

DATE: 06.04.2017

NAME: Aileen Agnes Giles

DOB: :

ADDRESS: .

PH: (

OCCUPATION: Retired

RELATIONSHIP: Grandparent of alleged victim Rovin Turnbull

Midyear 2014, my husband and I attended a social function to celebrate a friend's 50th birthday. Approximately 25 guests attended, comprising of family and friends of the host.

The host suggested after we were seated around the dinner table to introduce ourselves to each other. I introduced myself to a young woman seated opposite me. In the course of that conversation the woman whose name was [redacted] told me that she was a music teacher and worked with disabled children and that she worked at Ruru Specialist School. I said that I had a Grandson who was autistic and attended that school, and perhaps she knew him. She said she didn't work there any longer. I said, "oh?" [redacted] told me she had left because she didn't like what they did there. The conversation ended there.

At a meeting at Ruru School on 3.12.2014 parents of my grandson, asked to see "the little room" that their son had verbalised on occasions. The parents utter horror and revulsion on sighting that room lead them to contact police.

After relaying to me what had been discovered I suggested I attempt to contact [redacted] (the woman I had meet at the birthday party) to ascertain if she was aware of the 'room'. I found out from the host her name was [redacted]. I rang Ms [redacted] on or about February 2015 and asked her if she had knowledge of this room. Ms [redacted] said, "the soundproof room? Yes, children were shut in there daily as punishment." She was so upset at what she witnessed on a daily basis that when she got home at night, the events of the day would reduce her to tears. I relayed this conversation to my Grandson's parents.

On or about early March, I rang Ms [redacted] for her account as to how the usage of the room was carried out. She stated to me she witnessed children being "dragged" and manhandled through the classroom and shut in the room. I asked her again, "was the door closed, could the child get out?" She said, "the door to the room was shut, they couldn't get out and she sometimes was to let them out, after they had been in the room for a period of time. She had never seen roller doors being used, to block views from other children in the classroom where this room was. I asked her "how was the child when let out?" She told me "in a highly-distressed state."

[redacted] went on to say that she saw Ruru School teacher [redacted], punched in the face, stabbed on the hand with a pencil, a pupil under her (teacher) care. Ms [redacted] said to teacher [redacted] "you can't do that" and told her she was going to report her to the Principal.

Ms [redacted] said she did report this to the Principal Erin Cairns, but never heard back regarding the outcome. Ms [redacted] noticed staff stopped talking to her and she was going to lose hours of work, so she left Ruru School.

On or about 25.03.2015 I rang Ms [redacted] to ask her if it would be okay if I gave her contact phone number to Jonathan Eaton QC (parents solicitor). Ms [redacted] agreed for me to do that.

The reason I am submitting this statement to Police now is because I assumed the Investigating Officer would have contacted me to gather information regarding the investigation, however Police did not contact me.

Signed:

[Handwritten signature]

Date:

6.4.2017