

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

CBX

Support person present: No

1. My name is CBX. My date of birth is 1952. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I would describe myself as having been a colonial boy, I was born and brought up in Africa and then the question was will I go to school in Africa or in the United Kingdom. First of all I briefly went to a boarding school in Kenya and then I was sent to Loretto School in Musselburgh. I am not aware of any specific reason why my parents choose Loretto.
3. My mother was and my father was. He was in Southern Sudan to begin with, then in north east Uganda. I have two older sisters and they both remained in Africa. They were educated in Africa and I went to Loretto.
4. I would say I have an absolutely normal background, there were troubles like all married life but nothing serious. The marriage between my parents didn't survive.
5. We lived completely in the middle of nowhere in Africa. There were very few white people there, it was a closed area. There were no schools and I was taught by post to begin with.

Loretto School*General*

6. One distinct memory was everyone talking about 'Z-cars'. I also remember the odd clothing. We wore shorts and a tweed or red jacket, other than Sundays when we wore kilts and a shirt with a starched collar.
7. I thought it was very foreign, a completely different world. A better place ultimately compared to where I'd come from but I remember the school well.
8. The school was all boys. There was the junior school for ages eight to twelve and the senior school for ages thirteen and above. I was there from 1960 to 1970 so from age eight to eighteen. All the pupils were boarders and most parents were abroad. Some pupils did have parents in Edinburgh, which, to me, was a bit weird.
9. When I was there, I think there was about 70 pupils in the junior school and just over 200 in the senior school. There were four houses in senior school, Seton House, School House, Pinkie House and I think it was Fife House.
10. I would say the relationship between locals and the school was not good. The school was behind walls which creates separation. I would have thought that's a lot better now.
11. Local people were employed in service type jobs at the school and there was a janitor but I don't know who he was.
12. I've since returned to Loretto School to show my children and my wife, who went to school in Dalkeith. I'm not sure they were that interested.

Routine at Loretto School

First day

13. My mother took me on my first day. I've no recollection of any staff or the headmaster at that time. I do remember there were some rather intimidating women who looked after us, matrons they would be. It was also a bit like the old days, in a Victorian sense, that the people who were responsible for you were your peers. A prefectorial system, a way of colonising the mind.

Mornings and bedtime (washing and bathing)

14. The dormitories were varied in size, large and small. I think perhaps eight to twelve boys per dorm when I started. I made friends, it was perfectly okay. The schoolmasters would also sleep in separate rooms. Essentially the school was a big house and the headmaster had a separate apartment, an extension from the main building.
15. We did get up and have a cold bath every morning, which was rather strange. By and large though I had no problems with the place, they kept you interested and it was a perfectly decent environment.
16. There was bedwetting which was a problem for one of my friends. He had quite serious problems but was given plastic sheets. There were no issues from the school though, it was well handled.

Food

17. We were well fed with three meals a day. There was absolutely no problem there.

School

18. The junior school was within the grounds and the senior school was distributed amongst Musselburgh town. I remember the playing fields at Newfield.
19. I remember many of the teachers. There was Hamish Galbraith, he was the headmaster and taught Latin. There was Tony Ray-Hills who taught French, Mr Buchanan who taught maths. There was a woman called Ishbel White who taught history and Mr Flatters, an ex-sergeant major from the army, who taught physical education. Physical exercise was taken importantly and they liked to keep you interested.

Religious Instruction

20. We had to go to church, I think on a Wednesday and twice on Sunday. It was Episcopalian. Was it because they were interested in god, that I'm not so sure. What they were interested in was the getting of people together. The school also prided itself in its singing so we had lots of singing practice.

Holidays / Leisure

21. We had holidays at Christmas, Easter and in the summer.
22. Basically, I only saw my parents for a few weeks in the summer and I would get occasional visits from other family in the west of Scotland. I was put around to stay with different people that my parents had found.
23. We had Saturday morning school when there was a big emphasise on sport, I played rugby and cricket. We were kept very active.
24. We had limited weekly pocket money and there was a tuck shop but we were only allowed sweets twice a week, it was controlled.

Birthdays and Christmas

25. I imagine there probably was some celebration of birthdays in some sort of way. I think if you had wanted it there could be, as far as I remember.

Running Away

26. I did run away once and got picked up by the police in Glasgow. I got the train through there. Having lived in Africa, my mum came back with me one year and I just wanted to be with my mother. She was staying in Ayr and, when she left me at the school, I followed. I was only about ten years old and I wasn't going to see her for probably another year, so I think it was a perfectly reasonable reaction. It wasn't a disciplinary offence for the school. I think they dealt with it quite well.

Discipline at Loretto School

27. There was discipline and it was abuse on occasion. There was a cane. Some teachers gave it more than others. Things were done differently, it was a different age.
28. If you got more than two mistakes in one Latin sentence you were caned. Walking on the grass in winter was another caning offence. It was across your shorts on your backside and it left marks. I would say everyone, me and all my friends, were caned at some stage.
29. I have issues about many of the things that happened but I didn't get the impression that discipline was run unfairly. I observed things which I disapproved of, even then, but as a general principle I just took it as part of the system.
30. Apart from one or two issues I didn't really think that it was abuse at all. Some people might say it is, in and on itself, abuse but given that was the system I didn't think it was abuse.

31. I did see teachers going over the score and losing their temper but that was very rare. To be honest I only saw it once. You had some unusual characters in these places.
32. The canes weren't carried about or kept in classrooms, it was quite a reasonable place, not like you sometimes see typified in movies. It really was a perfectly okay place. The circumstances were very odd. You would get caned in front of your class but I didn't think, under those circumstances, that it was over exuberant caning.
33. I think it's the Matthew Arnold system, that you are controlled by your peers. Not in the junior school, but in the senior school the people who imposed the discipline were usually your peers. It was very unusual to be caned by an adult.
34. Ultimately as I got older I assimilated myself better into the system. I had friends and I guess we looked after each other. I would have thought we'd have helped others, younger boys for example.
35. My schooldays were normally troubled and normally progressive and, actually, in many ways I don't have any complaints about Loretto School in that regard. It is what it is. Now, whether I agree with what it is, is a different point. In a sense, it deals with what it offers and markets to people who are in the situation I was in.

Abuse at Loretto School

36. It was one individual only. This person was known about by the school and by the headmaster and he had told me he had been investigated on previous occasions. He was a serious serial paedophile, that is simply the way that it was. He had sexual relationships with a wide range of young boys.
37. He was Tony Ray-Hills, the French teacher. He had a bedroom in the school. I was approached by him and I had a long standing sexual relationship with that man. We

- had sexual relations in his bedroom but he was really quite blatant. He was known and when he was marking your work he would physically touch or feel you.
38. There was no penetrative sex, nothing like that, and I sustained no physical injury. I did not have that sort of relationship or that sort of intimacy.
39. I don't know how he selected his boys. I don't remember any kind of grooming process, he was quite direct. He didn't offer anything by way of reward. He was a very engaging person and not unattractive person. Quite a lot of people were abused by him and everybody knew about it, everybody.
40. The relationship with me lasted from probably age ten until about fourteen or fifteen. It was crazy blatant sexual abuse, the man was very indiscrete.
41. I knew it was wrong but I was partly complicit at times, and I'm absolutely fine with that, about what was done to me. I need to be absolutely clear about this, I don't particularly care about what happened to me.
42. It's the complicity of the school in this, that irritates me from the point of view of my parents. They were not wealthy people and they had to give up a lot for me to go to that institution.
43. It was so public. The headmaster cannot have been unaware. Ray-Hill told me he had been investigated by Loretto School on a previous occasions. There were sexual comments and diagrams on the blackboards in his classes. The headmaster would have seen them, he must have been aware.
44. I did witness bullying, older boys or individuals of the same age, you know kids can be nasty to each other. It was particular people and I wouldn't say there was any systemic or fundamental culture or anything. Just stupid people.

Leaving Loretto Schools

45. I left Loretto School in 1970. I studied [REDACTED] at Aberdeen University and Edinburgh University. I now teach [REDACTED] and work between Aberdeen University and The University of [REDACTED].

Reporting of abuse at Loretto School

46. I reported it to my mother but not to anyone else. My mother was from a scheme in the west of Scotland and she was scared of authority. Loretto School was authority. My mum did have meetings with the headmaster but I don't know what happened. Knowing my mother she may have just found the whole thing too intimidating. It was my hope, having told my mum, that it would stop.

Life after being in care

Impact

47. It's certainly had an impact upon me, in many many ways. Impact and damage, indeed. I have spoken openly to my wife about these things and she will tell me things about myself, but I think that's quite normal, for the wife to have certain views about her husband.
48. I don't keep anything private, but I don't think it's for me to judge. When you see what's happening around you in this world, there's a certain point, it seems to me, when one has to get on with life. This was a long time ago.
49. My purpose here is to say that these things were going on, and in a very systematic way. I can recall all of it. It was just one individual. Again, it was the complicity of the school in the whole thing which I think was wrong. Why was he never dismissed, why was he just moved on to another school in the south of England? As I have said, everyone must have been aware, it was so ridiculously public.

50. The senior school headmaster was Bruce Lockhart and he conducted an investigation into allegations against Ray-Hills. I don't know the details but as far as I am aware there was no report and no police involvement and Ray-Hills was just moved on to another school.
51. If it came to my attention that such a thing was happening to my children at an institution like that I would set my tent on their front lawn and I would not move. I think its fundamentally wrong and I wouldn't let it happen to my children.

Records

52. I have not seen any of my records from Loretto. I've never asked and I'm not interested.

Final Comments

53. I have never sought or felt the need to have any counselling. My attitude is that in many ways I'm very grateful to Loretto. It was a perfectly supportive benign institution. On reflection, I got sensible advice and as a basic proposition the people who worked there were fundamentally okay. There were one or two oddballs who were strange, in their own way.
54. My impression looking back is that some kids wanted to become adults before they'd had children and they found that difficult. Then, of course, there were the individuals who got bullied, who didn't fit in. I would say though that about 97% were absolutely fine.
55. One of my sisters phoned me and told me to contact the inquiry. I think there's the transparency issues and also when people make complaints about these things that

they are properly investigated. What I really disapprove of, was the way in which things were swept under the carpet.

56. You understand why it's swept under the carpet, because it limits reputational damage, or it was thought it would, by just moving these people on. I think it is very irresponsible to move these people on. I would hope that wouldn't happen nowadays.

57. 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.

CBX

Signed

Dated.....

12/02/18