

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HKY

Support person present: No

1. My name is HKY. My date of birth is 1935. I am 85 years of age.

### Background

2. My mother and father came from Dundee. My father was called [REDACTED] and my mother was [REDACTED]. They bought a dairy in [REDACTED] in Crieff and we lived above the shop. I had an older sister, [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] and a younger sister, [REDACTED]. There were five years between all of us. My siblings are deceased now. My mother 'ruled the roost' in the house. We moved into the house next door in 1943. It had plenty of room. It was called [REDACTED].
3. Everything was okay at home. However, trouble with brother started as I was put into a double bed with him. He raped me repeatedly over a significant period of time. He made threats of violence. We inherited an elderly maid from the previous occupant, Doctor [REDACTED]. She washed all linen in of the basement. It was before washing machines, so my mother would not have been aware.
4. As time went on, all that happened was a glass panel was screwed to wall evidently to protect wallpaper from body fluids as my side of bed was against wall. There was no escape. Eventually I was given a single bed without the true reason being known as I was too scared of violence, which was no stranger to me.

5. I went to the primary school in Crieff. It was a good school. I sat exams at eleven or twelve. I think the law changed so that you had to be given the chance to move onto academia. I recall there were three of us from the local primary who were moved onto Morrison's. I was twelve. It was 1947 to 1948.

### **Morrison's Academy, Crieff**

6. I looked forward to starting Morrison's as a day pupil. I didn't visit before starting there. However, I was already aware of the place because older pupils were allowed to come to my parent's dairy after school for half an hour. The reputation was that it was a 'step up' from other schools so I was quite pleased to be going.
7. My mother took us to Valentine's on the High Street to get my clothes. The school uniform was red stockings, dark blue short trousers, a rugby shirt and rugby trousers.

### *Layout*

8. The main building was built in around 1860. It was very large. The girls' school was separate in a stand-alone building which was fifty yards or so from main building. The boys and girls were very much segregated. I had no reason to go to the girls' school. The pupils may have been aged from around ten to school leaving age. There were around twenty children to each class.
9. The boarding houses were all over the place. One of them was across from the old Ritz cinema in Crieff. It was called Croftweit. One of the other boarding houses was called Benheath. There was also a boarding house across from [REDACTED] called Academy House. I wasn't ever in the boarding houses.
10. The school ethos wasn't explained to us when started the school. The pupils weren't allowed to mix with the local children.

11. If there was anything on after school, I kept out of it. In my time, the only playing field was in the school grounds. We played rugby in a piece of ground called Dallerie. We played cricket in the school grounds.
12. You had to take part in rugby. It was a form of violence but it was supposed to be just play. The violence was from other boys on the field. I was told that I was good at rugby by the referee. He would compliment me on my play because I was fast but it became evident that I would never be allowed to represent Morrison's in games against other private academies, so I gave it up, which I could do as it was an after school event. It wasn't part of the curriculum.
13. Pupils were not encouraged to venture below a line east to west which was on the High Street to keep away from the commoners. This was not that unusual at that time as my parents themselves laid down town boundaries to keep me away from the housing schemes.

#### *Day pupils*

14. There were three of us from Crieff Primary school who were day pupils. One of them was called [REDACTED]

#### *Staff*

15. Most of the staff were okay. There were two or three who weren't very good. Mr Hubbard, the science teacher, was one. We used to call him 'Mother Hubbard'. He was an alcoholic. He would leave us in the room unattended while he disappeared for most of the period. There would be Bunsen burners on. He would come back with a scarlet face and smelling of peppermint. In hindsight, he couldn't control his disease but the school protected him. He was seen as one of their own.
16. I didn't have any problems in my first year at the school. However, myself and the other two local boys were referred to as 'tradesmen's children'. I think we were the first batch to be going to the school from that type of family background. Crieff depended

on Morrison's to a certain extent because it provided people with employment. It wasn't just a school, it was a significant source of employment. There may have been as much as seventy or eighty people employed in total.

*After first year*

17. There was a change of rector after my first year. That's when things deteriorated. I also won a prize for maths at the end of my first year and I don't think it went down very well either. There was an attitude that no tradesman's child should be doing better than the fee paying children. We were seen as the lower echelons of society. I think this had something to do with the change of rector. He was called Dr Quick. We called him Quick. Everybody went by their surname. He was a bad one. He used to come down the middle of the main corridor which ran the full length of the school with his gown flowing. The pupils had to part to let him through. I can't remember the name of the rector before him.

*Discipline*

18. I had an arrangement with one of the boarders on a pro forma basis. He was a boy called [REDACTED]. He received comics from his parents. I would give him two and six pence so that when he had read them he gave them to me. I subsidised him for a few copies in advance and I requested my money back if the arrangement were to stop. Indeed, after Quick came, the did arrangement stop suddenly.
19. I asked the boy about it and he said something like, "oh I can't give you them anymore." He also said he "had to live and keep in with his other boarders and he had been told to stop". We got into a bit of an argument. Someone must have told Quick because he sent for us to his office. I got two strappings on each hand with the tawse and I didn't get my money back. My palms were sore for a quite a while afterward. [REDACTED] was simply reprimanded, presumably because he was boarder. I was the injured party as well. I think things just went downhill after that happened. There was a real shift at this time.

20. There was a teacher called zCDU He was quite a young teacher, probably aged around 25 to thirty. He used to parade around with a two and a half foot cane. If you passed him and he didn't think you were walking fast enough, you got whacked with the cane on the backside. He was very aggressive.
21. I think they had to bring in wood work and metal work into the school curriculum. They built a prefab outside the main building. As a result, they brought in a wood work teacher. I can't remember his name. He had formerly been an RAF serviceman. One day the whole class were tormenting him, saying things like, "we have servants doing what you're trying to teach us." They would refuse to do as he was instructing them and he had no control over them. He was getting the same attitude from the pupils that I experienced. He told me that he had been ostracised by the other teachers from the outset. The pupils had followed suit. I think because he hadn't come into teaching the traditional way.
22. I find that upsetting to talk about because it always brings back to me a line of thought which is still with me regarding future brother in law who returned from a Japanese prisoner of war camp to Crieff as basically a living skeleton.
23. The daily newsreels of Dachau, Buchenwald and many others started appearing in the papers and cinemas in 1945. They were fresh in many people's minds. There was no censorship then and I was at Morrison's thinking why am I here with such despicable ignorant people, both pupils and teachers who can show such inhumanity to a former RAF serviceman fighting on their behalf. They evidently thought that we were not in their class.
24. I don't know if the rector kept a record of discipline. There wasn't a code of discipline. It was just a case of the teacher thinking that you should be disciplined. The only teacher who carried a cane was Mr zCDU The other teachers just used their hand to discipline you. It would be a slap. If it was something more serious, you were sent to the rector and got the tawse. That was the standard procedure. zCDU stood out because he was so proud of his cane. He had a name for it, . The staff were a law unto themselves. I can't remember any external inspections at Morrison's.

### *Prefects/older pupils*

25. The prefects were the older pupils. If the prefects didn't like you, they would throw cricket balls at you when you came to the net. I was made to stand at the nets while they threw balls at me. I used to dodge them. The teachers didn't bother to get involved.
26. Some of the younger kids had to do what they were told. I was aware of some of the younger ones who couldn't stand up for themselves. They were under the control of the prefects. They were known as 'fags'. I kept out of it.
27. There were no school meals. Boarders went back to their own boarding houses. I lived approximately [REDACTED] from school gate in [REDACTED], so I went home at lunchtime.

### **Abuse at Morrison's**

28. I didn't enjoy swimming classes so I avoided going when I could. I was conscious of what I had experienced at home with my brother and I had a bad feeling when I was in the changing rooms. I can remember being in the changing room and people would be trying to open the doors of the cubicle. It gave me a bad feeling so I simply avoided going.
29. There was a pupil called [REDACTED] who was a police inspector's son. I got matched with him in boxing fights. He was supplied with kit, a head gear and gum shield. I had nothing. I can still see him coming, arms flailing with teeth sticking out. The matches were not regulated. The best thing that I could do was to stay down.
30. If your stockings slipped down, you got a belt across the backside or a slap around the head. The staff used to take great delight in mocking you, for example, if you

couldn't pronounce a word or something like that. It didn't matter where you were in the school, the beltings would take place. Other things would be getting a thump on the way back from the blackboard at the front of the class.

31. I used to get changed out of my uniform as soon as I got home because if a teacher saw you in town and your socks were down, you would get into trouble. You had to be tidy because you were representing Morrison's Academy in the town. It was a well-respected school in those days.

### **Leaving Morrison's**

32. I just cut myself off. It got to the stage where I didn't mix with anyone. My parents had acquired an old garage which had a store above it. I found a way of getting in through the back window. I always made sure that the latch was off so that I could get in. I spent my days in there reading. We had big tyres so I would hide in the tyres. It was my 'hiding hole'. If I had French or swimming, something I wanted miss, I would hide. I don't think anyone noticed I wasn't there.
33. It felt as if the whole school was picking on me. I don't know if it was just me feeling sorry for myself but I was aware of being 'under the thumb'. I was aware that I shouldn't be there, that I wasn't supposed to be there. It was the same for the wood work teacher.
34. I didn't stay at the school for as long as I was supposed to. It was so bad. I was aiming to get to sixteen to get out of there. My mother knew by then that there were various problems. I spent a lot of my time helping her in the office upstairs in [REDACTED]. No one asked me what was wrong. It completely demoralised me. In the end, I didn't speak to any of the other children.
35. I left the school in 1951 and ended up working with my father. We got a contract clearing all of the trees for the Loch Tummel Hydro Electric Scheme with the dam at Pitlochry. There were ten employees. When this contract finished my father bought a



small, empty sawmill which I built up. We were doing a lot of business with companies in Glasgow.

### **Life after being at Morrison's**

36. When I was around twenty or 21, my older brother came back from his time working in a clothing factory in Glasgow. In those days the oldest boy in the family was on a 'pedestal'. My parents put him in charge of the business so I walked out as I could not stomach the thought of working with my rapist who would be in a position of control. I cut myself off completely from the family as I felt they had put me in an invidious position. I took a job down the coal pits. I married three years later without inviting my parents or any of my family.
37. My wife and I moved to England. We eventually got our house there. I established a small furniture business making Queen Anne nests of tables. At its peak, we were producing a large amount every week.
38. After many years, we came back to Scotland and we acquired some land. We ended up with property near Crieff. I worked hard all of my life taking opportunities where I could and making my own way through life using life experience skills. In the end, we became relatively comfortable. I now have three grown up children.

██████████

39. My sister ██████████ went to Morrison's too. She got married at eighteen to one of the teachers. He was Mr RZB ██████████, who was about twenty years older than her. She had a lousy life. She became involved with him while she was still at the school.
40. She managed to get in touch with me around about the time her marriage broke down. Her husband went on to marry one of the other teachers. ██████████ just deteriorated after that. She had difficulties with alcohol and passed away at the age of 48.



## **Impact**

41. The impact on my education affected my future in terms of jobs and careers. I think if I had been given the opportunity, I would have been able to use my skills, particularly in mathematics, in a different way. I might have gone on to university to study mathematics. I feel if I had been given the opportunity, I might have gone a different way.
42. I feel aggrieved about my time at the school. I've never made any effort to have friends. It's always just been my own immediate family. I felt that I had to insulate myself from hypocrisy and was unable to trust, therefore, I did not get involved with people other than day to day necessity for work. This is something that continues to this day. Perhaps because of the insecurity I still feel, based on my first real perception when at Morrison's of what life held, that you basically could trust no one.
43. I feel my experience at Morrison's in terms of the deceit, hypocrisy and violence coloured my outlook on life. I felt joining the academy was a 'step up' when in fact it was the opposite.

## **Reporting of Abuse**

44. I have not reported anything which took place during my time there to the police.

## **Current concerns**

45. I have concerns about the school now. My concerns relate to the control and influence which the management have in relation to building and planning in Crieff concerning the school. For example, there was an old, laundry building in the grounds which was a listed property. One day, I noticed demolishing at the site of the building. The building was essentially demolished and replaced by a new building.

46. I made enquiries and discovered that the school management had been involved in the construction. I discovered that there was deviousness and underhandedness in their obtaining planning permission. I think that there were around forty houses which should have been notified of the plans but only three were. It wasn't advertised in the paper. It meant that a single officer at the council would be involved in deciding the application. They have manipulated the system for their own benefit.
47. The basic attitude of the school is that they are better than others. They think that they are superior. I think because of my experience there, I cannot stand injustice especially in relation to young children.
48. That is why I dug into how they operated in the 21st Century when it became evident that there was fraud, misrepresentation, avoidance of fire safety for the children and alteration of online documents.

#### **Records**

49. I don't have any records from my time at the school.

#### **Lessons to be learned**

50. I don't think anything I've learned can help the Inquiry. Given the concerns I have about the school to this day, I don't think anything will change because of the power and attitude of the school. My hope would be that the management of the school improved. I don't think the governors from my time should have been in charge of looking after children. I think I should have been given more opportunity during my time there.

#### **Other information**

51. 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..... 9/11/2020