

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FIJ

Support person present: No

1. My name is FIJ. My date of birth is 1976. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to boarding school

2. I was born in Glasgow and all my family are from Scotland. I lived with my parents, I prefer not to give their names, in Scotland before moving to England at the age of six. The house that we moved to we still own now. I went to primary school there. I grew up as an only child as my parents didn't have any other children together, but my dad re-married and I have a half-sister who lives in the USA.
3. My dad travelled a lot with his job and he did well in his work. We moved to the USA and I attended middle school there. I enjoyed that. We came back to the UK for a while and I went to junior school. There were difficulties at home between my parents and in their relationship. My mother wasn't coping well. Then we moved back to the US and I didn't want to go as it meant losing the friends I had made in the UK.
4. I didn't settle into my new school in the US and I had always loved school and education generally. I didn't want to go to high school, things were difficult at home, and I refused to go for about a week but I just wanted to speak to someone. My dad decided that he didn't want to deal with my truancy and sending me to boarding school would be the best option and he had the money to pay the fees. He obtained a brochure for Keil School for me and I just said ok. It was to be my first experience of

going to boarding school and no-one in my family had any experience of boarding school.

5. I was happy enough to start at the new school as it meant I got out of the difficult environment at home so I was relieved to get out. I just wanted to speak to someone new and offload how I was feeling. I still remember it very clearly. I must say I was a very innocent child.

Keil School, Dumbarton,

6. I think I was aged ten or eleven when I started at Keil and I think I left at aged fourteen or fifteen. I was one of the [REDACTED] boarders they had at the school. I heard more recently there had been a fire at the school and I looked on-line and I saw a video on You-Tube that someone had taken of the interior of the school. It was just how I remembered it in my mind. I saw the main staircase and there was a big stained glass window at the top. There was a little passageway at the side. This led to where the girls were placed in a couple of rooms at the top of the building. It became relevant later as it wasn't secure and you could freely go up and down to where the girls' main dorm and the head girls' room and shower rooms were as well as the laundry room for the girls.
7. When I first went to Keil we were in just one dorm and there were eight girls in one room. This included three head girls in their separate room. There were open doors at the top of the stairs to the girls' section. It meant other people could come up the stairs into that section when girls were sleeping in their rooms. Later on, when I was older, I was put in a separate girls' room and that's where I was when the incident took place that I will describe later in the statement. By that time, near to the end of my time at Keil, there were a few more female boarders at the school and there were more dorm rooms.
8. The older girls who looked after us were in the head girls' room. I think 'head girls' was the official school term for them. Our dormitories were in the main building unlike the

boys who had boarding houses in the school grounds and it was quite a walk to get to some of them. There were four or five boys' houses. There were a lot more boys than girls at the school and the boys started there at a younger age than the girls. There were some boys at the school at age five or six and the boys went up to the age they would do their Highers. There were also day pupils on bursaries who were from the town of Dumbarton. There were a couple of day girls.

9. The main building on ground floor had the main school entrance and the main entry for the boys, from when it was an all-boys school. Then there was the main staircase up to girls' area. There were classrooms. There was also an open room where people could hang out and there was a TV in there. There was also an art room and I liked that room a lot. Not all the classrooms were in the main building and there was a separate science block.
10. I remember very few names of the staff, although I can picture some more of the staff members. I can't remember the name of the headmaster when I started at the school. I do remember that his wife was a nurse, but not in the school. There were boarding staff like Mrs Clanahan and she is one of the few names I remember. She had blonde hair. She was the sports teacher and I never had any issues with her.
11. There was another woman with long brown hair whose name I can't recall. I don't know if she was on boarding staff. I remember I did try to speak to her later on about the problems I was having and I think she was just frightened for her job, and wanted to keep out of it. In terms of the girls' boarding area, I only really remember Mrs Clanahan on staff and the head girls who were very nice. These are the female staff I remember and I think the school would have benefited from having more female staff.
12. There was also a tall male teacher, whose name I can't recall, who wore glasses and had dark hair. There was also a teacher called Mr ^{IP}T. I think he was [REDACTED] teacher. They would be there at meal time and also when we had our free time. Sometime some people would go up to the flat belonging to the man with glasses. He had a flat in the school. I never went there myself. Now when I look at it there wasn't enough supervision.

13. I think there were junior pupils having to carry out tasks for the older pupils like cleaning their shoes and sports kit and I think some of that went on. I don't know what went on in the boy's houses. It was different for the girls. I'd hear rumours of the worse things boys had to do in the past. It was harder for the boys.
14. One thing I remember when I went there and I saw the young ones and the age of them. I think things had changed and there wasn't so much of the harsh system there used to be, and I can't think of what it's called. I think it used to be harder on them. I just remember there were a lot of young boys there and I felt for them. It was hard enough for me going there and I didn't really want to go there, I was glad to have people to speak to but it wasn't easy being away from home.
15. There was a code of secrecy at school and it's just something that you know. It's always there and there's a certain structure and there are certain things you can do and certain things you don't do at school. Ultimately that's re-enforced by the adults in some way.
16. In my experience, the head boys and girls have too much weight, but that's the whole structure of boarding schools. Really you're accountable more to them in the times when you're not in the classroom. Even things like security and people passing through and being on your own outside of class and not being monitored. These head boys and girls are young adults. They were the ones that helped you with your routine like getting up in the morning at a certain time and going to breakfast. They had a parental role which wasn't appropriate.

Routine at Keil School

First day

17. I travelled by plane to Scotland with an escort from the airline on the plane to accompany me. My mum and dad took me to airport in the US. My dad had a big

family in Scotland and two of my uncles picked me up at Glasgow airport. I hadn't visited Keil before I started there. I just saw the brochure. When I arrived it seemed a nice enough place.

18. I was pulled in by the headmaster on my first day because of my big hair and I was told to tone it down. I spent a lot of time styling it and my hair was too big for his liking, but it was the time for big hair. Around the same time he also pulled me in to an office to speak to me about flirting, with a boy I was talking to at the bottom of the main stairway on the way to dinner. All I was doing was laughing and having fun with people of my own age. I think he telephoned my parents about it. It didn't make me feel very good. I felt quite ashamed at the time.
19. I carried a lot of emotional baggage for a young person. At home in the US I'd got isolated and was carrying a lot of my parents' issues that I'd witnessed. I was happy to have people my own age to speak to. I was also very chatty. It happened a few times, being pulled in by a teacher, and them saying inappropriate things. That was a common theme in that school.

Mornings and bedtime

20. I don't remember what time we went to bed, but I think it was a regular time and it was enforced by the head girls. Doors weren't locked, it was just those swing fire doors at the top of the main staircase. I remember them very clearly and when I watched the film taken inside Keil I knew that was the same layout and even the shower rooms were as I remembered. I have also had vivid dreams about the staircase and the corridor and the shower room in my adult life.

Mealtimes / Food

21. After showering we'd go to get our breakfast. There were teachers sitting at the ends of some of the tables. The head boys would mostly be the ones at the head of the tables. The school had breakfast together. We had to stand in the hall and all go in lines and walk in, table to table. I felt like we were on show as we'd be commented

about and I guess that's because there wasn't many girls when I first started. My younger female friend, I didn't want to give her name but I will call her Alice, used to get called [REDACTED] by the boys because she [REDACTED] when she walked. The boys always made comments about her and what the other girls looked like. They could be very personal.

22. I don't remember if we could sit where we wanted. I just remember there were benches and I think we had to sit in accordance with our house. I had to sit with boys on the table and there wasn't as many girls. Sometimes there were the teachers in the dining hall including Mr ^{IP}[REDACTED]. There must have been teachers at each table or at least somewhere in the dining hall. We had to be quiet at meal times when we were told to be quiet, but we could talk while we were eating.
23. In terms of the quality of the food, I know I put on a lot of weight at school. It was the stress of things going on. The food was stodgy. I don't have any memory of having to finish the food that was on my plate. I didn't have any bad experiences of not eating my food. Some of the boys liked to comment on girls' weight in the dining room and that shouldn't have been allowed to go on.

Washing / bathing

24. I remember having to get up early to get a shower and the shower rooms being very cold in the mornings. I had my own routine as I had very long hair. I wanted to get up early to do my hair. There were individual showers cubicles with pullover shower curtains. When I think about it anyone could have walked in. They could have because there was just the fire swing doors at the top of the stairs. It wasn't private at all.

Clothing / uniform

25. The uniform was dark green with a yellow stripe round the neckline of the blazers. We also wore a kilt. If we went out for the day or I went to my uncles I'd wear my own clothes.

School

26. I can't remember the routine or if we went to classes straight after breakfast. I only remember a couple of classrooms. There was one with the teacher whose class I sat in the back of. We could be talking at the back and I'd be doodling and he wouldn't even bother. I managed to get my maths exam, but I would just do nothing.
27. I think we moved to different classrooms for different lessons like in high school. I remember the art room at the top of the school and I used to go and sit there a lot. I only remember a couple of classrooms but they were in the main building apart from that one outside.
28. My schooling wasn't great, they didn't listen to me and didn't support me. My performance, like in Maths, all went down. I think it was because of what was going on, but no-one asked me what was going on with me and why is your level going down. I could sit in the back of the class and doodle and no-body asked why. I managed to get it picked up later when I went to a different school after leaving Keil.

Religion

29. The majority of the children were Protestant and there was a small group of Catholic children. On a Sunday I went to the nunnery, just next to the school so we'd walk over to it. They provided us with breakfast and they did a lovely spread. So maybe the food wasn't that great at the school as we'd go to the nunnery and get all sorts of food and get a feast. They would serve it through the hatch and afterwards we'd go to their little chapel and we'd listen to the nuns singing.
30. After that we'd have a chat with them. The nuns were lovely and so interesting. Some of the nuns had taken a vow of silence. I liked my time when I went there. After going to the nunnery there would be that dead time when we went back to school. The Protestant children would go to a church further away from the school and they would be gone for longer. When I came back to school after the nunnery there was no one around, pupils and staff, because they were all at the other church.

31. There was a couple of boys who were Catholic and one of the head boys whose name I'd rather not say. He often tried to set up certain girls with older boys and there was all that going on. This would involve a commentary between two certain boys who would try to instigate an intimate relationship between myself and another boy. I was not interested in this and I just wanted friendship and I didn't want to be by myself in the main school building. This happened in the time period after church when I didn't want to be in the main school building when there were no other people around. From what I remember [REDACTED] who went to the nunnery so I would be by myself.
32. There was also an Irish guy, I'll call him Dan, but that's not his real name. He was my friend. He was a bit younger than me. He was quite a character and very funny with the things he'd come out with and we'd tell him off for swearing in front of the nuns.
33. I don't remember any other religious aspect to the school like having to say prayers at mealtimes

Trips / Holidays

34. I don't have memories of day trips out from school. Sometimes I would meet friends when I stayed with my nanna in the local area. I stayed with my nanna more than I did with my granny. I stayed with my granny more when I was in my twenties as my nanna had passed away.
35. We played hockey at school and sometimes I went with the team to play matches at other schools. I liked that as I got to see some amazing schools in the countryside. I don't remember playing any other sports. We also went out of the school a few times with Mrs Clanahan to do orienteering.
36. At school holidays I went to stay with family, sometimes with my nanna and sometimes with my gran and sometimes with my female friend and her family. She came over to the USA to see me and she had family there as well as me. Sometimes I stayed with one of my uncles who lived locally. When I flew to Glasgow to start the school term or

when I flew to the USA for school holidays I had to have an escort to help me get through the airport and onto the plane itself.

Leisure time

37. Sometimes we went out to McDonalds in Dumbarton town and meet up there. I didn't do it a lot. I imagine we would have had a curfew for being back in school, but people could sneak out to the bottom grass bit to meet kids from the town and drink with them. I don't remember any fighting between the two groups. The pupils in Keil had a name for the girls from the local town and they called them zengers.
38. I don't remember any planned activities for us in the evenings, but I'm sure there were. There must have been time in the evenings for homework, but I don't remember it. I'm sure there were books for us to read, but I don't remember and I love reading. I just remember going to the art room. I think there was a lot of people wandering about and not being supervised. I don't know about the boys' supervision because I wasn't in the boys' houses.
39. The teacher with the glasses would know if people were going into other rooms. I remember that because of the art room and the teacher's flat was above it. Sometimes they'd go into the art room such as the head boy, the one on the Sunday after church, who was trying to fix people up together. Again the comments would be made, when the teacher should really be there to say this shouldn't be going on. It was innocent enough, but that's not the point.
40. There was an older boy in school whose family lived in a house in the town and his parents would be away. The same one who would orchestrate people getting together. I know his name, but I don't want to give it. Often we'd go and stay at the older boy's place because his parents were hardly ever there. It's just one time I remember a party at his home. It wasn't far from my nanna's house. Some of the pupils went home at the weekend even though their parents weren't around and it might have been because they were older.

41. There was a school disco and if I just went for walk in the school grounds with my two male friends at different times. The tall teacher with glasses would insinuate that I was doing that to get off with them. He would whisper about that with the other boys and he was acting like one of them.
42. I didn't go home at the weekend. A couple of times I went to my female friend's home if I was allowed, so I must have been given a permission to go there. There must have been some permission things going on. Nothing bad happened there, but I was finding life at school hard and rightly so. I haven't seen any of them again after that.
43. Either before or after dinner we would have free time and we'd be in the main house where the girls' rooms were. The boys would come over to the main house from their boarding houses. There was insufficient supervision of the pupils. The older pupils would be expected to supervise the younger ones at this time.
44. There was an open communal room on the ground floor that we could all use. They were always in there and trying to pair you up. Some of the head boys were quite sexually orientated and it was wrong. We were younger girls. They'd show video cassettes on the TV and I went in the communal room one time and they were watching porn. It was the older boys who were probably about eighteen. There were just a lot of sexualised comments.

Personal possessions

45. We had lockers that we could use to put away our personal stuff in the dorm rooms. They were white cupboards that went from floor to ceiling. They weren't secure and there were no locks on them.

Birthdays and Christmas

46. In the Christmas holidays I would have gone to my parents in the US. I have no memories of any birthday celebrations in the school.

Visits / Inspections

47. In term time I'm sure I was able to have contact with my mum and dad but I don't remember it. I don't remember being on the phone to them, but I'm sure we were allowed to. It mustn't have been a big deal. There was a phone at the bottom of the stairs and you could hear if someone was on the phone. That was next to the laundry room.
48. I only got visits from my two uncles when they came to pick me up to take me home. Sometimes I would go and stay at my uncle's if I was allowed out at the weekend. I didn't go to America, but I would sometimes go and stay with my uncle.
49. I was never aware of any outside inspections taking place at the school.

Healthcare

50. I only remember one of the younger girls who had a condition that caused her to have very bad body odour. That was all dealt with by a head girl. It was definitely them looking after us as opposed to staff. The younger girl got completely crucified and again there was no support there from adults. Other pupils were allowed to say bad things to her and she got a hard time about her body odour. I think in terms of toiletries we were expected to take our own stuff to school and I think we had them in our room. I'm sure that was something my mum or aunties arranged for me.
51. There was a school nurse who was in charge of a sick bay. I don't remember where that was in the building, but I think it was in the main building. I have no memory of being taken to see a doctor or a dentist, apart from the doctor at the police station.

Running away

52. I did run away once and with another girl from school. This led to me being expelled and I have given further details of this later on in my statement.

Bed Wetting

53. I don't remember any issues with bed wetting.

Discipline

54. Ultimately the headmaster would be responsible for handing out discipline. On a day to day basis, responsibility for the girls' behaviour and getting them to bed and turning lights out would be down to the head girls. I don't remember precisely any misbehaviour, but I think if you did misbehave you'd have so many counts against your name and above a certain number it would go to Mrs Clanahan or possibly the head master.
55. Sometimes pupils would go down to the bottom of the field and sometimes meet people from the local town. And sometimes one of the head girls, would turn a blind eye to that. There wasn't even supervision with that. I didn't tend to do that. Once I went down to the field and then came back up to the school. I wasn't so bothered with that, but it went on frequently.

Abuse at Keil School

Laundry room

56. There was an open laundry room next to the telephone at the bottom of the stairs in an area where boys would hang around at the bottom of the stairs that went up to the girls' section. Some of the older boys would go through the laundry bags and search for girls' underwear and look for any discharge that they could make comments on. I think the head girls knew about it. The school didn't change that system. We put our laundry into green bags and the bags would be left there in the laundry room for someone, I don't know who, to do the washing for us.

57. It meant the boys could go through the bags and make comments to the girls and their names would be on the clothes. That was allowed to go on. It was all very intrusive. The boys had no business to be in the girls' laundry room. That was humiliating and the school should have changed that. The same group of older boys would make comments on girls' appearance and I'm too embarrassed to say the sorts of things they would say to us. They were the sort of comments that gave me complexes that I only realised later on in life, and made the connection about where they had come from. As a girl it was intrusive and at that age we were so sensitive. The boys would have had their own laundry facilities.

IPT

58. The teacher IPT made a comment in dining room at a mealtime that I wouldn't dream of making to my daughter. We used to sit at long tables with a teacher at each table. I didn't like IPT, he was creepy, he used to always talk with all the boys. He would sit on the table and gossip with pupils and once he said 'I bet she doesn't have to worry about her cherry not being popped', or something similar. IPT was saying it to a younger boy whose name I don't want to give. He was a good friend. He told me about the comment and was laughing at the same time.
59. I did tell my mum and dad about this comment. I didn't understand what it meant at the time. Now when I think about the tall, male teacher with glasses he also made some comments. I didn't find him as creepy because he was more jokey when he made comments, but his jokes could be inappropriate.

Incident in the head girls' bedroom

60. There was a passageway into the girls' section and we shouldn't have been allowed to come and go as we pleased. Only the fire doors stopped people coming into the passageway. Later on in my time at the school, I was put in another small girls' room. We had three beds in the room. This older boy came in the room one night and was talking to us. I could smell whiskey on his breath. I felt uncomfortable. He boy left the

room and I fell sleep. He came back into the bedroom later. I was asleep and I woke up and he was on top of me. He sexually assaulted me. I kicked him off. That's all I want to say as I don't want to go into details.

61. I can't say how old I was when the incident took place as I can't remember, but I was old enough to be in the older girls' dorm room. I'm not sure how old I was when the incident happened, but possibly I was thirteen or fourteen
62. On the same night, the same boy had gone to another girl's room, a head girl, who had her own room, and she was upset, but she never ended up giving a statement. Then he'd gone to the younger girl. In the end I was mad for her as she was so young. He tried to have sex with her and I don't want to go into details and I don't know what he did to her.
63. The incident was known of but there was a lot of secrecy. We all just carried on and no-body said anything. We didn't want one of the other older boys to be expelled because he had been in a girls' bedroom on the same night. Only the head girls knew the details because once, me and some of the other girls got really upset when we were in the head girls' room.
64. There was a lot of secrecy around it because we didn't want to get the older boy in trouble, or his girlfriend in trouble. When I think about now that was very silly as a very serious thing had occurred, but everyone was keeping it secret. I did not know it at the time, but have heard since that there's a lot of secrecy in boarding schools and not telling what has happened.
65. I'm sure there were teachers that knew. I don't remember the timeframe and I don't know if that's the time when Mr IPT made the unacceptable comment in the dining room. I had my own issues with some of the teachers afterwards as the incident was kept under wraps and no-one said anything and we went along with that. What had gone on was well known.

66. There was an incident after that. The particular boy, who had assaulted me, came into my room when I was on my own in the time period after we'd come back from church on a Sunday and we were on our own. There was only a few of us that went to the Catholic Church. I was in my room drying my hair. He only had to swing open the doors to come in and he came in. It was very intimidating and he just stood there in the doorway. I think he was trying to intimidate me.
67. I don't remember the boy's name, but I know what he looked like. It was frightening. I ran from the room and went to one of the boys' houses and not many of them were there as most were at the church in the town. I remember I did tell someone, an older boy, and it was kind of laughed off. It was before it got reported, but in this time the assaults were known about by pupils and it was being kept quiet.
68. I became quite insular. Even with my close friends I kept quiet and my mouth zipped. I started to drink a lot more then, but we all kind of protected ourselves in a way but that was when this happened. Really that's not protective, keeping everything secret and rallying round. That's how we thought it was, they're just rallying round and protecting us, but actually no.
69. Sometime after that I took lots of tablets, [REDACTED] I didn't want to die. I've never done that again. I was very lucky. I went into hospital and didn't have to have my stomach pumped and I was just throwing up. The people in the hospital told me I was very lucky not to have liver damage. It was very calculating the way I did it. At the last minute I panicked and went down to dinner. I remember being in the shower rooms and a younger girl in there asked me if I was alright and I told her what I'd done.
70. The nurse, not the school nurse, the headmaster's wife, came over and she was very nice. There was a school nurse, but it wasn't her that came to me and I can't remember the name of the school nurse. Then I was taken to hospital and I stayed in overnight. The only reason I didn't get expelled was because I stayed at the school, but the headmaster didn't want me there. I was too much bother. I must have been allowed to stay on and I was in the bedroom for three of us.

71. There was something else in [REDACTED] after I got expelled about drugs that got found at the school. Some of the pupils took drugs. I didn't take drugs. I didn't even drink or smoke, but after all the incident I did start. I hate smoking and I managed to stop smoking later on.

Reporting of abuse at Keil

72. It all came out when some underwear belonging to a younger girl was found in a boy's locker. I don't know who found it. She wasn't much younger than me, but she was in the main dorm room. The girl who owned the underwear had her name written in all her clothes so it would be known whose clothes they were. That's when the headmaster found out. The headmaster straight away thought the girl was up to something. The headmaster pulled her into his office and she had to explain what had happened from her point of view.
73. I don't remember who asked us to give statements but I think it must have been the headmaster. We had to go to the police station at Dumbarton. I was told someone had given the names of pupils involved. I think it was the headmaster who reported it to the police. Three of us had to give statements. Afterwards we found out there was another head girl, who I will call Lena, it's not her real name, but she didn't give a statement. But she was quite upset.
74. The thing was we'd held out for so long, we had a set story, because we didn't want to get anyone expelled. That pressure came from the older boys. I don't remember who said what, but it was decided that we would give a certain story when we made our statements and we wouldn't mention who was in that room because they'd get expelled and sent back to the country where their family was living. A lot of pupils had their parents living in other countries.
75. I don't remember specifically who was telling us we had to not give names when we gave our statements, but I think it was probably the older, head boys. We were not to grass on anyone and I held out. We could talk about the incident but not say who was

in the room. I was in the interview room at the police station for such a long time. They, the police, were trying to break all of us to get one of us to say who it was. They interviewed all of us at different times about the incident in my bedroom and also the underwear that was found in the younger girls locker.

76. Somebody did grass, I know because I was in the police station and I kept the story up. I didn't want my close friend expelled as she had a boyfriend in the school and they'd both been in the bedroom with me. She thought I was the one who grassed and I didn't. She was expelled and went back to Australia, but it meant we left on bad terms. It was one of the other two girls who grassed, but I somehow got the brunt of it as the assumption was made that it was me.
77. At the police station, I was asked if I was ok for me to have an internal examination. I was told the problem was they didn't have a nurse. I have no idea if my parents were consulted. The examination wouldn't be allowed now as there should be a chaperone. I agreed to it. I shouldn't have done that. I remember it because the doctor at the police station, he was an older guy, and he said he'd have to give me an internal examination. I did speak about this with my counsellor and I hadn't realised this was such a big thing. The doctor made a comment to me and when I think about it now he should be struck off for it. I felt really uncomfortable because of the words he used. It had affected me into my adult life too. I agreed to it as there might be evidence of semen. I don't know if any was found. I don't remember if the other girls had an examination.
78. Afterwards, some of the day boys were terrible. They'd make these audio tapes and these would say horrible things about me. I got on quite well with everyone before and then it was put about that I was the one that grassed. I found that upsetting. I wasn't close to the day boys as most of the time it was just the boarders and I had my good friends who believed me, but I just got harassed and harangued.
79. The boy, the perpetrator, wrote a letter as well, which may have been when he was in jail or it may have been before he went to jail. He was in jail for a bit. He wrote a letter to another older boy. That letter damned me. I don't know what exactly he said in the

letter. That's how it came out saying that I was the one who grassed as it came from the perpetrator.

80. The guy who received the letter wasn't a nice boy. He was mad because his friend got expelled. He was an older boy. He was quite nasty and he made my life a hell basically. That was hard for me because I felt the boarders were like my family because of where I'd come from and I didn't really talk about what had happened in my home life before I went to Keil, so for me that was devastating. I still had my close friends who believed me, but it was hard. I kept telling people that I hadn't said anything.
81. No support was given to anyone. No-one was brought in to speak to me or anyone else about how we felt. We were expected to keep it all in. We were made to feel that we were at fault. That message came from the staff and not just the pupils as we had no support.
82. Teachers knew about this and there was one teacher I spoke to, whose name I can't remember. I know that one teacher, she had brown hair, I don't know what she taught, but not Mrs Clanahan. I think she knew about it because I was quite upset one day, about the way I was being treated and these tapes had been made. I tried to speak to her about something else as there were other things going on at the same time. She didn't support me and she was siding with the view of 'let's not say anything'. We were encouraged not to cause any bother to anyone.

Leaving Keil School

83. One night at school I got really drunk. There were some really nice boys at school who looked after me and they said I needed to go back in the school building and I went with a girlfriend, the one whose underwear was found in the boy's locker. She said let's just go and run away. I didn't really want to do it as I liked being at that school and I didn't want to go back to my parents as I had friends at the school and life at home with my parents had been difficult.

84. We ran away to Glasgow and I started sobering up and I said I didn't want to do it anymore. We went back to the school and the headmaster spoke to me and said to us that we obviously didn't want to be at the school. Then both me and my friend got expelled. She had to go back home overseas. I didn't want to leave and it felt very, very sad. I still had some good friends at school despite the bad things that had happened.
85. My dad came back from the US and came to the school and the headmaster made me tell my dad when I didn't want to have to tell him these details. It was humiliating telling graphic detail of the sexual assault in front of my dad and it made him very embarrassed as well.
86. I told my dad recently that I was going to speak to the Inquiry. I spoke to him about having to tell him what happened at school and he doesn't remember the conversation, but he does remember the inappropriate comment that Mr IPT made.
87. The report to my dad in front of the headmaster was made after I had given a statement to the police so there was no need for me to have to give him graphic detail and use sexual terminology. I remember I felt very uncomfortable and it was all unnecessary. I never got any help with dealing with this.

Life after being in boarding school

88. My mum came back from America to live in the house in England that she had rented out when she lived in the US. My mum wasn't very happy at having to come back from America. I was staying at my nanna's house and my mum came to get me.
89. The matter that was reported to the police went to court eventually. Then we had to wait for the police to tell what was happening with the court case. I just remember my mum being on the phone and her saying the perpetrator had been dealt with and was being deported and I didn't have to go to court. As far as I know he was convicted. I

think there must have been an agreement made. My mum took the phone call when we were at my nanna's house. I've not asked my mum about the details of what was said.

90. One other thing I remember is that I'd written in my diary that I hate the headmaster, just a childish comment. I've vowed that I'll never read my daughter's diary, unless I was really worried about her. My mum saw my diary and asked how I could say that about the headmaster, but there were reasons why I didn't like him. I clammed up about what had happened to me and when I think about it now I was traumatised.
91. After that I had to do second half of my GCSEs at another school and used someone else's notes to help me. After that I did my A' levels and then took a year out and I think I was just processing everything. I worked in a bar for a year and told myself if I don't go now I'll never leave.
92. I went onto university to do a degree in Psychology. I like trying to help people and support them and I think in hindsight I did it to try to sort my own head out, but I didn't realise that then. When I was at university I had one bad relationship that was related to my experiences. When I completed my degree I was in an abusive relationship, but didn't realise it at the time. I would never talk about anything. The sexual assault I suffered at Keil had an effect on my intimate relationships and how I treated myself.
93. In my early twenties I started having panic attacks and bad ones, so bad I thought I was having a heart attack. I didn't know how to stop them in the cycle of anxiety that I was in. I spoke to my tutor when I was doing my dissertation about what was happening in my personal life and the abusive relationship I was in. She said I should have told her what was going on and that I was going through the process. I never even went to my graduation and went to see my dad overseas instead. I never talked about any of my issues and that's why I was having the panic attacks. I ended up having a course of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and learned diaphragmatic breathing techniques and that was perfect for me. I was too frightened at the time to have counselling.

94. My working life has definitely been affected by things that happened to me. I realise that now looking back. I did so many different jobs and didn't stick at things and didn't reach my full potential. If you're carrying baggage and trauma, whether you like it or not it can affect things you do.
95. I had a good job opportunity in an area that I loved and I left it. Then I did a qualification in teaching English as a foreign language at night school. I went off to Italy, came back and went to Glasgow for a bit and did temping in management and administration. I was just floating around and running away from things. I can say that now but I didn't know it at the time. In my twenties I started painting again and I got accepted into Chelsea Art School twice, but felt I just couldn't go through with it and went travelling again.
96. I went to America in the holidays and was starting to struggle. I went down to southern England again and did an access course into art, thinking I'd carry on to study it. I did get offered a place for digital media, but things started to come up then for me and I still wasn't ready to look at things that had happened to me. I didn't take the digital media course. Instead I went to Australia and did teaching, but it was starting to catch up with me and I was getting tired. Then I went to New Zealand to avoid coming home and I was there for two years. I met amazing people and it all helped, but the issues were all starting to catch up with me before I was aware it was happening. I was running away from things.
97. Then I came back to the UK about twelve years ago and started working in cleaning jobs and stayed away from office work. I had to take a look at myself and do some work on myself.
98. I started to do a diploma course in counselling, but realised I couldn't do a course like that until I'd resolved my own issues. It wasn't the right time for me to speak about my own experiences and that was just a few years before I got in touch with the Inquiry. I'm in a better place now but I've had to do a lot of work to get there.

99. I've been working as a housekeeper in a care home during the pandemic and I enjoyed that. My confidence has been affected, but contacting the inquiry and going through the process of giving evidence has helped me with my confidence going forward. I am now studying and working part-time towards something I would like to do.

Impact

100. I have a young daughter who is aged seven and I know I'm a good mum to her. I'm very aware of what is going on with her and I don't hide things from her and I address things with her. She's doing really well and has emotional support. Her upbringing is completely different to mine, because of my experiences I'm very aware of that. I would never send her to a boarding school, even though I hope they will have all changed by now.
101. The incidents at school have completely affected my life and I didn't realise that for some time. I did well at school beforehand, but I could have done so much more. I've lived and travelled overseas, but I was running away. These things that happened at a pivotal age in my education. It's always been the experiences at Keil that held me back. I didn't pay attention at school, but thankfully I have a good memory. When I went back to school I used someone else's notes and got good results in my GCSEs, and then A' Levels and a degree. I didn't pay attention at Keil and the education wasn't great.
102. I've had periods when I've been completely self-destructive and I've been saved many times, for whatever reason. I think I was meant to bring my daughter into the world. Someone has been looking after me and it doesn't always go that way. When I was younger I've had problems with eating. I've self-harmed. I don't do any of that now. I didn't know then why I was doing it and I couldn't express how I was feeling. I was cutting myself before I went to live in Italy.

103. When someone violates you and it's allowed and you've not been told it wasn't your fault you don't feel safe. Sometimes I have to get myself in check and I know that I'm aware of the dangers and hyper-sensitive to it with my daughter.
104. I wasn't thinking or talking about what had happened to me and kept those thought shut out until it started to knock on my door. It was maybe when I had my daughter that things changed.

Reporting of abuse after leaving school

105. I have not made any report to police since I left Keil School.

Records

106. I still have a number of photographs I took myself at Keil of other pupils and in our dorm rooms and also of visits in the school holidays. In terms of school records apparently there was a big fire in the school and a lot of paperwork would be lost. I only know about the fire from looking at the video online of the school when I saw the layout of the school. I don't have any school reports that I know of.
107. I went up to see the main school building when I was in my early thirties and the school has been turned into a block of flats. I only looked at the outside of them. A few years later my counsellor me to bring in a picture of the school and I did, but this was at the end of our sessions. I thought that was ok as I wasn't sure I was ready to talk about it, but afterwards I realised I was ready to talk around it a little bit. It was around that time I looked at the school online and realised there had been a fire and I read about IPT

IPT

Lessons to be Learned

108. There wasn't enough supervision and security at the school. It comes down to issues of pastoral care for children. It just didn't exist at Keil. If the school had a counsellor I would have spoken to them. On a simple physical level, there should have been locked doors and girls should have been placed in a separate building. People shouldn't have been able to wander in and out when other people are sleeping. The laundry room shouldn't have been left open.
109. There shouldn't have been so many responsibilities put onto the head girls who were just young adults. There weren't teachers around to supervise us. Yes, from what I believe the headmaster reported the incident and the police were involved, but before that there was a whole load of secrecy that was allowed to go on. It's not ok to turn a blind eye and in some ways it's just as bad as the people who abuse children.
110. There's got to be support for children and counsellors available. What might seem like a small issue to someone else can have a big impact on a child. There's still also a lot things I haven't spoken about because I'm too embarrassed or ashamed to and I shouldn't have to feel like that. We should have had support afterwards. We should have been asked how we were but we were expected to get on with life. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who went home to family and it wasn't discussed.
111. There was no emotional support to help deal with adult issues. Most people just push it right down because they don't know what to do with it. They might appear all grown up and altogether, but a lot of people with boarding school experiences have to act older very quickly. I used to have to fly to another country by myself to get to school. Even now I still don't know what to do with a lot of those issues, and I may not think about it all the time, but it's there. Emotionally I've grown up a bit but I'm still very like a child emotionally, although people who hear about where I've travelled and what I've done and appeared adult-like.
112. How the school was run when I was there wouldn't be allowed to happen now. Now schools have physical protections and safeguarding checks. The school had decided

to take girls on as boarders and made no provision for them. It might have changed in the years after I was there and they still had girl boarders. Kids have got to be protected. It's so important. It can completely destroy people with a roll on effect on their children.

Other information

113. 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.....
FIJ

Dated.....
02/11/21
FIJ