

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HLD
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No.

1. My name is HLD [REDACTED] I like to be known as HLD [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1950. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into boarding school

2. I was born in Helensburgh and grew up in Balloch, at the southern end of Loch Lomond. My father was [REDACTED] and my mother was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have one sister, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who is just over a year younger than me. Her married name is [REDACTED] and she now lives in Winchburgh.
3. My father was in the clothing and drapery business and had about three shops in [REDACTED]
4. I went to Jamestown Primary School near Balloch for three years until I was eight years old. I used to walk half-a-mile from our house to get the bus and then either walk back or get the bus; you could do those things in those days. Apparently after two days at primary school I said "Right, that's it, I've been to primary school" and didn't want to go any more, however, as far as I remember, I didn't have any problems at Jamestown Primary and, although I don't have many memories, I think they are happy ones.

5. When I was eight the Headmaster of Jamestown Primary School called my father in and asked if he was able to afford to send me to a private school. I had been doing quite well academically and he thought that would provide a better education for me. I don't know what knowledge my parents had of boarding schools, but I suspect my father also thought the quality of the education would be better. Three of my cousins had been to Morrison's Academy at Crieff and I think the only reason Morrison's was chosen for me was because these cousins had gone there, although they had left by that time. I don't know why they didn't chose a closer school in Glasgow.
6. My parents didn't get on at all, which was perhaps another reason I was sent away. My father used to beat my mother and so this was a way of getting me out of the family home. I was born five weeks premature and I have since learned that had been because my father had thrown my mother down the stairs. I recall she had a broken arm once as I was growing up and bruising at other times, all inflicted by my father.
7. I had no input in the decision to send me to Morrison's. I was told I was going and that was it. I don't remember how I felt at being told and I don't remember visiting the school before I started. I don't know whether my parents visited first either.
8. There was no exam to sit, I think my parents just had to pay the money and I was accepted. We were given a defined list of items that I had to have before I went. There was a school outfitter in Crieff, but there was also a big department store in Glasgow where I got everything that was required. Every boy had to have things like a kilt, a uniform jacket, a serge overcoat, a tie and all the rest of it. Everything had to be carried in a trunk, which I still have.

Morrison's Academy, Crieff

General

9. Morrison's Academy was probably the best part of a three hour drive from where my parents lived in those days. The school was set in its own grounds, which were quite

large and it had its own playing fields elsewhere in the town. The main building itself was quite impressive: Scottish gothic and built of red sandstone.

10. It is accessible to the town. You go out the gates, down a fairly steep hill and in less than two hundred yards you are in the centre of Crieff, albeit the centre of Crieff was completely out of bounds except on a Saturday morning.
11. There was a preparatory school in separate grounds, which fed into Morrison's and which I think had a different name. We didn't have anything to do with it, but boys went there up to the age of eight. I'm not sure if it took boarders as well.
12. The Academy was divided into a boys' school and a girls' school and there was distinct segregation, to the extent that 'never the twain shall meet'. There were separate buildings for boys and girls within the school grounds and separate boarding houses scattered around Crieff. In effect boys attended one school building and lived in certain boarding houses and girls attended another school building and lived in different boarding houses. The two were completely separate, however all were under the umbrella of the Academy.
13. There were five boarding houses for boys and three boarding houses for the girls. I was in one called Dalmhor, along with thirty-one other boys ranging in age from eight to eighteen years. I remained in Dalmhor throughout the ten years I spent at the school.
14. All the houses were large and spread throughout Crieff. Dalmhor was probably fifteen minutes' walk from the school grounds, which was the same for most of the other boarding house, other than a couple that were near the school gates.
15. Dalmhor was divided into five dormitories that were called dormitory six, dormitory nine, dormitory eight, dormitory ten and dormitory seven and boys moved between them as they got older. As I recall there were six beds in dormitory six, which I was in at first, all occupied by boys the same age as me, who would have been starting in

Primary four. I moved through the dormitories with pretty much all those boys as we got older.

16. As well as the dormitories in Dalmhor, there was a dining room, where we ate all meals, the kitchen, a common room and, during my time, an extension was built and a prep room was put in there.
17. There was no central heating in those days, just a stove in the common room and electric heating in the prep room, but other than that the house was not heated. I can remember frost on the inside of the dormitory windows in the morning and all we had in bed was one blanket that we were provided with and a travelling rug, which we provided ourselves. If you had a hot water bottle, it had to be filled from the tap, so by the time you came to fill it the hot water was almost non-existent after everybody had had a bath.
18. Most of the boys' classes were held in the main school building, although there was also a more recently built building called 'The John Smith Building', where the sciences were taught along with technical studies and art.

Structure

19. There were about three hundred and fifty boys at Morrison's when I was there, most of whom were boarders. There were a few day pupils, but not many. There was no animosity between boarders and day pupils, although I never thought much about it. Friendships were permitted, but a boarder couldn't go and visit a day pupil at his home and nor could a boarder visit any other boarding houses.
20. The housemaster of Dalmhor for the first three years I was there was the [redacted] teacher, [CFR] [redacted]. After him, in 1961 or thereabouts, he was replaced by [PDS] [redacted] [PDS] [redacted] who was a [redacted] teacher. I think [CFR] [redacted] was replaced because he and his wife had a young baby and it just wasn't practical.

21. Both ^{CFR} [REDACTED] and then ^{PDS} [REDACTED] lived at the house with their wives. When ^{CFR} [REDACTED] was in charge his flat was within the house on the same floor as the youngest boys' dormitory and when ^{PDS} [REDACTED] took over the school had built an extension to the side where he and his wife stayed, although there was still access to the house itself.
22. You could have spoken to either of the housemasters whenever you wanted, it would have been possible to have knocked on their door and done so, but I never did and they never checked on how any of us were doing. They were in fact considered by all the boys as 'the enemy' , who were not to be confided in. Very rarely did the housemaster sit in during prep time and we saw virtually nothing of their wives. Their wives had no pastoral role whatsoever and in fact, even though there was also a matron who looked after the laundry, there was no maternal figure we could go to at all.
23. There were two matrons in my time, but I can't remember their names. The first was a bit of a battle-axe and the second was a bit younger and more approachable, but I never felt either was a person I would feel able to confide in. They lived in a room above the garage adjacent to the boarding house.
24. Most of the day-to-day running of the house was done by the senior boys, the house prefects, who basically 'ruled the roost', dictating or, more correctly, enforcing the rules. There were both house prefects and school prefects and boys could be both, although the housemaster determined which boys were to be house prefects, but there was a distinction between them. All were fifth and sixth year boys, between sixteen and eighteen years old. A house prefect had no authority in the school, although a school prefect did have authority in both the school and the house. If you were a school prefect, you might tell a boy not to run in the corridor or something like that, but I don't think there was much more authority than that. A school prefect may also have been able to give lines, I'm not sure.
25. I think the prefects wore a special tie and, although not all senior boys became prefects, we knew who they were.

26. The two housemasters had different techniques. ^{CFR} [REDACTED] was more hands-on and would be there to dictate and enforce the rules, but ^{PDS} [REDACTED] was much happier to devolve all responsibility to the senior boys. As long as the house was kept quiet and tidy and things appeared to be running smoothly, ^{PDS} [REDACTED] absolved himself of any responsibilities.

Routine at Morrison's Academy

First day

27. I started at Morrison's Academy in [REDACTED] 1958, when I was eight years old. My parents drove me there, but I don't remember much of my first day. I would imagine we were met by the housemaster and shown our dormitories, but I don't recall.
28. I started at the same time as a number of other boys, however I knew none of the others before then. Some were from Scotland and some were from overseas. I made friends with one boy called [REDACTED] whose parents were in Hong Kong.
29. I do recall that when I first arrived, like any eight year old child would be, I was homesick. Suddenly I was in a completely alien environment, away from my parents, away from my home and away from my own possessions.

Mornings and bedtime

30. The youngest boys were woken at twenty-past-seven in the morning and we would have to get ourselves into the bathroom for a 'cats lick' of a wash at the sink. We had to be staggered going to the bathroom and the rest of the house were up at half-past-seven. After we'd washed we would make our beds and head down for breakfast in the dining room at eight. We all had to be on time at the dining room, to be late was a misdemeanour.

31. Breakfast probably lasted about fifteen minutes and usually consisted of porridge and morning rolls, which were put in the middle of the table for us to help ourselves to. It was the case that the person who ate the fastest managed to get another roll, because there was always insufficient.
32. The housemaster and the matron sat in on all meals and after we'd finished breakfast we'd all have to clean our teeth and get ready for school, which started at nine o'clock.
33. We weren't allowed back into the dormitory until we were going to bed at night. We were restricted to the common room or playing outside.
34. We'd all walk to school and spend the morning there before heading back to our various houses for lunch about twelve o'clock. Lunch was from half-past-twelve until one o'clock and then we'd all walk back to school for the afternoon.
35. Dinner, or tea, would have been half-past five and between the school finishing at half-past three and then there was sometimes rugby training, or the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) on a Friday, or music, or something else. Rugby training involved a long walk through part of the town to get to the playing fields. It was actually over a mile each way and so we did a lot of walking.
36. Tea was from half-past-five to six o'clock and then prep would start at half-past-six. We'd all be doing prep until half-past-seven, when there was a break for a cup of tea or cocoa. At that point the youngest dormitory would go to bed and then gradually through the evening the older boys would go to bed. I think final lights out for the senior dormitory was ten o'clock. It never varied.
37. The prefects would check that everybody was in bed at their allotted time and that the lights were out. They would also check that everything was neat on our bedside cabinets and then the door would be closed and that was it. We had to lie and go to sleep in total silence or there would be punishments.

38. One or two of the prefects and both Housemasters used to creep around in soft-soled shoes and listen at the door. Suddenly they would burst in and demand to know who had been talking and punish the culprit by hitting him on the backside, over his pyjamas, with a slipper or something.

Mealtimes/Food

39. All meals were served in the dining room after they had been prepared by the kitchen staff on site. I'm not sure how many kitchen staff there were. There was no refectory in the school so we all had to get back to Dalmhor at lunchtime and there was no time to dawdle as it was a fifteen minute walk each way.
40. There was a metal gong in the hallway which was struck every mealtime and it was considered a major misdemeanour if you were late. Each dormitory sat at the same particular tables and after the meal had finished all the chairs, which were wooden, fold-up ones, had to be put to one side and the tables had to be cleared. Everything had to be taken through to the scullery so that the floor could be swept by the kitchen staff.
41. There was never a great amount of food. The menu was standard from one week to the next, so we always knew what we were going to get. On Tuesdays and Fridays, for example, I think we got chips and maybe a fried egg. Monday lunchtime was cold meat, which was more like cold fat with meat round the edges.
42. Whatever we were given, we had to eat it all. I always did eat what I was given, but I remember one boy didn't like what he had and yet he was made to sit at the table until he had finished it, after everyone else had left. I think it was probably the housemaster that forced him, although there was no physical coercion. Confirmation of the boy having a clean plate was probably devolved to one of the senior boys.
43. We could get extra food sent by our parents, which was called 'tuck'. It didn't consist of very much, perhaps a bar of chocolate or something like that. We didn't have the space to keep much, so you couldn't have a hamper full of goodies sent. I recall writing

to my mother telling her not to send any more tuck because I didn't have anywhere to keep it.

44. There was also a tuck shop at the school gates, which we were allowed to use during the week. That was about the limit of our geography and the limit of our extra sustenance and I would say I was often hungry.

Washing/bathing

45. I think we were allowed a bath once a week. We couldn't all have a bath every night, so we were allocated a bath night. I don't remember there being showers, other than if we were playing rugby. There were three baths in one bathroom and one in another and all thirty-two boys in Dalmlhor had to share them.
46. There was no privacy in the big bathroom and when we were younger we would share a bath. As we got older we bathed on our own, however there was only ever a minimal amount of water in the bath. If you were the first in you got the clean water, but if you weren't you'd be bathing in somebody else's dirty water.
47. Matron would supervise the younger ones, but we bathed ourselves as we got older. I don't recall the matron being there to tell us how to brush our teeth properly, although she may have been.

Clothing/uniform

48. At school we wore short trousers until the end of third year and then for the last three years we wore long trousers. We also wore a blazer, which was dark blue and edged with coloured braid, and red socks. Every year a photographer would come and take a house photograph of us in our uniforms, which everybody would then have to buy. I have one from every year and can provide copies should the Inquiry wish them.
49. We would get back from school at half-past-three and change from our outdoor shoes into slippers, so that we weren't taking mud into the boarding house. If we weren't

doing anything else like rugby training or the CCF, we were allowed to put on old clothes and go across the road to the field and play football or other games.

50. All our clothes had name tags on them because the laundry was done externally. Matron was in charge of the laundry and when it all came back she would sort it out.

Leisure time

51. After school and before tea, we had a little free time. Outside Dalmhor, across the road, was a field where we played rounders or football, if the weather was okay. Inside, in the common room, there was a radio and a record player, which we could use. There was no TV and there was nowhere we could go if we wanted some time to ourselves.
52. One of the few times we were allowed to watch the TV was when JFK was shot in 1963. We had to be given special dispensation to watch it on a TV that had been put into the sick room.
53. There was not a lot to do in the little leisure time we had. Sometimes on a Friday evening, when there was no prep, we had a film club and we would show feature films in the assembly hall at the school. I was the projectionist and would set up the projector so that anybody who wanted to come could do so. I'm not sure how many times that happened, but it was reasonably frequently, especially during the winter. Otherwise we would listen to records or to the radio, or build 'Airfix' model kits. In the summer we would more likely be outside playing football.
54. At CCF on a Friday, we would all be in army uniform and march up and down outside the school. As well as the CCF, I took piano lessons for a few years and I was in the Scouts, it was all a way of getting out of the boarding house and away from the restrictions.
55. The only time we were allowed into the town was on a Saturday morning between nine o'clock and midday. The housemaster would issue us with one shilling pocket money

that would come from a float that our parents had put money into. In those days you could buy two bars of chocolate, but you couldn't buy anything bigger, such as an Airfix kit, which were two shillings. You could get extra money if there were sufficient funds in the float from your parents. You would have to ask the housemaster and tell him what it was for, or you would have to save your money if you wanted one.

56. On a Saturday afternoon there was often a rugby match if you were in any of the teams and eventually I made the 2nd XV. Sometimes we would go away in a bus and play another school at rugby, sometimes another school would come to us.
57. On a Sunday afternoon the senior boys would take the juniors on a walk, which we all had to go on. Even if it was pouring with rain, we would still have to go, wearing our serge trench coats and our kilts, however generally we looked on these walks as leisure time when things were a bit happier. It could be quite a simple walk or, with the better senior boys, it could be a bit more interesting.
58. When I was a senior I used to try and make it a bit more interesting and would take boys on some serious marches into the hills. I remember one occasion we went up a narrow gorge and had to cross the stream, so I just told the boys they would have to cross in their best shoes and dry them off when we got back. We would get back about five o'clock in time for tea and then there would be more prep in the evening, ready to start the next week.
59. There was a rota for the senior boys to look after the juniors on a Sunday afternoon, so if it wasn't my turn, I would just do my own thing and maybe go for a walk myself.
60. Latterly, when I was about fifteen or sixteen, PDS [REDACTED] allowed people to bring bicycles to school and so sometimes on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday we were allowed to go out on our bikes. I think that was only for the senior years and I don't recall whether we had to leave details of where we were going. It helped being allowed a bike because, even though the incarceration was still there and there was still very little freedom or facility to do what I might have wanted, because schoolwork and games still took precedence, I could get away for a few hours.

Trips and holidays

61. Sometimes the rugby trip on a Saturday afternoon would involve getting on a bus and going to another school somewhere, but there were few other trips. Very occasionally we went to Pitlochry Theatre, usually in the summer, but only once a year.
62. Occasionally, particularly in the summer, we would go on field camps with the CCF, if we wished. It was voluntary and I spent the first two weeks of the summer holidays at Cultybraggan Camp near Comrie in Perthshire and also at other camps in Cumbria and in the Brecon Beacons. That was two weeks of having fun, running about, pretending to be soldiers and mixing with regular soldiers.
63. When we came back from South Wales, we got on the train about midnight and it was actually a troop train. The soldiers had occupied all the seating and we ended up lying on the floor, all the way up to Glasgow.
64. Holidays were normally spent at home with my parents. At first in those days there was a train from Crieff so I used it to make the connections back home. After the line was closed, I think my parents used to have to come and pick me up or I would get the bus. When I did get home to see my parents my father's violence towards my mother continued. I recall attacking my father, flicking a tie at his legs to try and stop him from getting at my mother.
65. My friend whose parents lived in Hong Kong came home with me for a bit in the summer holidays, although that didn't happen very often, perhaps only twice.
66. My mum later told me that when the holidays were coming to an end I used to 'forget' things. Basically, I was reluctant to go back to school and using a delaying tactic and looking for a reason that I didn't have to.

Schooling

67. At the start of every school day, the rector, a man called J. E. G. Quick, would take the school assembly. He would stand up and read out all the parish notices, if there was anything to report, and then we would all troop off to classes. The rector was also the Classics teacher, but we never had much interaction with him whatsoever.
68. School was in general fine and the education was good. There was the cloud of the boarding house hanging over you, but what happened in the boarding house and what happened in the school were like chalk and cheese.
69. I got my Highers and I think most people achieved what they were expected to, so the school was good in that respect.

Prep

70. We had prep every evening after tea and before we went to bed, except on a Friday and Saturday. Even on a Sunday there was prep. It was held in the boarding house and was supervised by one of the house prefects, only very rarely did we see the housemaster during prep.

Healthcare

71. There was a sick room where you would be put if you had the flu or something like that. I was in there once when I fell over in the playground. I wasn't contagious, but I had a gravel rash on both my knees from falling over while wearing short trousers. I don't know why I was put in the sick room, but I was there for something like four days. It was isolating because nobody came to see me, other than to bring me food every now and again.
72. I remember on another occasion there was a flu outbreak and out of my dormitory of eight boys, six were in bed. Fortunately, or perhaps not, I didn't contract it and had to ferry meals on trays to all the other boys.

73. I don't remember what role the matron had in healthcare, I don't remember whether she issued any medications that might have been required. I don't think she was a nurse, despite her title.
74. There was a cottage hospital in Crieff and I think boys were taken there if they had anything more serious than a cut or whatever. I don't remember a doctor coming into the boarding house, although they may well have done. I don't remember a doctor carrying out any sort of health checks either.
75. In school we were given the usual inoculations, for instance the BCG and polio, which were done in the sanatorium. Although it was called the sanatorium, it was actually just a room in the janitor's house, which was within the school grounds. I remember when I was twelve being diagnosed as red/green colour blind. At that time I'd had thoughts of joining the Merchant Navy, so that had to be put on the backburner.
76. The only other thing regarding healthcare was that we did go and see a dentist every so often. I don't know if that would have been if we had complained of toothache, or if we went for regular check-ups.

Religious instruction

77. On a Sunday, about eleven o'clock, we went to church and we all had to walk in crocodile fashion to get there. We were in church until half-past-twelve and afterwards we went back to Dalmhor for lunch.
78. All the boarding houses went to church and which church we went to depended on whichever one was closest. The boys from Dalmhor went to the Presbyterian Church at the bottom of the road, another boarding house went to the Episcopal Church, which was just along the road. I think there was one Roman Catholic boy, who had to walk all the way down the town by himself. Church was just something you had to endure on a Sunday morning.

79. At school assembly at the beginning of the school day there might have been a reading and a hymn, but that was about it. I wouldn't have said there was extreme religious adherence, it was a way of occupying us boys for an hour-and-a-half on a Sunday morning.

Work

80. The changing room, where we took off our muddy outdoor shoes, always had to be kept swept and cleaned. Chores other than that included sweeping the floors in the rest of the house, making our own beds and changing the bedsheets every week. Every week we would put the bottom sheet in for a wash and swap it with the top sheet. There may have been other things we had to do, but I don't remember the minutiae.

Birthdays and Christmas

81. I don't recall any boys' birthdays being celebrated. At Christmas there may have been tinsel and a meal before we all dispersed, I don't recall. Christmas wasn't such a big thing in Scotland at that time.

Visitors

82. There were three school terms and half-term was from midday on Friday until Sunday night, which wasn't a long time to go home and come back. In addition to that twice a term you were allowed to have a visit from your parents. That could be at any time on either the Saturday or the Sunday, in which case you were free from nine o'clock on Saturday morning until five o'clock on Sunday evening, coming back to the boarding house to sleep on the Saturday night.
83. My parents couldn't come on the Saturday because my father had his shops, they could only come up on the Sunday. They would arrive around lunchtime, after church, because of the three hour drive from Balloch. I had to be back at the boarding house

by five o'clock, so I could only ever have a few hours with them. There was only really enough time to go for a meal and have a short walk.

External Inspections

84. There may have been some sort of inspection carried out while I was at Morrison's, but I certainly wasn't aware of it and nobody ever spoke to me if any inspectors did come.

Family

85. Although there was a telephone in the hallway in Dalmhor, we weren't allowed to use it to phone our parents unless there was a special reason and we had permission, instead we could only write letters. Every Sunday morning we were told we had to write letters to our families and I still have a number that my mother kept. I have provided copies of some of them to the Inquiry.
86. There was a period between breakfast and going to church on a Sunday morning when we all had to sit down and write to our families. We could write what we wanted, they were never censored.
87. In one letter dated 1961, when I was eleven, I write 'I have got an essay for not being in bed on time. I had to sweep the changing room floor, that was why I was late'. In another, dated 1959, I write 'I have had four and a wee bit slippers because I had not written out corrections in my homework'.
88. In another letter dated 1960, I address it from 'Dalmhor Concentration Camp' and repeatedly write 'I do not like this dump'. At the end I write 'P.S. I have no friends'. I have also written about having to pay a shilling, which was our weekly pocket money, for a wedding present for RZB a teacher at the school. At the

time he was not one of my teachers and clearly I felt aggrieved at having to pay money for a person I had no connection with. I don't recall there being an opt-out either.

89. I also have a number of photographs that were taken during my time at Morrison's and I have provided copies of two to the Inquiry. One shows me in my school uniform when I was about ten at the opening of one of my father's shops, which was on a Saturday morning, holding the scissors for cutting the ribbon. I had to get special dispensation to leave the school to go to that opening.
90. My sister came to Morrison's two or three years after me, when she was eleven or twelve, and was in an adjacent boarding house to mine, however we rarely met. She was completely separate because she was in the girls' school. The only time I would see her was when the girls were sometimes taken to the science and arts building, when it just so happened I was in the physics lab. Sometimes I would throw her a shilling or sweeties, or something like that. Our seeing each other wasn't frowned upon, there just wasn't the opportunity.

Personal possessions

91. We all had very little in the way of personal possessions. All we each had was a small bedside cabinet and a shelf in the common room, which was about three feet long, for our school books and any other personal items. There was little room for any toys we might have wanted to take. I certainly never had any sort of comforter, such as a teddy. I don't know if any boy did, because I think that sort of thing would have been frowned upon. I'm not sure, but I would imagine it would have been stipulated somewhere that we couldn't take a lot of toys with us.
92. We also had a bedside cabinet in the dormitory, but that had our clothes in it and so there was very little space for any personal possessions.

Running away

93. I never ran away, although I thought about it and I think some boys did. I can't remember what might have happened to boys that did, I don't know the details. I would expect they might have been expelled or removed by their parents. I have spoken to my sister who told me that she remembered me asking our father how far it was back to Helensburgh and he told me it was fifty miles. She said that he later told her that he thought I had been thinking of running away. That doesn't surprise me, but I can't say that I do remember asking.

Discipline

94. At school, the teachers all used a 'Lochgelly tawse', I don't remember there being any other punishment. I think every teacher would have had a strap and there were one or two masters who might have wielded it more than others, but I would say that, in general, it was proportionate and used when necessary.
95. I recall the [REDACTED] teacher, RZB [REDACTED] used to use the tawse occasionally and he also used to throw the chalk duster at you, which could be quite painful if it connected.
96. I wouldn't have said the tawse was used excessively, it would have to be a severe misdemeanour to warrant its use. Obviously sometimes I might have thought its use was unjustified, but looking back I would say the teachers used it legitimately, although it did absolutely no good whatsoever. Your hand would sting for a while and then you forgot about it.
97. Both housemasters that I had, CFR [REDACTED] and PDS [REDACTED], were teachers as well, but any issues there were in the boarding house did not follow us into class. It was a whole different environment at the school.
98. In Dalmhor there were certain rules we had to follow: the place had to be tidy, it had to be cleaned and the floors swept if necessary and there was no talking after lights out. Some house prefects would creep about outside the dormitory door listening for anyone talking after lights out.

99. The rules may have been written down somewhere, I don't know, I don't remember, they were more learned by osmosis. We all knew about keeping everywhere tidy, including our personal space and our shoes had to be polished every night. Our shoes were all kept in pigeon holes and one of the house prefects would check there was no mud on them. If they weren't done properly, they would have to be done again and then there would be a punishment.
100. There were non-physical punishments issued in our boarding house such as writing essays, or writing out lines, such as 'I must not talk during prep'. Such punishments had to be done in the small amount of free time we had, we weren't allowed to do them during prep. These mindless punishments were meted out on a regular basis by the house prefects, who would check them afterwards. I don't recall the housemasters issuing such punishments.
101. As a boarder, our geography was the boarding house, the school, the playing fields or the town centre, but only on a Saturday morning. If you were found anywhere you shouldn't be by a prefect or the housemaster there was a good chance you would be 'gated', which meant you weren't allowed down the town on a Saturday. Sometimes this punishment went on for two or three weeks, depending what the misdemeanour was.
102. At the time I went to the opening of one of my father's shops I had been on punishment for splashing water in the bath. The matron must have witnessed this and reported it to the housemaster, CFR, who gave me a punishment that involved learning a poem and that punishment went on for six weeks. I don't remember how many stanzas there were, but it was a mindless poem and all I can now remember of it was 'let us, oh let us, eat lettuce'. After the six weeks I had to stand in front of everyone in the house and recite it, all for splashing water in a bath, as young boys will do.
103. History would suggest that when I became a prefect I and my contemporaries would continue with the abusive behaviour we had been subjected to, but we didn't. Things changed because we felt that there was no point in giving mindless lines, instead I

gave useful things to do. I used to give boys a poem to learn that they might use in an exam, something I knew they could use in their schoolwork.

104. We also didn't go down the route of physical punishment and so it actually petered out. I remember being criticised by PDS [REDACTED], our housemaster by that time, for not being strict enough and for not 'wielding the big stick' to the extent he would have liked. He told me I wasn't being strict enough, but I never thought there was any point in beating the living daylights out of somebody. I never thought it would do them any good and it would be better to give them something intelligent to do.
105. There was no training or instruction given me when I became a prefect, I had grown up in the system and therefore I knew what was required. I was never told what the parameters of my powers were and there was nothing written down that I'm aware of. The housemaster, PDS [REDACTED], decided I was a suitable person and I was made a prefect.
106. Fagging was common practice and, although it was all mundane stuff, it was considered part of the environment at boarding school. When I had been a fag I had to clean one of the senior boy's shoes, or clean his bootlaces after rugby and other such menial tasks for him. I had a fag when I was a prefect, but about the only thing I would get him to do was carry my bag to school. Looking back now, fagging was just slave labour.
107. I don't remember there being any suspensions by way of discipline. There may have been expulsions and, although I'm sure there would have been some, I don't know what behaviour may have merited a boy being expelled. I don't recall any specific expulsions.

Bed Wetting

108. In my early years at Morrison's there was a young boy from the Solomon Islands at the school called [REDACTED]. He arrived having never worn shoes before and I recall

he suffered quite badly. He would wet the bed frequently, but he was in a totally alien environment.

109. I don't remember if it would have been the housemaster or one of the prefects, however he would be made to wash and change his own sheets and then he would be beaten. It probably would have been the housemaster. He would be beaten across the backside with a slipper or some such implement. At that time I wasn't much older than [REDACTED] was and I thought that was appalling, however there was nothing I or any of the other boys could do about it.

Abuse at Morrison's Academy

110. In my initial years at Morrison's Academy there were one or two senior boys who would be regarded as bullies. One in particular, [REDACTED], was just a thug who took great delight in meting out physical punishments to us younger boys. I used to keep clear of him as much as possible.
111. I remember one little boy called [REDACTED] was beaten with a drill cane, which the prefect, [REDACTED], had for CCF. He was struck several times across his bottom over his pyjamas and he had red wheals for days afterwards. All he had done was speak after lights out when [REDACTED] caught him.
112. If a misdemeanour was more serious the house master might get involved. [REDACTED] CFR was more hands on and would dish out any punishments. Essentially any boy would be given a public flogging and [REDACTED] CFR's preferred weapon was a gym shoe. In full view of all the other boys, he would strike a boy across his backside, on top of his clothing, three or four times with a gym shoe. As [REDACTED] he was quite [REDACTED] and he was quite a big bloke too.
113. With [REDACTED] PDS, he devolved all responsibility to the senior boys who would dish out the same punishment. Sometimes those senior boys would use a gym shoe, sometimes they would use a wooden coat hanger, sometimes it was a cane. I

remember on more than one occasion a house prefect would come into our dormitory, having been listening at the door, and make a boy bend over while he struck them three or four times on the backside across the pyjamas.

114. A misdemeanour that might invoke the housemaster getting involved would be if you were seen in the town on any day other than a Saturday morning.
115. A friend of mine was in the 1st XV rugby team and was a muscular chap and he stood up to the prefects who came at him. At that he was left alone, but if a boy was of a smaller stature and not perhaps as brave, he was considered fair game. As all boys got older and became more senior, they became less prone to physical punishment by the prefects.
116. Eventually, by the time I was about fifteen it got to the stage that I wasn't being beaten and things improved. I don't know if the beatings themselves waned because the offenders had left school or because I just knew by then what I could and couldn't do.
117. I know that some pupils suffered more than perhaps I did. Whether that was because of the size of them or because of their nature. All it needed was for a boy to be picked on by another and his life could be made a misery. There was no way for that boy to get out of it and it would be unlikely for another boy to intervene and try and stop it. If anyone had they would have been picked on too, so everyone just kept their heads down and tried to stay out of the way. That was why I took every opportunity to get out of the house and go for a walk, or go for a bike ride and why I joined the CCF and the Scouts.

Reporting of abuse at Morrison's Academy

118. There was nobody at the school that a boy could report anything to. Although the matron was there, she was not a motherly figure and she was not a person you could have gone to with anything, or someone you could pour your heart out to. Even when we went to the sanatorium for our inoculations, the person giving them would have

been an unknown figure and was never someone I recognised as a person I could have confided in.

119. Some of the abuse must have been apparent to the teachers in the school. Boys did go to school upset and that would have been picked up by the teachers, but none questioned us about why we might have been upset. I was certainly never asked and I am not aware of any boy that was.
120. I suppose the attitude may well have been that we had been beaten for doing something wrong and therefore it was our own fault. I suspect if I had spoken to someone I would just have been told not to do it again and go away. I suspect there would have been no sympathy.
121. None of the punishments issued by the housemasters or the prefects would ever have been reported to my parents by the school. I don't know whether my parents had any notion of what went on, other than what I mentioned in the letters I wrote.
122. I'm surmising, but I assume my parents just thought what I wrote about was normal and what was required to discipline boys. I don't recall what my mother might have said in the letters she wrote back to me and I never kept any of her letters.
123. I'm sure my mother would have felt some sympathy and possibly distress, but I wouldn't have thought she would have contacted the school. Even if she had, I don't think there would have been any let up.

Leaving Morrison's Academy

124. I left Morrison's Academy in June 1968. It was a good feeling knowing I didn't have to go back.

125. I had a place organised at Glasgow University to do Geology so I spent the summer at home, went to Glenmore Lodge for a couple of weeks for an outward bound course and then started my course.

Life after Morrison's Academy

126. After graduating I got my first job with the British Antarctic Survey. At that time the Geology section was in Birmingham so I went there for three months and then spent two-and-a-half years in Antarctica and two-and-a-half years in Birmingham writing up the results.
127. After that I went into the oil industry and moved around between Aberdeen, Brazil, Malaysia, London and back to Aberdeen again. After I came back from Antarctica, I started studying for a PhD based on my work there and finished it after I was three years into a contract in Brazil with B.P. I left the industry about thirty years ago and set up a business [REDACTED]. I also act as a tour guide on ships cruising the Antarctic and elsewhere around the world.
128. I met my wife [REDACTED] after I came back from Antarctica and we had a son and a daughter together and we now have grandchildren too.

Impact

129. I'm sure what happened to me at Morrison's Academy has had an impact on me throughout my life, however I will require to give it further consideration. I try to avoid thinking about the place as much as possible.
130. I can say at this stage that I am someone who must always be on time. I also like being outdoors, which came about because being outdoors while at school was a way of getting away from the strictures of the boarding house.

131. I'd had nothing to do with girls while I was at Morrison's. I'd been in a boys' boarding house and there had been no proper interaction with girls while I was there. I had one girlfriend while at school, but the limit of that relationship was walking from the school gates to the bottom of the road, talking to her for a short while and that was it. It wasn't even possible to see her at the weekend and as a result I didn't know how to talk to girls when I left.
132. I don't remember my father ever taking his hand to me and I never did that to my children and I'm sure that the physical abuse that I and other boys suffered at school convinced me that I never wanted to perpetrate it on anybody else.
133. I'm sometimes asked if I benefitted from going to boarding school and my response is that I did get an education. If I'm asked whether I would have preferred to go to a state school my response is always that I don't know, I don't know any better. All I can go on is what I experienced.

Reporting of Abuse

134. I have never reported what happened to me at Morrison's Academy to anybody either while I was there or since. It all happened some time ago and I do think that I perhaps have blanked things out.

Reunions

135. I have been to two reunions at the school. The first time was about thirty or forty years after I'd left. On both occasions I met a number of boys I had been with as well as some of the teachers.
136. At one of them I mentioned to the mathematics master about all the physical abuse in the boarding house I had been in. He latterly became a housemaster in one of the

other boarding houses and he was horrified to learn what had been going on in Dalmhor. He said that he had no knowledge of what had been happening.

137. As far as I'm aware, it was only in my boarding house, Dalmhor, that this regime existed. Over the years since I left, I have spoken to boys that were in other boarding houses and they didn't seem to experience the same physical abuse. I spoke to one boy who had been in the same class as me at school and I was surprised when he told me there were no such punishments in the boarding house he stayed in. I had previously assumed it was universal.
138. As I left Crieff after one of those reunions I thought I would just go up to the boarding house, but it was probably the worst thing I could have done. I walked into Dalmhor and saw that it hadn't changed a whole lot, except that there was heating and there were carpets on the floor and there were girls there, it was a mixed house.
139. As I spoke to the matron, who was a different lady to when I had been there, a girl came down the stairs and told the matron she was going to the pictures in Perth. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. The whole regime had changed, however as I walked round, all the bad memories came flooding back. I left thinking I never wanted to do that again, it was an awful reminder.

Records

140. As well as the photographs and the letters I wrote to my mother, I have a number of school reports. The school reports I have purely give my academic performance, there is no detail of any of the punishments I received, but what happened in the school and what happened in the house were two completely different things. If there were any house reports I don't know whether they would have contained any record of the punishments.
141. I have never contacted the school to recover any records they may hold of my time there.

Lessons to be Learned/Hopes for the Inquiry

142. Both of my children went to boarding school. Despite my initial reluctance to send them, it came about because an opportunity arose to send my son, who, even while still in primary school, would rattle through what was required of him. After he did the teacher would tell him to go and play and I could see his attainment was actually dropping, rather than him being pushed up to the next class and stretched.
143. I investigated the possibility of him going to a private school a short distance away, where he would go during the week and come home at the weekend and he went there just as he was finishing primary school. He only spent three weeks there and he loved it, however the headmaster then told me that the school was being closed because there weren't enough pupils.
144. I investigated other schools and in 1993 I ended up sending him to Aberlour School, which is the feeder school for Gordonstoun. The whole ethos of the school was to our liking and my daughter, who is three years younger, ended up going there too in 1995. Both went on to Gordonstoun four years later, in 1997 and in 1999, and both thrived. My son left Gordonstoun in 2000 and my daughter left in 2002. That was all paid for by my father who had set up a trust for the children.
145. The regime in both establishments was completely different. We could go and visit them and take them out every weekend. They had phones and could contact us whenever they liked. They could come home if they wanted to, but often there were wonderful things going on and they didn't want to.
146. I'm not a qualified teacher, but on one occasion I visited Aberlour and was asked if I wanted to take a class on a Saturday morning. I agreed and, although it was hard work for me, I did it for a whole term.

147. Children need to have the support of the teachers and other staff at the school as well as of their parents. As far as I could see, when I was at school there was no mutual support and there was nobody at the school to fall back on if necessary.
148. I think the pastoral care at boarding school now is much better. The headmistress of my daughter's boarding house used to treat her and speak to her like an adult. We had virtually no social interaction with our housemaster, we were left to our own devices.
149. Everyone knew that any new intake of boys were going to be crying and homesick, but there was nothing done about it. There was no pastoral care in Dalmhor whatsoever. There was nobody to oversee how boys were being treated and, particularly with ^{CFR} [REDACTED], the person who should have been overseeing us was actually perpetrating the abuse.

Other information

150. I contacted the Inquiry because I wanted to make sure what I suffered doesn't persist. I would hope it does not. I'm aware of some horrific stories that have been published from the work of the Inquiry and realise we didn't suffer anything like that, but we did suffer. To a large degree what we suffered was unnecessary.
151. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of a photo I took in 1968, my last year at Morrison's, at which time I was a prefect. You can see all the boys are enjoying themselves, but that was because I and my contemporaries who were also house prefects in Dalmhor, were treating them differently. The regime had changed. If that picture had been taken ten years earlier it would not have been such a happy one.
152. I'm sure that Morrison's wasn't the only school that had a similar type of physical regime, but I hope that such behaviour does not persist anywhere. Fortunately, the evidence I have got from sending my children to Aberlour and Gordonstoun would indicate that the whole situation is completely different now.

153. 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.....
DocuSigned by:
HLD
CAA705881A6176..

Dated..... 25 November 2020