

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HKZ

Support person present: No

1. My name is HKZ. My date of birth is 1950 and I am presently sixty-eight years of age. My contact details are known to the Inquiry

Life before going into boarding school

2. My dad, , was born in Fraserburgh in 1899 and was therefore an older father when I came along. It was his second marriage. He was a general medical practitioner in Royston, a mining town in Yorkshire.
3. Dad was a very reserved fellow and Mum, , was a 'genteel' lady. She owned a laundry in Yorkshire and was quite socially conscious. I have one sister, , who is two years younger than me.
4. We were a relatively well off, middle class family and had a nice looking house in the town there. Dad had done well in medicine.
5. We had another house, , on the Yorkshire coast, which was a beautiful place and that's where and I were brought up. Dad didn't want to bring his second family up in a grotty old mining town. It was a bit isolated in the big house at . Mum especially was a bit restrained with regard to who I was allowed to go and play with. The result being that I had few friends, and did not learn much about social matters before going to school.

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6. The problem I had all along was that I was a very bright kid and started my schooling very young. It was different times in those days and going to boarding school was considered the right thing to do. I asked Mum once why they had sent me and she told me it was just what was done.
7. I was seven when I was first sent to boarding 'prep' school, which was at Terrington Hall near Malton, East Yorkshire; an all-boys school. [REDACTED] was sent away to a school in High Wycombe and then a ladies' college down south somewhere.
8. I was the youngest boy at Terrington and started in the second form. Although I made friends there, it was an enormous change to be boarding and not seeing my parents for most of the year.
9. The ^{SNR} [REDACTED] at Terrington was not married and I remember he had a medical condition that affected [REDACTED]. I don't recollect his name. In retrospect some of his actions could be seen as questionable, and I don't think he would have got away with his behaviour these days. He may have been a paedophile, but I might be quite wrong and he might have had the best of intentions. I had no contact with the school after I left.
10. He used to get us little boys into his study in the evening when we were in our pyjamas, sit one of us on his knee. He would then fiddle around with our genitals and tell us what each was. This happened quite a few times. He would also spank us by taking our trousers down and hitting us with a slipper or a cane across the buttocks.
11. None of this meant anything to me as a kid and that, I think, was the problem. It was the normative behaviour. He never said anything about us boys not touching each other and as little boys growing up we played with each other sexually. None of us thought there was anything unusual about it. It was all terribly innocent and I cannot recall there being any strictures against it.
12. After Terrington, in 1963, I was sent to Loretto School in Musselburgh and stayed there until 1967. I went up in class by a year when I started at Loretto, which meant I was 12 years old when I was put in a class with a bunch of fourteen year olds.

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Loretto School, Musselburgh

13. Loretto was also an all-boys school at the time I went. Girls were a completely unknown territory to me until I left school.
14. Pinkie House, where I spent most of my time, was an old stately home in its own grounds on the edge of Musselburgh in East Lothian, across a main road from the school buildings. What was known as "School House" had most of the main rooms in its grounds, including the school buildings and the chapel, the dining room and some of the dormitories. .
15. I stayed in one of the small dormitories in School House for the first term or two, before I was moved to Pinkie House, which was a short distance away from the main campus.
16. I recollect the headmaster was called Bruce Lockhart, however, I'm not sure how many other staff were there or what their names were. I was probably the youngest kid at Loretto when I started and the oldest boys were about eighteen. There were only 250 boys in the whole school and a lot were army sons, sons of ministers, farmers or doctors.
17. The school was split into different houses and each had a house master and a house mistress, or matron. Each boy stayed in their allocated house throughout their time at Loretto. The school was run on very formal, structured lines at the time.
18. The atmosphere at Loretto was one where boys were expected to get on with things, shut up and not make waves. The structure of the school was such that the army cadets, exercise and games were important. Boys had to toe the line and "be a man" and personal matters were rarely discussed. .

Routine at Loretto School

First day

19. My parents brought me up from Yorkshire on my first day and left me there. When we arrived, we were shown into the headmaster's study and introduced to him. It's amazing, but I can still remember the smell of his study.
20. I remember being very frightened when I first arrived and being bewildered going into the dormitory for the first time.

Mornings and bedtime

21. We all slept in dormitories until we were about 16, at which time we were given our own study room.
22. The dorm I was in when I first arrived was in School House and was one of the smaller ones with about six boys in it. All the younger boys' beds were on one side and there were two older boys on the other. One of the older boys was the head of the dormitory and the other was his sub-head.
23. After that dormitory, when I was a bit older, I was moved to Pinkie House and was put in one of the bigger dorms there. That dormitory was about eighty feet long and there were twenty or thirty kids in it. I recall the room had an amazing painted ceiling.
24. When I was older still I went into a study room, which had a table and a desk in it. It was within a new block that had been built in the grounds.

25. Every day we young ones were woken by a bell at seven o'clock in the morning. First we'd have to jump into a cold bath and then get dressed. Fifteen minutes later we were expected to assemble for roll call, and then went outside for a run. We would run for a mile or two before we then came back in and had breakfast.
26. In the evenings, I think we had homework after dinner, which we did in our classrooms, before we were allowed to run around and play for a while. After that we went to bed, although I don't remember what time that would have been.

Mealtimes/Food

27. All meals were eaten in a huge dining room where we sat at tables that were twenty or thirty feet long. There would be boys down either side and one or two of the younger ones would serve everybody else at their table. One boy would be head of hall and he would get up and say Grace before we could eat.
28. I recall Breakfast was porridge and baps (white rolls), sausages etc. There was black pudding on Thursday. For dinner on Thursday we had haggis and on Fridays there was fish. I don't know what happened if a child didn't like the food.
29. If you got hungry during the day, there was a barrel of ships biscuits outside the dining room that you could help yourself to. There were no sandwiches or anything like that. When we were hungry we would go to the pie shop near the school gates where we could buy pasties or whatever, and there was a school tuck shop.

Washing/bathing

30. As well as the cold shower at two minutes past seven every morning, at which time we washed in a somewhat perfunctory way, we had another shower in the evening. There was a row of showers; there were no individual cubicles. I can't remember whether showering was supervised or not.

31. There was also a communal bath, which was used after rugby or other sports. Next to it was a locker room where we would all get changed.

Clothing/uniform

32. There was a strict code of dress and there were all sorts of rules regarding how we dressed. We wore a red blazer, white shirt, blue shorts and red woollen socks. We had to wear a kilt and tweed jacket whenever we went outside the grounds, and a black dress jacket and kilt to church on Sundays. Additionally, we had to have the top button of our shirts undone and our shoes always had to be clean.

Leisure time

33. We were allowed to have hobbies. I had become really interested in radio when I was a young lad - before I started at Loretto - and I continued with that. I teamed up with another guy called [REDACTED] and we made radios together in the physics lab. Initially we were told we weren't able to use the physics lab unless we got an 'A' in the subject, so I did. Nowadays boys would be encouraged to follow such pursuits, but I remember at the time it was thought to be a bit unusual.
34. I actually managed to get my Morse Code licence when I was thirteen and I also did a lot of drawing and calligraphy. I wrote school signs for hymns, choir lists, sports teams etc.
35. There were bicycles and in summer we went cycling to various local places, I remember Prestonpans as one. The staff didn't go with us, but it was supervised to a degree and we would always know when we were supposed to be back. We could also go onto the golf links across the road. Overall, we were restricted as to where we could go outside the school.

Trips and holidays

36. There wasn't a lot of time out, but we did get taken to a few concerts. When we were a bit bigger we were allowed to go out at the weekend, although when we did we got a lot of teasing from local lads about our kilts. When I was older we went to the

football or the rugby sevens in Edinburgh. I used to go with another bloke and we would sell our tickets and go and get drunk on Rose Street, since I was not interested in sports.

37. The only other trips we had were to play rugby or golf against other schools, like Fettes College. I was in the teams that nobody wanted to play and so we never did very much, although we did get ferried off to watch the big boys play.
38. There were three terms a year. I think the summer holidays were about two months long and the other two holidays were shorter. I went home for all the holidays. I would get on the train to York and my parents would pick me up from the station there.

Education

39. The classes at school weren't huge, there were maybe about twenty kids in each. Loretto was a very sports-orientated school rather than being academic. We always had some kind of outdoor activity so, irrespective of the weather, even in winter if the ground was frozen so that we couldn't play sport because we might cut ourselves, we'd still be sent out for a run. I tried to avoid games, because I was weak and feeble, and had not the slightest interest in sports. I committed the biggest sin of all by not caring who might have won a school match.
40. A typical school day was classes until lunch, after which there would be sports periods. Then we'd be back in class until about five o'clock and then we'd have tea. On some of the afternoons we'd have cadet training. We'd put on army battledress, march around and pretend to 'shoot' old 303 rifles. (There was occasionally live firing, but strictly controlled).
41. The education itself wasn't that brilliant, but it was quite strict. I found it easy to do well in class. The reason I left when I did was that I had achieved satisfactory 'A' levels, and my parents wanted me to go for an Oxford scholarship..
42. I was doing very well in the sciences and was allowed to follow my own interests, like making radios. I was also quite good at art and at English and had got the highest

ever school mark for English when I was at Terrington. Despite that, being in class with adolescent boys who were a couple of years older than me was not a good social situation.

Healthcare

43. Healthcare was pretty good, we were never neglected. If you got sick you went to see the matron, or the doctor if necessary. I didn't get sick much.

Religious instruction

44. Religion was hard to avoid. The whole school had a choir and we went to choir practice twice a week. We were also at church three times on a Sunday, for communion first thing, then a service at eleven o'clock in the morning and another at six o'clock in the evening. In addition to that, there were religious study classes during school.

Work

45. There were chores to do, but I don't remember specifics. All the dining tables had to be cleared and I think we also had to sweep the dormitory.

Birthdays and Christmas

46. I was at home for Christmas and I don't remember birthdays being celebrated. They didn't make much fuss of us.

Visits/Inspections

47. I don't recall my parents coming to visit me often because they were down in Yorkshire. I imagine other boys' parents could come at weekends, but I don't recall.
48. I wouldn't have a clue whether anyone came to inspect the place. I certainly don't remember speaking to anybody from an inspectorate.

Sibling and family contact

49. Once my sister [REDACTED] and I were sent away to school, our lives diverged. We'd meet in the holidays, but we didn't have much in common and never really had much to say to each other when we became adolescents – a situation which has continued thereafter.
50. I could write to my family if I wanted and I could ring them up as well and I did so. My mum was pretty good at phoning me. I think we had pretty regular contact.

Personal possessions and pocket money

51. We were allowed to have personal possessions and I remember I had a locker somewhere when I was younger. When I was older and had my own study, I could keep things in there.
52. We must have been given some pocket money, because we used to go to the shop to get pasties or ice cream. I don't remember how it worked though.

Discipline

53. I don't think there was anything especially strict about Loretto, but there were lots of things we weren't allowed to do and lots of rules to be followed. For example walking on the grass was forbidden and we weren't allowed to run in certain places. It was all pretty normal in schools of the time.
54. The sixth form boys were given the roles of prefects, which included head of house and head of the dormitories. The head of the dormitory was supposed to look after the younger boys. To be the head of Pinkie was quite an honour in many ways.
55. There were also school prefects and the boys that held both roles were responsible for keeping order in the house or in the school. I think the hierarchy was that the school prefects were higher than the house prefects.

56. I don't remember there being fagging, as some of the bigger public schools had at the time, but the prefects were the policemen really. They were allowed to beat the younger ones and did so with canes. They would watch us and if we transgressed, we could get beaten, although it didn't happen much. I was disciplined and I was aware of other boys being disciplined as well, but it hasn't stuck in my mind as being something very significant.
57. The school masters were involved in the discipline too. If you did something wrong, the house master would call you in for a chat and then there would be some kind of punishment meted out. Detention was one such punishment, but I can't remember what others might have been.

Bed Wetting

58. I didn't have a problem with bed wetting, but others did. I remember the matron used to change the beds and that bedwetting was dealt with fairly. I'm not sure whether some children 'persecuted' others that had wet their beds, but I don't recall specifically what happened.

Abuse at Loretto School

59. Within the first night or two of my starting at Loretto, I was sexually abused by older boys. It was the sequelae of that which I think caused some damage then and later in life.
60. The boys that abused me were the head and sub-head of the small dormitory I was in at first. They would have been about fifteen or sixteen at the time. I think I can remember their names, but I'm loathe to say in case I've got it wrong.

61. I can't remember how it started, but sometime at night the head of the dormitory started asking me questions about where I was from. He told me to go over to him and as I stood next to him, he started fondling my genitals. He told me to get into bed with him and so I did. As I had come from Terrington, where there were no strictures against such practice and because I was frightened, I acquiesced.
62. I remember he had an erection when I got into bed with him and he tried to penetrate me anally. It didn't work because he ejaculated and I went back to my bed. After that the other boy did much the same thing.
63. This went on for some time, although I can't say whether it was every night or for how long. Probably a few weeks. I don't know whether it happened to any other children.
64. I think boys were going in and out of each other's beds in the big dormitory at Pinkie House as well, but I don't think it was all that prevalent.
65. On a couple of occasions in the next year or two, three older boys abused me sexually, although it was never violent.
66. On one occasion, one of the older boys called me up to his room. I thought he wanted me to do an errand for him. Instead, he took my trousers down, then took his own trousers down and I had to masturbate him. He was a nasty piece of work, but I don't want to name him either. Much the same thing happened with the two other boys as well.
67. This stopped as I got older. I don't recall any physical sexual contact in the latter years of my being at Loretto.
68. Early on, I was given the nickname [REDACTED] because of my acquiescence in relation to the abuse. The consequence of that was that I was basically ostracised. That nickname lasted throughout most of my time at Loretto and was really pretty devastating.

69. At the time I didn't think I'd done anything wrong and I didn't understand the public opprobrium. Being ostracised happened at a time when I should have been expanding my social relationships and making friends. Instead it was entirely the opposite. The psychological effects of being socially isolated in a boys' school was how the real damage was caused. I was pretty much friendless.
70. The school, including the masters, knew about my nickname and would have observed me being the butt of all the jokes. I actually remember two occasions when two different masters called me [REDACTED] in class and nothing was ever done about it. I don't remember either of their names. I know that they weren't science teachers, so they must have taught the arts.
71. Calling me [REDACTED] as they did shows they knew about the nickname and that they would have understood what it meant. Perhaps they had talked about it in the masters' common room.

Reporting of abuse at Loretto School

72. Technically I suppose could have seen the house master and told him what was happening. I'm not sure there was anybody else I could have spoken to. The house master was a pretty upright, religious fellow and was not the sort of friendly person you could speak to about such things. I can't remember his name, only that he had a long face and curly hair.
73. I was certainly not aware of any formal structure in the school whereby you could confide in someone and tell them your deepest thoughts. If a kid had been beaten up and injured there would have been a fuss about it, but nobody talked about this sort of stuff.
74. I do remember there were lots of rumours about sexual contact, but I don't remember any of the other kids talking to me about any sexual experiences they'd had. I certainly never told any of the other kids or any of the masters what had happened to me.

75. I wasn't close enough to my parents to be able to speak to them either, I'd been so young when I went off to school. Sex was never discussed in the family.

Leaving Loretto School

76. By the end of my last year at Loretto, my fifth year, I was moving on. I had really lost interest in the school and had four acceptances for six of the universities I applied to. The school had offered me prefectship and head of a dormitory, but I wasn't interested. I was happy to go.
77. The only preparation for life after Loretto was teaching us to abide by the rules and play the game. It was a typical "end of the Empire" British public school. There may have been some voluntary class in the last year for preparation for university, however if there were I can't remember them.
78. When I left, I went to Millfield School at Street in Somerset to do an Oxford scholarship, although I didn't actually get it. Millfield was an extraordinary mixture of kids from all different social classes from all around the world. They could teach anybody anything there.
79. It was a completely different education at Millfield. All I had to do was physics and biology and get 'A' passes. Otherwise the headmaster told me just to do what I liked.
80. It was fantastic at Millfield compared to Loretto, like chalk and cheese. There were girls there, I could drink, smoke and drive a car. I had a girlfriend at Millfield. I studied shorthand, filmmaking and I started a magazine. I had a whale of a time.

Life after Loretto School

81. After Millfield I went to Birmingham University where I studied medicine. I did my house jobs after graduation, but never actually practiced in the U.K. after I graduated. I met my wife at university (she is also a GP) and we went to Australia for what was

supposed to be a six month job, except we never went back. My first job in Tasmania was as one of the doctors at the hospital in Burnie, Tasmania, then I became a general practitioner in a nearby practice.

82. We've now been in Australia for forty years and we married in the mid-1970s. My wife is an amazing lady and we have both had a great life and a good marriage. I have wondered what she was thinking taking me on in our student days when I was a shy, awkward young man.
83. I was a general practitioner for a few years until I got bored with medicine and so I studied Biomedical engineering at the University of New South Wales. I really enjoyed it and spent five years doing vestibular research, specialising in motion sickness. I completed half a PhD, and as part of my studies, went to Antarctica to carry out vestibular research.
84. After doing research I returned to medicine and we spent 10 years as remote area doctors in NW Australia. Then we moved to Perth, WA, with two young children . I took a job in the prison service, and became ████████ of Health for the Western Australian (WA) Prison Service, before my wife and I moved back to Tasmania. In Tasmania for the second time I became ████████ of Prison Health, managed a medical clinic, did locums locally and in Northern Territory, went to Antarctica twice and worked on the Government refugee recovery boats. In recent years I have had contracts with the Antarctic Division to repurpose military sonobuoys for whale research, develop a kite photography system and a radio controlled biopsy dart retrieval seacraft.

Impact

85. What happened to me at Loretto happened at a formative time in my adolescent development. It was the associated social isolation and ridicule which did the damage, although I was made to feel pretty ashamed about the sexual aspect of the abuse. At the time I did not see my behaviour as reprehensible because of my experiences at Terrington where homosexual contact was not seen as particularly unusual. Later I

think I was simply intimidated and so acquiesced in the acts – I never initiated any of them, and the perpetrators were always older boys. As I grew up I it stopped.

86. I have discussed the impact of the abuse and, more particularly, the sequelae of that abuse with my wife, but with none of the details set down here. She has assisted in identifying the issues I have suffered in adult life (she is a GP).
87. The effect of my social ostracism at Loretto persisted into adult life. When I went to university I really found relating to people quite difficult. The shame, the social isolation and the shyness persisted for years. I had insomnia for many years, I had social phobia and two bouts of depression (one of which was job-related and not associated with my early experiences). I used to view things in an overly negative manner. I drank and I took sleeping pills for years. I would often wake in the middle of the night and worry.
88. For example I was frightened to go into canteens and lectures at university and I had a problem with authority figures. I actually saw two psychiatrists and one psychologist while I was there. They put me on medication, but it wasn't much help at the time.
89. I had very few friends in adolescence and I found it very hard to trust people. I have been very sensitive to rejection, which was part of the reason I went to see the psychiatrists and the psychologist at university. Although I was okay early on in relationships, I found it very hard maintaining them.
90. I had poor family relationships. I blamed my parents for sending me to Loretto and that distanced me from them to some extent. I couldn't talk to them about it because we were not a 'close' family.
91. I got depressed in later years and saw two more psychiatrists after I had moved to Australia. I was about forty at the time. I was treated for quite a few years for depression and was on anti-depressants for about ten years. (One bout of depression was job-related and not connected with my experience at Loretto).

92. I continued drinking until I was about forty-five, when I realised it wasn't helping me at all and I haven't drunk alcohol since about 1992. I did not drink to excess at the level of an alcoholic, but drank regularly. Since I turned sixty my outlook on life has changed (as is often the case as people age). Looking back, in my opinion it was the venomous and overt sexual naming and shaming of me in adolescence which did the damage. Now, although to a lesser extent, I'm still ashamed about what happened.

Reporting of Abuse

93. I've never reported what happened to me to anybody. It was only when I became aware of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry that I thought I should say something. It all happened a very long time ago and it was tempting to leave it alone, but I decided that I would speak out since I believe these things should be aired if only to facilitate prevention in future.

Records

94. I've never tried to recover any records of my time at Loretto. I doubt if there are any records of what happened because I never told anyone about it.
95. Every year Loretto send me the school magazine and I have one which has a picture of me confirming I left in 1967.

Lessons to be Learned

96. I don't think anything that happened at Loretto was unique to me. In the culture of boarding schools at the time there were similar things - and worse - happening (at least from what I've read). It was a pretty destructive environment in those days, particularly for shy introverted people like me.
97. I can certainly say that when I was at Loretto I had no recourse to anybody and I didn't think that there would be. What was a little twelve year old going to do? It was just not that sort of environment.

98. The reason I approached the Inquiry is that I think this should all come out in the hope people are more aware of this sort of problem.
99. If anything is to be learned, it is that this can have far reaching effects. Although sex formed the basis of the ostracism, it was not sex itself which had a lasting effect.
100. I did a study on suicides in prisons when I was [REDACTED] in Western Australia and came across the concept of a 'healthy prison', which means a prison structured so that suicide is unlikely since the environment is supportive.
101. A 'healthy environment' in a boarding school would be where things are talked about and where there is help for people who want it. I suspect things are different now at boarding schools, but if what happened to me and, presumably, to others is now publicised there may be benefits of insight into the consequences of ignoring signs of potential problems.
102. Since giving my statement I have had time to reflect on the incidents at Loretto and their effect on me as follows:-
103. Sometime after leaving I found a report from Loretto (to my parents) showing my IQ had been tested at 167, which is high.
104. A lot is now known regarding the social difficulties experienced by people with high IQ - though it is doubtful whether this was widely known in the 1960's. It is known that social anxiety disorders are associated with high IQ, and tend to develop in adolescence.
105. Despite this lack of contemporaneous knowledge there were two 'red flags' which the school could have picked up on: Firstly it should at the least have been taken into account that I was a 12 year-old, studying two years ahead of my contemporaries, trying to interact with children who were much older than me. Secondly some account should have been taken of the significance of my nickname, which at least some of

the masters knew, and steps could have been taken to at least discuss matters with me and hopefully to consider how protect me from harm.

106. I am now 68, moving toward the latter stage of a life. This gives me a perspective on the events which happened 56 years ago at Loretto, as does a professional life as a GP diagnosing and treating people with childhood trauma both in normal society and in prisons.
107. My father was a shy man, and neither parent was gregarious. Accordingly it is clear to me now that, with a distant father, a socially over-conscious mother, a relatively rich background in a poor area, and having a high IQ, that I was destined to be socially isolated from a young age. During my 5 years at Terrington school I became much more socially integrated. I also indulged in homosexual acts, which were essentially innocent but which were seen as the reverse at Loretto.
108. I should note that I initiated none of the sexual contact at Loretto, and the homosexuality itself had no effect on my heterosexual orientation neither as a teenager at the school nor for the rest of my life.
109. At Loretto there was a nexus between my developing adolescent socialisation and the focus on homosexual behaviour from the first few days at the school. It was the opprobrium associated with the latter which determined my social standing in the school.
110. Once labelled, and essentially defenceless as a 12 year old among adolescent boys, I had neither the emotional strength to fight the taunts, nor did I perceive any way to complain to a school authority of what was happening to me. Nor, importantly, did I have any recourse to anyone who would counsel or support me – at least I have no recollection of that, and if in fact there was someone then clearly I did not feel able to avail myself of them.
111. One may wonder why I acquiesced in further sexual abuse for the next year or two. I find it hard to know at this distance in time, but I do know I felt at the bottom of the pecking order and I think I simply didn't see an alternative.

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112. Had I not been tainted with the label [REDACTED] I think I would have continued to be socialised during adolescence. With my high IQ, 'nerdy' interests and slight build I would never have become one with the main social groups in the school, but I would not have spent time at the school feeling a pariah as I did.
113. I now see Loretto was a school of its time. A post-war conservative 'establishment', a minor public school, with an emphasis on religion, fresh air and healthy exercise, it provided a good education as far as it went – and, if the annual magazine is anything to go by – it succeeded in providing a good foundation for the careers of many alumni.
114. I don't see any problem with the cold baths, the runs, the plain food and the strict uniform, though I doubt if they would happen these days. They didn't suit me, and it wasn't all that pleasant, but these practices were no more nor less than most of the public schools of the time.
115. I think the school presented itself as trying to provide a decent standard of public conduct, of education and of physical fitness.
116. However, it was also a place where it was possible for myself, a young and naive boy, could be abused sexually and socially and suffer consequences which persisted in later life.
117. Although published research into the social adjustment problems of gifted adolescents were little known in the '60's (the main body of research findings started in the '80's), I think the school could have done more to support me. They were, after all, *in loco parentis*, and my parents could quite reasonably expect that the school was taking better care of me than they did.
118. The zeitgeist about sex was different in those days compared to the present day – at the time homosexuality was a criminal offence, and we were minors.
119. My life was very different at the next school – Millfield – where I had no feeling of ostracism and I did well, socially and intellectually. The pupils did not know my past,

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and I was accepted into their society for the person I was. Nobody cared if I was non-sporting, there was no censure for being clever, and I could express myself freely. This, I think, is the person I would have become at Loretto had I not had the unfortunate experiences as a 12 year old and afterwards.

120. I certainly do not want to ascribe all my later problems with depression, insomnia, social phobia and so on to my experiences at Loretto - that would be unreasonable and would ignore the contemporaneous effect of my family upbringing. However I would say that my experiences at Loretto laid the foundation for a difficult adolescence, which may have contributed, and certainly did not help, with problems in later life.
121. I am well aware both from my reading, from the media and my from professional experience with damaged adults in the prisons and in general practice that my experiences pale in comparison with the abuse suffered by many others, and I do not seek to hold up my problems alongside theirs. Nevertheless the events I relate above did happen to me at Loretto, they did have consequences, and I think they should be recounted.

Other information

122. I never came across any of the boys who abused me at Loretto again. I didn't have much to do with the place after I left and I have no idea what happened to them.
123. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed....

Dated.....11 June 2020.....

[APG]