

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Supplementary Witness Statement of

CBX

Support person present: No

1. My name is CBX My date of birth is 1952. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I have already provided a statement to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry in relation to the time I spent as a pupil at Loretto School between 1960 and 1970. I have been asked to expand on some of the points in my original statement and I am willing to do that as far as I am able.
3. There was a junior school and a senior school at Loretto. The headmaster of the junior school was Hamish Galbraith and the headmaster of the senior school was Bruce Lockhart.

Paragraph 33

4. At paragraph 33 of my original statement I said "It was one individual only. This person was known about by the school and by the headmaster and he had told me he had been investigated on previous occasions. He was a serious serial paedophile, that is simply the way that it was. He had sexual relationships with a wide range of young boys."
5. When I said he was known about by the school, the only formal basis on which I can substantiate that statement was that my mother was informed and she said that she took it up with the school. I can't offer any guarantees about that because that was my mother. I told her and she told me that she had informed the school but then I never heard anything else.

6. In terms of my perception, this was so widely public and so flagrantly public that it would be incredible if it had not been known by those in charge. It was very flagrant. When the final investigation came up, which I think was run by Bruce Lockhart, all of the pupils who were asked were well aware of what had been going on. There was a pupil who was genuinely upset. I think his name was [REDACTED] but I am not certain about that. He felt very compromised because on one hand he didn't want to say anything but on the other hand he was well aware, as everyone was, of what was going on.
7. To my knowledge Ray-Hills had only been investigated on one previous occasion. I think he had had some liaison with some pupil. These things change and I think that pupil had been a willing participant to begin with but probably, as these things often happen, he became an unwilling participant. I assume that's how that liaison became public. In terms of his explanation, Ray-Hills told me that he was sitting on the bed of this pupil and the pupil took Ray-Hills' hand and put it on his penis. That was what Ray-Hills told me and I think probably he felt that he had been rather compromised by the circumstance.
8. I think he told me about that to convey that I was to keep things very quiet. I would say he was quite relaxed during that conversation. There was a contradiction because on one hand it was so flagrant, but there was also a certain degree of interest in keeping these things private. He didn't speak to me about what that investigation had entailed. All the man said to me was that he had been reported on a previous occasion and that he had been investigated. He just made the statement and the purpose of the statement was to suggest to me that I should remain quiet.
9. At the time the headmaster was Hamish Galbraith and I assume it was reported to him but I don't know, it depends when that investigation was done. I suppose I made an assumption that it was Galbraith.
10. When I said that he had a sexual relationship with "a wide range of boys", I think I was aware of that at the time. One has to be careful of "a wide range". It was more than one let us say. I meant a range of individuals but all I can say is that it was more than one during the time that time, when I was ten years old to fourteen years old. I knew

about there being other relationships because one of them told me. He told me exactly what had happened. I don't particularly want to share what that was but I will. He had masturbated the teacher, Ray-Hills.

11. I don't remember Ray-Hills ever talking to me about other boys, other than on the occasion when he said that he had been investigated.

Paragraph 43

12. At paragraph 43 of my original statement I said "It was so public. The headmaster cannot have been unaware. Ray-Hill told me he had been investigated by Loretto School on a previous occasions. There were sexual comments and diagrams on the blackboards in his classes. The headmaster would have seen them, he must have been aware."
13. This person was a French teacher and I remember for example before a French lesson there was a lot of highly explicit stuff put on the blackboard. It was just things like drawings of penises and things like that. I don't remember any of the comments on the board. Ray-Hills was late in arriving and I remember that the headmaster, Galbraith, came in. When I say he was aware, one can be egregiously unaware but all circumstances would suggest that he had to know. It was really rather flagrant. He didn't react to what was on the blackboard that day. I don't remember any other teacher coming in and seeing such things on the board. It may have happened in the past but I just remember that particular occasion. It was just so obvious that one kind of cringed in the circumstances.
14. It was the children who drew the pictures on the blackboard. Ray-Hills would come in and feign shock and wipe it all off. It was a kind of game. It didn't happen too regularly. This is just a particular occasion which I remember.
15. Everybody was aware of what Ray-Hills was doing. They were aware that he had certain sexual contact with some pupils. For the most part, it was discussed casually between the pupils. However, when there was a final investigation by Bruce Lockhart

then I remember one pupil, who I have recalled as possibly being called [REDACTED], being genuinely upset by the circumstances.

16. I wasn't aware of any of the staff being concerned about Ray-Hills. Nobody expressed any public concern at the time. They may privately have been concerned but I don't know.

Paragraph 46

17. At paragraph 46 of my original statement I said "I reported it to my mother but not to anyone else. My mother was from a scheme in the west of Scotland and she was scared of authority. Loretto School was authority. My mum did have meetings with the headmaster but I don't know what happened. Knowing my mother she may have just found the whole thing too intimidating. It was my hope, having told my mum, that it would stop."
18. I was still at the junior school when I told my mum and I would have been about eleven years old. She would have spoken to Hamish Galbraith, we had no dealings at all with Bruce Lockhart. My mother would only have met with him on one occasion because my parents lived in Africa so this would have been one of the few occasions when my mother was actually in the U.K. I don't think they saw her again. After that meeting she didn't mention anything and nothing changed for me at all which is why I have a certain degree of scepticism. Sometimes it's easier to sweep things under the carpet. I know that she had a meeting and she spoke to the headmaster and I think she spoke to Ray-Hills. I think she spoke to them both but that is really as far as I can go. I do not know what was said. It was quite a long time ago. Attitudes towards these sort of things have changed over time to some extent.

Ray-Hills departure from Loretto School

19. I was in the senior school when Ray-Hills left the school. I would say that I was around fifteen years old. Clearly there was something else that blew up there but I wasn't involved with that. I know it was with a man called [REDACTED]. The whole thing with

somebody else became public and that precipitated further inquiry by Bruce Lockhart. [REDACTED] was a pupil in the junior school. I don't know what in heaven's name had been going on. He must have got into difficulty in some way and then, as people often do in these circumstances, he spilled the beans but what they were I'm not terribly sure.

20. I think that it was widely known that there had been an incident involving [REDACTED] and that was talked about by pupils. I have various friends who were at Loretto and I have spoken about that with them. I think I probably do know something about what that incident was but it is hearsay and it is something I learned later. It became known. The incident was not with Ray-Hills at that time. The incident involved [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but, in some way, for some reason, that precipitated an investigation of Ray-Hills. I have no idea whatsoever how one incident led to the other. I suspect that when someone is in trouble for X they may, as a justification, bring out something not directly associated with X. He was a young pupil and this would have been frightening for him. In those circumstances you put everything out on the plate.
21. We were never able to have a perception of him leaving because I think there was an investigation by Bruce Lockhart and then we came back and from what I understand he had moved on to another preparatory school. The school didn't say anything to the pupils about him leaving but they wouldn't, would they? It was suppressed and the man was allowed to go onto another school as far as I was aware. At that point there is no question whatsoever that Loretto School was well aware. That was what happened and I don't think that Loretto School is alone in having dealt with these sort of things in this way.
22. Ray-Hills never spoke to me about leaving. I was in the senior school and I had no contact with him whatsoever. I stayed at the school until I was eighteen. My contact with Ray-Hills had ended completely and absolutely before he left the school. The major thing was that there was a physical distance between the junior school and the senior school. I moved at the age of thirteen and the contact stopped by and large at that time. He didn't say anything to me about that contact ending, it was just one of these things.

23. After Ray-Hills left the school there were absolutely no contact between us whatsoever

Reporting of abuse at Loretto School

24. I became aware of the article by Don Boyd and I wasn't alone in becoming aware of it. I was dealing with another issue with a journalist of the [REDACTED] in relation to the provision of Catholic education in Aberdeen. They were trying to make out some issue, which I can't remember now. Basically what I said was that there was nothing to be made of that and as far as I was aware it was above board. However, the Don Boyd article had recently been published and I said, probably inadvisably, that what Don Boyd had said was absolutely true. I had a certain degree of regret about opening up to this journalist, unaware of the impact that it would have.
25. My attitude in terms of communication with Loretto School is that, these things are actually quite serious in their own way. My own attitude is that it is fine, I was a child of colonies and we all understand that the British Empire and all of these colonies were pretty scandalous. I was sent off and I never saw my parents again and it was all pretty bad but that is fine. I am actually, by and large, fine. My point is a slightly different point, if that were to happen to one of my children then I would not be fine about it.
26. Ultimately it's not the kind of institution that I would like to send my children to but some people don't have a choice. Some people are in difficult circumstances. Within its own context Loretto, apart from this particular aspect, was a perfectly good institution. I don't have any particular axe to grind with it. My parents were in Africa and I was taught by post to begin with so what were they supposed to do? I was going to be sent away from home. Within that context it was ok.
27. The school is probably very wise. I know they are advised by upstanding Edinburgh lawyers. The lawyers will of course advise them to do nothing and say nothing. They treated me perfectly well when I contacted them. All I did was send an email and they acknowledged my email which was fair enough but they made no commitment either

one way or the other. One wouldn't expect them to actually. All I simply said was that this was going on.

28. The school never accepted to me that these things had happened but I think some headmaster at some point did make a public statement that they are aware that these things were going on. I'm not satisfied that they have dealt with my complaint but there's nothing else I can do. What are they supposed to do? They will protect themselves.

Final Thoughts

29. In the final thoughts section of my original statement I said that "My attitude is that in many ways I'm very grateful to Loretto." To expand on that, I had a rather unusual upbringing in that I basically didn't see my parents. The school provided me with stability to an extent, even though it was institutional stability. There's not a single teacher who I could take any objection to. They were decent people trying to do their job as well as they could.
30. I also said that "there were one or two oddballs who were strange, in their own way." In terms of what I meant by that, I am increasingly aware that there are a lot of oddballs all around us. We have the moral police behind every bush and they are doing well in terms of telling us that we are not doing what we should be doing. I was referring to eccentricity, nothing bad at all. There are oddities in that type of institution. I can't think of any teacher who was improper in any way whatsoever.

Other information

31. 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..... 25 March 2021