

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

RAB

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is RAB. My date of birth is 1958. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My surname, until I got married at the age of 23, was RAB. My mum and dad are RFF and HDD. My father has passed away.

Background

2. I left school with qualifications in 'O' Level English and music. I was never very academic at school. I left school at sixteen and worked at a chemist for two years. I was definitely 18 when I started working at Redheugh Boys' Home. I did not have any qualifications in that line of work. I originally thought I wanted to work in social work and because my father was SNR at Redheugh it was an obvious place for me to start. I worked at Redheugh as a houseparent for two years. When I left, I would have been 20 or possibly 21. I left to work at a Salvation Army girls' hostel in Glasgow. I subsequently met my first husband and we moved down to Somerset when I was 23. My marriage broke down after a couple of years and I moved back to Scotland and worked in a supermarket for a while.
3. I briefly moved back to Somerset but things didn't work out so I came back to Scotland. I decided to go to college and did an office skills course then worked in various office roles. My last job was in the planning department. Despite hoping to work in social work, I never did. Working at Redheugh wasn't a good experience for me because I was so young and this probably made me change my mind.

Redheugh Boys' Home, Kilbirnie

4. Redheugh Boys' Home was in Kilbirnie. It was run by the Salvation Army. Its purpose was to provide care and protection to boys. Some were of school age and some were school leavers. They were aged twelve up to eighteen.
5. My father, ^{HDD} [REDACTED], started working at Redheugh when I was eight years old. We were living in Irvine at that time but when I was eleven we moved into a flat within the main building at Redheugh. I lived at Redheugh from the age of eleven until I was sixteen.
6. My father, ^{HDD} [REDACTED], had quite a poor childhood. His father died very young and his mother died when he was in his teens. His mother had been attending a Salvation Army women's guild group run by the Salvation Army and when she was dying a Salvation Army officer used to visit her and when she died he offered to do the funeral. A few weeks after the funeral, the family somehow picked my dad to go to a Salvation Army service to show appreciation and respect. On that Sunday morning, someone who had worked beside my dad, spoke to him, and his parents subsequently encouraged him to get involved with the Salvation Army and they took my dad under its wings. This was the start of my dad's involvement with the Salvation Army.
7. My mum was brought up by the Salvation Army. That is how my dad met my mum. My dad always wanted to help people and give them a better life than he had. Another relative was a senior probation officer and he encouraged my dad to become a probation officer. His first job was in England so we moved down there. This was his first introduction to social work.
8. My dad got a job back in Scotland so we moved back to Scotland. He realised very quickly that he hated his new job. One day when he was working at court he met ^{RIX} [REDACTED] ^{RIX} [REDACTED] who was then ^{SNR} [REDACTED] at Redheugh and he asked my dad if he would like to be the residential social worker at Redheugh. He said he was interested but he never actually started as the residential social worker. He went straight in as ^{SNR} [REDACTED] ^{SNR} [REDACTED] ^{RIX} [REDACTED] subsequently moved and my dad became ^{SNR} [REDACTED].

9. My dad left before it closed. He was promoted to an office in Stepps and was responsible for having an overview of children's home which included Redheugh. A Salvation Army unit in [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. This unit started off for adults with learning difficulties. It was originally [REDACTED] but it changed to [REDACTED] where there are all sorts of activities. My father was highly respected by everyone and even [REDACTED] for the work he did with the children at Redheugh. He was a [REDACTED] and became the [REDACTED] which is now called [REDACTED]. He was highly respected in everything he did. The staff, the church, the community, they all respected him.

My Childhood at Redheugh

10. Even when I was very young I spent a lot of time at Redheugh and often stayed with a houseparent, [REDACTED] ER, who was like an auntie to me. A Salvation Army officer was in charge of Redheugh at that time and I would often play with his children. The staff were always nice to me. I would even stay at Redheugh during school holidays. Redheugh became a big part of my life from the age of eight. I have a lot of fond memories of Redheugh from when I was a child.

Working at Redheugh

11. I applied for the post of houseparent in writing and I was obviously in a good position because my father, at that time, was [REDACTED] SNR. The post was advertised but I am not sure where. I don't remember what specific skills they were looking for to fulfil this role. I was never asked to provide any character references and they never asked for any sort of disclosure checks to be done. That didn't exist at that time. I don't think they asked for any character references because of who my parents were. It might also have been because I knew all of my dad's bosses. By the time I started working at Redheugh my mum and dad had bought their own house in Kilbirnie.

12. I am not aware if I had a probationary period. No one ever told me if there was. My first line supervisor depended on which house I was working on at the time.
13. When I started working at Redheugh at eighteen there were problems and challenges but there always would be in that kind of work. I was a houseparent and I loved working with the boys. I don't have any unhappy memories at all. I was never aware of any bullying or bad feeling amongst the staff or with the kids. There was the odd fight between the boys but that is bound to happen.
14. There were occasions when I was scared. I was only eighteen, small and probably wouldn't be described as a strong person. Some of the boys were eighteen, bigger than me and could be quite intimidating. Some staff were a lot stronger and were far more capable of dealing with situations. They were far more disciplined and the boys would listen to them and calm down. I was much weaker.
15. I never had any issue with the way the staff were with the children. I felt there was a good relationship between the staff and the children. Some children were hard to get through to and would put up barriers when we were trying to help them. They acted as if they didn't care and they rebelled. Eventually the barrier would break down and that was when it was really rewarding. On the whole I felt everything ran quite smoothly.

Daily Routine

16. I was at Redheugh for two years and all that time I was a houseparent. We did two shifts. They were from 7:00am to 3:00pm and 3:00pm until 11:00pm. There was no nightshift cover initially before I worked there but there was by the time I started. On the dayshift we made sure the boys had their breakfast before they went to school or to work. We served the breakfast and cleared the tables so didn't actually sit down and eat with them. Breakfast tended to be quite chaotic and we did our best to try and get the boys organised. At the evening meal staff would sit at the tables and eat with the boys.

17. Some of the boys worked externally or had apprenticeships. A few boys, who weren't working, remained within Redheugh and were allocated work sections. They were given jobs doing things like sweeping the leaves from the driveway. The boys had different jobs to do within each work section.
18. Every morning at 10:00am, everyone who was there would gather in the church within Redheugh. There were prayers and a thought for the day. Religion probably wouldn't be allowed to be pushed like that nowadays. We had a delivery of rolls every morning so after the prayers we all had a hot filled roll. All the staff gathered, including the cleaners and the boys who were there through the day. It was a nice half an hour to chat and catch up.
19. After all the boys had gone to school or work in the morning we might take boys to the doctors or dentists but if not there was always plenty of other things to do. We mended the clothes and generally did other things that needed done.
20. There were three separate houses. They were called McGregor, Wallace and I think the last one was Knox but I am not sure. Some rooms, within the houses, had six beds in them and they were bunkbeds. You wouldn't get away with that now but that was just the way it was back then.

Supervision/Training

21. Each house had their own senior houseparent, so whichever house I was working in, that senior was my line manager. If I had any issues with anything or felt the need to report anything it would be to SNR [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED]. I never worked directly with my father.
22. I don't remember what the appraisal system looked like if there was one. I don't remember being monitored or supervised.

23. I remember going on one short in-service training course but I can't remember what was taught on the course. It was at Langside College in Glasgow on a day release basis for around a year. Everyone who was on the course also went away for two weekends. One was at an in-service teacher training course at Seamill. There was another weekend away somewhere else but I can't remember where. I can't remember much about these weekends. The training I went to at Langside was organised by Redheugh. I am not sure if I got a qualification or a certificate at the end of the course.
24. The course at Langside was all to do with residential care. It wasn't just for the care of young people. There were people on the course who worked with elderly people, and some who worked at List 'D' schools. There were two nuns on the course who looked after the elderly. Part of the training I remember was about writing up notes and how to get involved with the kids and take them places like youth hostels.

Structure and Recruitment of Staff

25. My dad, ^{HDD} [REDACTED], was ^{SNR} [REDACTED] and he was ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. ^{SNR} [REDACTED] was ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. ^{SNR} [REDACTED] were senior houseparents and houseparents. Some of the houseparents were ^{IEQ} [REDACTED], ^{RLX} [REDACTED] and Malcolm Daddy. There were other staff who were domestics and others who did the laundry. There were also cooks, kitchen assistants and someone employed to work in the craft unit. There was no nightshift cover when my dad started. He changed that and a woman, Margaret Higgins, started working nightshift. It subsequently changed and two people worked on the nightshift. I remember when Margaret first started she was given a master key for the whole building and just left to get on with it. I thought that was weird and I am sure that wouldn't happen nowadays.
26. My dad held staff meetings every week. He also had meetings with psychiatrists and social workers to discuss individual boys' cases. They were Dr Wardrop and Dr Clark. I didn't go to these meetings.

27. I was never involved in the recruitment of staff for Redheugh and know nothing about the recruitment policy or practices. I have no idea if references were required by applicants or if they were ever contacted.
28. There were some volunteers at Redheugh. Some came in and cut the boys hair and things like that. I have no idea how any volunteers were recruited or vetted. I don't know who supervised the volunteers. There were always staff working with the volunteers so they would never be left alone with the boys.
29. I never managed or supervised anyone and was not involved in training anyone. I don't remember what the supervision and appraisal process was. I don't recall getting any kind of appraisal when I was there.

Policy/Strategic Planning

30. I had no responsibility for any policies in relation to the care, including residential care, of children. I had no involvement or knowledge of anything in relation to strategic planning.

Children

31. Children were referred to Redheugh for placement by the social work department. A lot of the boys were referred as a result of family breakdowns or abuse. A fewer number were there because they were truanting school or other reasons like the parents couldn't cope. Some poor kids were there because their parents were alcoholics.
32. I don't know what assessments were carried out before a child was placed in Redheugh. When they arrived at Redheugh they were assessed by social workers who came in to do that.

33. Children stayed at Redheugh for varying lengths of time. Some children didn't want to go home because Redheugh was an escape for them. There were over thirty boys but I am not sure of the exact numbers. Most of the boys went home for the weekend. Some didn't go home if they didn't have one to go to or because it wasn't safe. Some didn't if their weekend leave had been stopped because of bad behaviour. There were less staff there during the day because the boys were at school or work. In the evening there were normally two members of staff to each house.

Food

34. The food the boys got was lovely. The cooks were really great. They would get things like mince and tatties, fish and chips and homemade soup. There was one boy who had a special gluten free diet. The staff were really good with him and made sure he got the right food.
35. There was always a choice of food for the boys. I don't remember it happening, but if any boy didn't like the food on offer I am sure they would have been made something else. Even at breakfast in the morning there was a big choice of porridge and cereals.

Sleeping arrangements

36. There were three houses and within them some of the bedrooms contained six beds, some had four beds and I think there were a couple of rooms with two beds. All the rooms had bunkbeds. Each house had around twelve boys. In the minimum support unit when boys were getting ready to move to independent living, then there were single beds in there. There were only four beds in there so not all boys ended up in there. The boys moved to the minimum support unit around the age of sixteen or seventeen. They would have left school and had been doing well. This was to give them more opportunities to fend for themselves and be more independent.

Washing/bathing

37. There was a main area which was downstairs in the main building which had rows of showers and wash hand basins where the boys could do their ablutions. It was basic but it was always clean. When the boys were showering there was always a male member of staff present to stop the boys from fighting.

Leisure time/ schooling

38. Trips were organised for the boys to go youth hostelling throughout the year. They would go, one house at a time, just for the weekend. They went to Newton Stewart and Oban. There were activities like potholing and walks round the lochs. There was lots of nature, wildlife and picnics. It was lovely. The warden in charge of the hostel in Newton Stewart was really good with the boys. When he was getting married the boys made a tartan blanket weaved in the loom at Redheugh and also made him a footstool. He moved from Newton Stewart to the hostel in Oban.
39. During the school holidays a lot of the boys went home. Those who didn't go home for whatever reason, would go youth hostelling. If boys had lost their weekend leave because of bad behaviour they wouldn't be allowed out of the building and spent a lot of the time watching the TV. The atmosphere was far more relaxed within Redheugh at the weekend.
40. There were lots of leisure activities. The boys would go swimming, there was the craft room and there were football teams. One time they arranged an 'It's a Knockout' style competition for the boys. Sometimes the volunteers came in and helped the boys in their activities. A lovely woman used to come in and teach the boys how to use the loom, and that was how they made the blanket for the man at the hostel. Some of the volunteers may have gone swimming with the boys, but I am not sure.
41. There was a snooker table within Redheugh. The police would sometimes come in and play snooker with the boys. I thought this was really good because it meant the boys got to know the police and that they weren't just there when something happened.

42. I am not aware of any member of any staff taking a boy back to their own house. Any time that boys were taken out of Redheugh it was organised. Sometimes the boys went down to the town themselves because they were deemed old enough. The staff didn't go with them.
43. The children who were going to school went to Garnock Academy in Kilbirnie.

Healthcare/medication

44. If the boys needed any medical attention, the houseparents would deal with it. There were no nurses or medical staff there. If the child had prescribed medication it would be administered by the senior houseparent. If they were not there it would go to the houseparent to give it to the boy. The medication was held under lock and key in the medical room. The only medication I ever saw any child getting was paracetamol.
45. I am not aware of any child being given medication to manage or control their behaviour. I don't know if parents were consulted as to whether their child could be given any kind of medication.

Chores

46. The boys didn't do any manual work like scrubbing or polishing the floors, or anything like that. The only boys who would do any work were the ones who didn't go to school or work. They would be in 'work sections' and given tasks like using the great big brushes to sweep the leaves off the drive. There was a gardener and sometimes the boys would help him.

Visitors

47. The boys had visits from their families, social workers and some had psychiatrists who came to see them. I don't remember if visitors were vetted in any way but I don't think so. I don't remember if any of the visitors took them out of Redheugh. Social workers

were sometimes asked to come in, by the seniors, if it was felt that they weren't coping or going off the rails. Sometimes the children might ask for them to visit.

Reviews

48. The children had regular reviews with their social workers but I can't say how frequent they were. The seniors organised this. I am not sure if visitors were left alone with the children or if a member of staff was present during their visits.
49. Any recommendations that were made by either the psychiatrists or the social workers, it would be the responsibility of the senior houseparents, the deputy warden and the warden for ensuring that they were carried out.
50. If children were happy at Redheugh and it had made a change to their life being there, often the social workers would request that the child remain at Redheugh. The main goal however was to help the children become independent and get them back home again. Unfortunately, a lot of the children didn't want to go home. I am not aware what the process was leading up to the children being discharged and moving on. Some moved on to List 'D' schools, which was sad, but I don't know anything about that process because I wasn't involved in it.

Preparation for Leaving

51. When it was time for the boys to leave, we always tried to arrange them 'digs' or sometimes kind people in the town took them in as lodgers. Often boys who worked at the steelworks got friendly with other boys and when it was time to leave Redheugh they moved in with these friends.
52. My father arranged for some boys to get apprenticeships. They generally did the apprenticeship for the last two or three years they were at Redheugh. I know that these boys have gone on and have been very successful in their trade. One boy, [REDACTED], wanted to be a joiner so my dad went to a local joiner and he had the availability to take [REDACTED] on. [REDACTED] did really well and it turned his life around. He ultimately

succeeded in his own business. A lot of the boys who didn't get apprenticeships worked in the steelworks industry.

53. As far as I am aware, when the boys left Redheugh, the social worker continued to have contact and had some responsibility for them.

Living arrangements

54. We lived in the flat, [REDACTED] in the main building, from when I was eight up until I was about fourteen. At the age of fourteen we moved to a cottage which was still within the grounds. This cottage had been used by RIX [REDACTED] so when he moved out, we moved in. We were there until I was sixteen when my parents bought a house in Kilbirnie. There were boys' bedrooms just outside our flat and then there was the office. These boys were the younger schoolboys aged between twelve and sixteen. The sixteen to eighteen year old boys who worked, were also within the main house. I think they were in the Knox unit. They were in an extension to the old building which was accessed by going down a few stairs from the first floor. The only unit that was outwith the main building was the minimum support unit. Everyone else was in the main building.
55. Below the Knox unit was a flat which was occupied by a member of staff and their family. The deputy warden and the senior houseparents lived in Kilbirnie and in other nearby towns. They travelled to Redheugh to work. When I was working at Redheugh I was still living with my parents in Kilbirnie. When we moved out I think it was Thomson Mason, a senior houseparent, who moved into our flat in the main building with his family.
56. Everyone had access to all the residential areas within the main house. The external doors were locked overnight although some of the boys still managed to escape.
57. When my dad started there were no night staff. Basically, before the backshift finished, they would make sure that all the boys were in their beds and then leave them alone.

I know the boys used to make their beds look as if someone was in the bed and go out and get up to mischief in the town. They would break into cigarette machines and fill pillowcases with cigarettes. There was no-one at Redheugh keeping an eye on them through the night. My dad changed that and employed Margaret Higgins as waking night staff and then later on someone else so there were two night staff.

Discipline and punishment

58. The schoolboys were given pocket money and if there was any bad behaviour they would be fined and pocket money would be taken from them. Sometimes, as a punishment, they would not be allowed out on any of the activities, like swimming. Sometimes they could lose their weekend leave. Some boys were deliberately bad through the week so they weren't allowed to go home at the weekend. They were happier being at Redheugh than they were back at home. It was the senior houseparents who were responsible for punishing the boys.
59. I am not aware of any formal policy or code of conduct in relation to discipline and punishment. I can't remember if there was any responsibility given to the more senior children in relation to the discipline of the younger boys.
60. Examples of bad behaviour, which may result in children being disciplined or punished, might be if they were being cheeky to staff, or refusing to do something that was asked of them or just generally rebelling. There were lots of reasons. The senior houseparent would decide if they were to be punished and what the punishment was to be.
61. I never, ever, saw any child being physically punished. I never saw any child being hit or physically abused. Children weren't taken away and segregated from the other children as a punishment.
62. I never disciplined a child because I wasn't a strong member of staff. I suppose I would have spoken to a child to discipline them if they had misbehaved. When I started at Redheugh I was young and inexperienced and was out of my depth. The boys took

advantage of that. I would only ever raise my voice but the boys wouldn't take me seriously. When that happened I had to get the senior staff involved and they would deal with it. I know I shouldn't have been doing that job because I wasn't strong enough and was far too young.

Recording

63. The only place I remember anything being recorded was in the incident book which was a notebook held in the office. The details of any incident would be recorded in this book, with your name beside it. Everybody had access to this book and it would be read by other staff when they started their shift. It was the first thing that was done when you started work. I don't recall there being a discipline or punishment book.

Restraint

64. The only time I saw something which would be classed as restraint was when the boys were fighting they would be pulled apart. I never saw any child being held down, physically restrained or hit.
65. I was never trained in restraint procedures and I don't believe there was any such training back then. Sometimes children would be separated and taken into another room but never in a violent way. Staff would talk to them to try and calm them down and stay with them. They wouldn't be left on their own.
66. I am not aware of any child ever being administered medication as a means of restraining/sedating or calming a child.
67. At no time did I ever restrain a child at Redheugh. At that time, I don't think there were any policies or practices, written or unwritten, relating to restraint at Redheugh. I never saw excessive restraint being used on children at any time.

Concerns about Redheugh

68. I am not aware of there ever being any concern, within Redheugh itself or to any external body or agency, or any other person, because of the way in which children were treated.

Reporting of complaints/concerns

69. If any child in Redheugh, or another person on their behalf, wished to make a complaint or report a concern, I am not sure what the process was. They would either approach SNR [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED]. There were definitely occasions when complaints were made to SNR [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED] but I was never involved in that process. No child ever made a complaint or reported any concerns about the way they were treated to me. I don't know, if someone had made a complaint, if this information was recorded anywhere.

Trusted adult/confidante

70. Children tended to get close to one particular member of staff so if they wanted to confide in anyone it would probably be that member of staff. Sometimes, this might even be one of the cleaners. Some of the cleaners knew more about the boys than the staff did. The boys talked to the domestics and had a good relationship with them. I don't know what the cleaners would do with the information if any child reported something to them. I don't think the boys were told who they could speak to specifically if they had any concerns about the conduct or behaviour of other children, staff or others, towards them.

Abuse

71. I am not aware of there being any definition of 'abuse' in relation to the treatment of children. I never saw any behaviour that I would consider to have been abuse of any

kind. The children never reported any abuse to me. Looking back, if abuse had been taking place I am confident that it would have come to light at or around the time it was occurring. If children were being abused I am sure they would have reported it to my dad or another senior. If a child, for whatever reason, was reluctant to report something then I am not sure that it would come to light, unless it came from other children.

Child protection arrangements

72. I have no idea how staff, including managerial staff, were given guidance and instruction on how children in their care in the institution should be treated, cared for and protected against abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour towards them, whether it be from staff, other adults, or other children. I was never given any such training or instruction. The only course I did was an in-service course but I don't really remember anything about it. There was definitely no such guidance or instruction given at Redheugh.
73. I was never given guidance or instruction on how to handle, and respond to, reports of abuse or ill-treatment of children by staff, other adults, or other children.
74. I don't know how much autonomy/discretion was given to staff and other adults, including managerial staff, in relation to reports of abuse or ill-treatment.
75. I have no idea what child protection arrangements were in place to reduce the likelihood of abuse, ill-treatment, or inappropriate conduct by staff, or other adults, towards children at the institution.

External monitoring

76. I am not aware, at any time, of any inspectors or other officials visiting Redheugh to carry out any sort of inspection.

Record-keeping

77. The boys had individual files which all staff had access to. It contained their details, their family situation and the background circumstances leading to them being referred to Redheugh. When the social workers were visiting, sometimes we had to do a small report about their progress or if they were regressing. This would be in the file. Any staff member could record any information in the file but if there had been an incident, that would more than likely be recorded in the daily incident book. Everything that happened was recorded in this incident book.
78. Within the child's file, there would also be a typed up report with details of their reviews. I don't remember an awful lot about the files that were kept. The reviews, carried out by the social worker and the senior houseparent or the management, may have been carried out every three months but I am not sure if that was the case all the time. The child, as far as I am aware, wasn't normally present at the review but again I am not sure.
79. I can't really make comment on the quality of the record keeping because I can't really remember much about it.

Allegations / Investigation of abuse/ Civil claims

80. I was never the subject of an allegation of abuse or ill-treatment of a child or children who resided in Redheugh when I was there.
81. I was never involved in any investigation on behalf of Redheugh into allegations of abuse or ill-treatment of or into inappropriate behaviour by staff or others towards children.
82. I was never involved in the handling of reports to Redheugh by former residents, concerning historical abuse. I was never involved in the handling of civil claims made against Redheugh by former residents, concerning historical abuse.

Police Investigations/ Criminal proceedings

83. When I was at Redheugh I was not aware of any police investigation into alleged abuse at Redheugh. I only became aware very recently that Stewart Burgess had served two sentences for sexual assaults. It was in the newspapers. I had left when I was told this but I know [REDACTED] had to dismiss Stewart. As far as I remember my dad was still SNR [REDACTED] at Redheugh and he was really upset about it all. It was heartbreaking to hear about it.
84. I have never given a statement to the police or the Crown or given evidence at a trial concerning alleged abuse of children cared for at Redheugh.

Convicted abusers

85. The only person who I ever heard about who had been convicted of the abuse of a child or children at Redheugh was Stewart Burgess and it all came to light after I had left. I knew Stewart and I think he was there for roughly my last two months before I moved to work in Glasgow. He was a houseparent and wasn't a salvationist and didn't wear the Salvation Army uniform. I think he went to the Church of Scotland. I didn't work directly with him or have anything to do with him. I didn't really get to know him at all. What I do remember about him was that he was quite irritating sometimes because of his mannerisms. He had different ideas about how to do things but I can't give an example of what I mean. He was quite officious and looked down on me.
86. I personally didn't have any concerns about him but I wasn't there long enough and didn't work directly with him. I wasn't aware of anyone else having concerns about him and it all came to light after I had left.
87. I have no idea how Stewart was recruited or if he had any qualifications in childcare. I don't know if he had been trained before he came to Redheugh and I don't think he was subject to supervision or monitoring. I wasn't aware if he was the subject of any previous allegations.

Other staff working at Redheugh

88. I have been given the names of a number of staff who may have been at Redheugh at the same time I was there.

HDD

89. HDD is my father. The kids knew him as HDD but probably not to his face. He was brilliant with the kids. He was all for them and wanted to do his best for them and give them what he didn't have as a child. Everyone was full of respect for him, even the kids and it wasn't through fear. He had a good rapport with all the children. I never saw him disciplining any child. He absolutely never abused any child and I never heard that he had.

RFF

90. RFF is my mother. My mum started at Redheugh as a houseparent then became the head housekeeper. She was in charge of the domestic staff. My mum got on great with the kids. I never saw her disciplining any child and she never abused any child and I never heard that she had.

PXL

91. PXL worked at Redheugh as did his wife. I worked with him for about six months before I moved to Glasgow. He came from Airdrie I think, then he got a council house in Kilbirnie. He may have been in his thirties. He was a houseparent too. He was quite lackadaisical and was very religious and in my mind a little too 'churchy'. Everything seemed to revolve around the Bible and prayers. I didn't really know him that well because I moved away to Glasgow. I got on well with him and his wife and never had a problem with him.

92. I can't really describe how he was with the children because I never saw him working with them on a one-to-one basis. I only ever saw him with a group and other

houseparents. He was okay with the children and I never saw him being nasty to them in any way. I never saw him disciplining any child. I never saw him abusing any child and never heard that he had.

PZD

93. I don't remember anyone by the name of PZD

IJU

94. I know IJU but I am not sure if I ever worked with him. I think he was one of SNR at some point, possibly before . He would have been in his late twenties or early thirties when I first met him. IJU left Redheugh to work at a Salvation Army boys' home in Glasgow called Mount Bruce. He was the manager of the Centre when my father was dying in hospital and my brother was working there too. He told my brother that he should do what he needed to do to fit in with visiting our father. I knew IJU more through the work he did for the Salvation Army, rather than working at Redheugh. He is a great guy and is a very caring person. He still visits my mum. I would say that I know IJU very well.

95. I saw IJU working with the children after I had left Redheugh because I would still go in and visit. IJU was really good with the children. I never saw him disciplining children apart from verbally maybe giving them a talking to. I never saw him abuse a child and never heard that he had.

Applicant allegations

96. PJI has given a statement to the Inquiry.

97. I don't remember this person. The name, PJI means nothing to me. I can't think who this person is. I never sanctioned or punished this person. I know that because I never sanctioned or punished anyone. I would never have abused him.

98. At paragraph 11 in his statement he has described some of the staff. He said

'HDD ██████████ was SNR ██████████ and his wife, RFF ██████████ was his partner in crime. HDD ██████████ was a big lump of a man and was about six feet four inches tall. He had grey hair. RFF ██████████ was about five feet two inches tall and stocky with ginger hair. RAB ██████████ was their daughter. She was tall with blond hair and a medium build. There was ..., ..., George Gillon and Arthur Steven.

The staff were from their late thirties to fifty years old. RAB ██████████ was the youngest in her early twenties and ... was the oldest.'

99. I would describe my father as being tall, although I wouldn't ever describe him as being a big lump. I can't remember the colour of my father's hair back then. I would never describe my mum as his partner in crime. She was small, stocky and I would describe her as having strawberry blonde hair and not ginger. I find it hard to say the ages of the majority of staff because I was so young but between thirty and fifty is possibly correct.

100. At paragraph 35 in his statement he has said

'The main ones who punched, slapped and kicked children were ..., ..., RAB ██████████ RAB ██████████ ... and ... It wasn't just me but everyone was getting it. It was regular and at least twice a week. It was like being at home and getting a smack off your mum or dad, only ... was a lot bigger than my dad. If you were fighting, that's how things were done back then. It wouldn't be okay now. The first time I was hit I felt sore and afraid. You got used to it because you had to put up with it. It got to the stage that if you were in the corridor and you saw one of them coming, then you ducked into the smoking room or the toilet to dodge them.'

101. I have no recollection of who PJI ██████████ is so it is difficult for me to respond to his allegations. All I can say is that I never abused anybody. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I can't explain why he would say

this about me. I definitely agree that if what he said did happen then this would be classed as abuse.

102. PJI [REDACTED] goes on in his statement in paragraph 38 to say

RAB [REDACTED] *was apt at giving you a cuff round the head, on your body or a wee kick on your knee, in the corridor. It was never on your face and was for absolutely no reason'.*

103. Why would I have hit someone for no reason? I wouldn't have hit anyone in any circumstances. Absolutely not. This did not happen. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. It is nothing to do with the passage of time. I know I never did that. I agree that if what he said did happen then this would be classed as abuse.

Part D allegations

104. I have been made aware of a document held by the Salvation Army which relates to a complaint about me. It is a disclosure made to a Salvation Army child protection officer on 19 June 2007 by RHW [REDACTED].

105. I remember RHW [REDACTED] and we were friends, at least I thought we were friends. He was about four or five years younger than me. RHW [REDACTED] didn't have a good life as a child and he didn't have any goals in life. He never wanted to look for work. He felt everybody owed him something. Before RHW [REDACTED] came to Redheugh, he had an affair with an American serviceman's wife when they were based at Dunoon. He talked openly about it. What he said is probably correct that he did go to America but I don't remember this.

106. RHW [REDACTED] had two sisters and I visited their home after he left Redheugh. I was always kind to them and gave them birthday and Christmas presents. RHW [REDACTED] and I were very close and when I was in Gourock visiting my family I would visit RHW [REDACTED] in Greenock. He had

another sister who lived in Glasgow and [RHW] took me with him to visit them. When his grandmother died I visited [RHW].

107. I left Redheugh to work at the girls' hostel in Glasgow and I have a feeling [RHW] left Redheugh around the same time. What [RHW] has said has really shocked me.

108. I never sanctioned or punished [RHW]. I never abused him. I care for [RHW] and his family.

109. I have been shown a redacted copy of this document which states

'Then [RHW] (aged 14 approximately) was put into care to The Salvation Army home at Redheugh and the staff obviously had information about his past. [RHW] felt that one member of staff in particular took full advantage of knowing the situation he had faced in the past and decided to use this to her advantage. He had been on a trip to America which had not turned out well for him but then when he was back in the centre one of the staff knew that he was back and came in to see him. He had been asleep on his bed and she woke him up and started off by chatting generally to him and then moved on to more personal issues.

The employee was [RAB] who was a houseparent at the time. [RHW] thought she may have been around age 26 when this happened. [RAB] asked questions about whether [RHW] was going home for the weekend or not and started to make 'advances' towards him. At first [RHW] thought this was just a bit of 'banter' but then [RAB] invited him to go with him to a disco with her friend. [RHW] was flattered at the thought and went to the disco with [RAB] and her friend. As the evening went on [RHW] mentioned that he needed to get back to Redheugh and [RAB] informed him that she had booked him out for the weekend making it look as though he was going home, When [RHW] asked why this had been done she advised him that she had booked a room for them both so that he could stay over with her. [RHW] mentioned that he was ok with the idea of this at first but it was only later he thought to himself how this had been an inappropriate action as she was a member of staff and should not be doing something like this.

Following this RAB had regular contact with RHW coming into his room at night and coming into his bed'.

110. I remember RHW did come to a disco with me. He would have been at least seventeen at the time. It is possible that I had actually left Redheugh by that time but I was regularly going back to visit Redheugh because it was like a second home to me. It was my friend's brother's 21st birthday party and it was in Glasgow in the middle of nowhere. RHW knew where it was and wanted to go. I don't know who signed him out. I never twisted his arm up his back and forced him to go. We were pals. He probably shouldn't have been with me but he was my pal. Again this is another example of me being too young to work there and being too close to the same age as the boys.
111. RHW did stay out of Redheugh that night but only because he wanted to. I never forced him. We stayed at the house of the boy's parent whose birthday it was. We went back to their house after the disco where we continued partying. We did not sleep in the same room, and there is no way that anything happened between RHW and I. We didn't actually go to our beds that night. We just sat up all night and chatted.
112. I never abused RHW in Redheugh. I would never have done it because it would have been total disrespect to Redheugh, my father, the Salvation Army and everything it stood for. I got very fond of and cared for RHW and we became friends. I even visited his dad who was a wee old man. He still worked but they had nothing. What he has said has hurt and saddened me. I never abused him.
113. He says at the end of the report that I regularly got into his bed. There were at least six other boys in his room so why would I do that? I can honestly say that I never went into RHW's bed at any time. I can't believe he has said this.
114. The American serviceman's wife, who RHW had an affair with, visited RHW at his house when she was over here on holiday. She brought him a whole lot of American sweets. I know he had an affair with her. He was very young when he had this affair.
115. I agree that if what RHW said happened then it would be classed as abuse.

116. I always wondered what happened to RHW after he left Redheugh and whether he did eventually get a job. I lost touch with him after I got married and moved down south when I was 23. I didn't know if he was dead or alive then all of a sudden I have been hit with this.

Helping the Inquiry

117. I never saw or heard of any abuse while I was at Redheugh. I can't explain how it can be that such allegations of abuse have now been made. The only explanation, and I might be wrong in saying this, but it could be that a lot of people are jumping on the bandwagon looking for money. I met a boy, ██████, a few weeks ago, who had been in care at Redheugh. Before that he had been in a care home run by nuns. He told me someone had approached him and asked him if he wanted to give a statement in relation to the abuse he had suffered with the nuns. He was told he got about £11000. ██████ said he wasn't going to because he didn't want to talk about the abuse anymore.

118. I cannot comment on how the experiences of abuse some children had at Redheugh has continued to affect them and impact on their lives because I never saw any abuse. I understand if children were abused how it would affect them, but I never witnessed it.

Lessons to be learned

119. I was too young. There was no training. There wasn't such a thing as disclosure or vetting. I wasn't prepared, trained or experienced enough to carry out the role I was in at Redheugh. I know things have changed now and things are far stricter. I loved Redheugh and I would never say anything bad about it. I am just so sad that this has happened and I am aghast.

Other information

120. 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.. ^{RAB} [REDACTED]

Dated.. 29 - 01 - 26