

Statement

Name Merle Edith Newell
Address Known to the Royal Commission
Occupation Retired
Date 1 February 2016

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. Where direct speech is referred to in the statement, it is provided in words or words to the effect of those which were used, to the best of my recollection.
3. My full name is Merle Edith Newell. I was born in 1936. I have been married to Phillip Keith Newell for 56 years.
4. Phillip Newell and I have two sons; Michael and John. Our third son ,Christopher, is deceased.
5. I have previously met Catherine Hutchinson (nee Finney). She was in a relationship with Christopher for about 5 years from about 1984. Catherine Hutchinson (nee Finney) came to our home on occasions and came to dinner at our home at Bishops court on occasions. I have been provided with a copy of her statement dated 31 January 2016.
6. In particular I refer to paragraph 11 where it is alleged "*[d]uring 1984 and 1985, Christopher and his brothers would also occasionally talk about Lou Daniels and "CEBS with sore bottoms" in conversations with the wider family, for example at tea time round the table. On those occasions Christopher would be shushed by Bishop Newell, but without any urgency and with some joculariry. For example, Bishop Newell would say in response to such comments, "Shush shush boys", or "Come, come boys, let's not have that at the dinner table." I felt that there was a sense*

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Signature: *Merle E. Newell*Witness: *P. K. Newell*

boys", or "Come, come boys, let's not have that at the dinner table." I felt that there was a sense of it being humorous, well known fact, that when Lou Daniels was involved there would be CEBS with sore bottoms."

7. At no stage have I ever heard the words "CEBS with sore bottoms" spoken in conversation:-
- (i) around the dinner table at Bishopcourt during the years 1984 to 1989 or during any other period; or
 - (ii) in conversations with the wider family including my three sons.
8. I refute such comments were ever made in alleged conversations between my sons at our home. The first time I ever become aware of such a conversation was when I was shown Ms Hutchinson's (nee Finney) statement on 1 February 2016.
9. Both Michael and John live overseas. I have spoken to them and have read paragraphs 10 and 11 of Catherine Hutchinson's (nee Finney) statement to them. Both of them, refute categorically, the alleged conversations of the nature set out in paragraphs 10. and 11. of that statement.

Signed:

Merle E Newell

Date:

1 February 2016

Witness:

P. K. W. W. W.

Date:

1 FEBRUARY 2016

Signature:

Merle E Newell

Witness:

P. K. W. W. W.