there for their own sexual gratification. That's what I think was happening there and that's why I think they took the job, not because of any interest in being nice to children.
70. From what I've read, a government minister was protecting unsuitable people working at Corsbie Hall. Why would he do as much as he could to stop anything from happening to those people? Why did he rent the place to them? Willie Hamilton knew what was going on because they couldn't keep him out of there. He was made out to be the villain of the piece. If you read the debates in the House of Commons, Willie Hamilton was made out to be unreasonable to these nice people who were looking after kids. They weren't looking after them at all.

Hopes for the Inquiry

71. I know what I'd like to happen to people who abuse kids, but that's never going to happen. People who bully and abuse kids should be held to account, but I don't think that there's any true punishment that can cover that. They should be shamed. I hope that people will be held to account for what they've done, whether they're dead or alive. They shouldn't survive with a glowing reputation. They should be exposed for what they were. Sadly, I don't think this country will ever do that.
72. I would really like the police to investigate something that they should have investigated a long time ago. The information is there. You don't need to be a genius to pick the bones out of it. It's so graphic. There is a letter written by a teacher at the school and questions raised in Parliament. Margaret Thatcher didn't think it was right to send English children there. Youngsters who were probably no worse than I was, but had taken a different turn or had dyslexia like my brother, were being sent to that place. What happened to PY1 will never be fully behind me. Something like that follows you all your life. I just hope that the Inquiry can find something out about what happened to my brother. It would help me to put it to rest. It's not the things that I know that are difficult, it's the things that I don't know. The thought of what was happening to my brother in that place horrifies me.
73. 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.....

PYF

Dated.....

10/10/22