

my 2nd e mail to states members feb 2011 (FW: P19 and amendments.....Tuesday 1st March)

From: [REDACTED]
To: Rod Bryans, Steve Luce, Kristina Moore, "Sir Philip Bailhache (Senator)"
John Le Fondre, Paul Routier, Richard Rondel
"Michael J. Paddock", Jacqueline Hilton, John Young, Steve Pallett
Gerard Baudains, Deidre Mezbourian, Simon Crowcroft
John Refault, Andrew Green, Sarah Ferguson
Jeremy Macon, Ian Le Marquand, Roy Le Herissier, Kevin Lewis
Patrick Ryan, Philip Rondel, Sean Power, "Juliette G.
Gallichan", Geoffrey Southern, Len Norman, Sadie Rennard
Shona Pitman, James Reed, Trevor Pitman, Philip
Ozouf, Alan Breckon, Daniel Murphy, Ian Gorst
Montfort Tadier, Edward Noel, Susie Pinel, Alan Maclean
Lyndon Farnham, John Le Sueur Gallichan, Francis Le
Gresley, "Michel Le Troquer", Anne Pryke
Carolyn Labey, Robert Duhamel, Tracey Vallois, James Baker
Judith Martin, "Mike R. Higgins"

Date: Thu, 10 May 2012 23:56:06 +0100

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: P19 and amendments.....Tuesday 1st March
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 00:15:30 +0000

(PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL) (WITHOUT PREJUDICE)
I would be grateful if you would kindly take the time to read through this lengthy e mail before Tuesday , thankyou)

“I WAS NOTHING THEN AND I AM NOTHING NOW”

For those of you who read my first e mail you will no doubt remember the heading above. A comment made to me by [REDACTED] an exresident of the infamous Haut de la Garenne. This is how she feels the States of Jersey feel about her. That is how she felt then and this is how she feels now because she feels let down by the States again. [REDACTED] is one of many who were relying on the promised inquiry to expose the truth of what went on there.

I have to say I feel exactly the same. I worked there, I know only a tiny bit of what went on in this home and I can assure you there is plenty that still needs looking into. I have questions too.

Why, when I first went to work there, was the boyfriend of Morag Jordan allowed into the home to visit a child when another member of staff told me he was a well known paedophile? He later hanged himself before the police managed to get him into court. This man used to [REDACTED] children from the home on [REDACTED]

Why, when I reported abuse, was it not acted on? Why was I told that the committee wouldn't believe the child concerned? The member of staff concerned was Morag Jordan! What if it had been acted on? Maybe, just maybe, her reign of general bullying, abuse, and constant humiliation of children might have been brought to a halt. How many might they have saved from her determined habit of breaking children's spirits?

Why, when the committee visited the home, once a year, were they not shown the cells that our children were locked up in? 'Detention rooms', this conjures up a picture of nice little rooms where the children would be relatively comfortable. Not so! The judge in the Jordan's case was absolutely adamant that these detention rooms were, in fact, cells. Please bear in mind that these cells were used constantly even after we were no longer designated a remand home. Why?

Imagine, a thick wooden old door, lino on the floor, a wooden built in platform upon which was a thin mattress, a few scratchy blankets and a pillow. A plastic yellow potty to use as a toilet, (some of the children placed in these rooms were 14, 15 years old). A fan which was used to bring in fresh air. (I know of a member of staff who used to put the fan on when it was freezing outside just to 'shut the children up')! These two horrendous rooms both had huge windows, no curtains, blinds, shutters, nothing! One window faced a carpark and the way into Avimore group. The other faced a huge field. I would have been terrified in these cells of a night time. If staff put the light on, (switch was outside the room) then anyone from outside could see you but, once dark, you couldn't see if there was anyone outside.

I was only put on the rota for one of these committee visits. I asked senior staff why the committee weren't shown the cells. I was told there was no need for them to see them, that was not what their visit was about. I was furious. I was never put on duty again during one of their visits!

Did the committee know of these cells? If not then why not? Whose decision was it to detain children in such disgusting conditions? The children were supposed to be strip searched before they were put in these cells. Something I flatly refused to do, many of the staff did! Dignity? None!

Why was it that a senior member of staff was allowed to use corporal punishment when drunk? A cane was actually broken on the child!

Case conferences were few and far between. Why?

Why, when children were found to be self harming, was neat iodine poured into their cuts 'to teach them a lesson'? No talking to them, no compassion, just a need to hurt them more. Some lesson that was!

Why were children physically forced to brush their teeth and mouths with thick soap on their toothbrushes? This was to teach them not to swear. Believe me when I tell you the staff could outdo the children on swearing any day.

A certain person, put in charge at HDLG for a short period of time met with the staff before they took over. We were told at that meeting that there would be no violence in the home, the only violence would be when they 'bounced' children off their office walls. And they did! I want someone to explain how this was allowed to happen. How was someone allowed AGAIN to systematically break children's spirits?

Suddenly all the children, ALL THE CHILDREN, regardless of age had to EARN priveledges. Priveledges being pocket money, staying up a little later at weekends, outings, etc. etc. Some of these children were only 5 or 6 years old!

NONE of the children at this stage were remanded to us through the courts. That was what Les Chenes was built for.

I always said I could write a book on Haut de la Garenne, maybe I still will. I have no doubt that too would be banned from sale in the Island. I have lived with the guilt of being unable to protect the children when I worked there. I couldn't even protect myself from the groping of three staff members. Two of them on many occasions!

The facebook group 'States of Jersey go back on Haut de la Garenne promise' was only started two weeks ago. We had 234 members when I closed it down on Friday last. People from all over the world joined this group, Australia, Canada, United States, France, UK, Ireland, Germany, Morocco, South Africa as well as Jersey and Guernsey. People all over the world are, once again, watching to see if our States will do the right thing. Three Deputies also joined to openly show their support. A big thank you to them, this meant such a lot to the victims I know. I also have an [REDACTED] which I will be forwarding to you seperately on Monday evening.

I know a lot of you support the victims in their need for an inquiry. Thank you. For those of you don't please consider that it is not our place to say what this inquiry will do for them. Only the victims know that and all the ones I know say it will allow them to move on. I really do not think we can presume to think we know how they feel. Not even a little bit. It breaks my heart to know that I was a member of staff at HDLG and I could do nothing to stop this. I also need answers as much as they do, and I know I'm not the only one.

I plead with those of you who decided to renege on this promise to vote for Proposition 19 as put forward by Senator Le Gresley and most importantly the amendments put forward by Deputy Bob Hill. (I believe a further amendment has also been added to this). Please do this for all the vulnerable children who were put into the care of the States of Jersey. Please do this to show that your are an honourable government who carries out it's promises. Please don't let everybody down again.

I realise this e mail is an emotional one, I can't help that, I worked there and loved these children like they were my own. My decision to work there was based on the assumption that I would never have any more children of my own [REDACTED]

Leaving out the heartfelt pleas and just using my head I ask you to consider the message you are sending to everyone if you vote against the proposition and the amendments. The message will be clear, the States of Jersey do not keep their promises! Many will scream cover up once again.

Lastly I would like to thank the many States members who took the time and trouble to reply to my first e mail. I know you are very busy people and I appreciate you contacting me. Thank you all. For those who didn't, well, like I said, I know you are busy. I just hope you took the time to read it.

For those of you who read it and don't agree with me then I don't understand why you didn't explain to me the reasons why. Maybe they were valid ones. I shall possibly never know now!

Thank you, once again, for your time and consideration. Please vote for P19 and it's amendments on Tuesday 1st March.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]