Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HPR

Support person present: No.

1. My name is HPR is my married name. When I was at school, my surname was HPR My date of birth is 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

- 2. I was born in Birmingham. My parents' names are **set and and set of** I had a sister, **set of**, who was two and a half years older than me. She died recently in a car accident. We moved to London shortly before my younger sister, **set of**, was born. **Set of** is a year and a half younger than me so my sisters and I were quite close together in age. We then moved to Tokyo because of my father's work. He worked in the automobile industry. I was two or three when we moved to Japan. I also have a brother, **set of**, who is six years younger than me.
- 3. I started kindergarten in Tokyo before the age of five. I don't think I started primary school in Japan. My sister started at the Sacred Heart Primary School there, but we moved quite soon thereafter to Australia. I went to Rose Bay Primary School for a brief time, but we only lived in Australia for about nine months. We moved to Hong Kong where I attended the Peak School, which was a British school. We were then moved to the German-Swiss international school because the British school wasn't very good. I was seven when I started at the German-Swiss school. I therefore completed most of my primary school education in German. My sisters attended the same school as me.

- 4. I enjoyed primary school. It was tough starting at the German-Swiss school because all of the lessons were in German. It was hard to get used to it. Everyone spoke English in the playground so that was alright. It was a very orderly education. I don't think I got much of the general knowledge that people who had been educated in the UK received. It was different, but it was good. I remained there up until the age of ten when we moved to Singapore. I also went to the German school in Singapore.
- 5. We became very close as a family because we moved around a lot. There was lots of excitement when we moved but it was difficult making new friends. A lot of ex-pat kids were doing the same thing as us. My mum didn't work but my dad travelled a lot. When we were home for the holidays, he would make sure that he left work early and got home at 4:00 pm. He would take us out and things like that.
- 6. I left Singapore at the age of eleven to attend boarding school. My older sister had already left to attend the Mount School in York. I joined her and was there for two and a half years. I was doing quite well academically. I was always fairly near to the top of the class, particularly in English. However, I never quite understood the dynamics between girls and how they could get very intense. I decided that it was time to leave. I realised that I had fallen in with the wrong type of people. I started smoking at the age of thirteen. I knew that wasn't right. I wrote and told my parents. It was an all girls' school and they agreed that it wasn't the right school for me.
- 7. I was involved in the decision to go to Gordonstoun. I think I realised that an all-girls' school wasn't the right environment for me. I was too assertive and it was never going to work. I was at home for the Christmas of 1976 and I talked about school with my parents. They were very good about our education. They wanted the right thing for me and my siblings at every stage. They were quite creative and thoughtful about our education and it was very important to them that each child went to the right school for that child. They really listened to me as well.
- 8. My parents had been considering Aberlour House, the prep school for Gordonstoun, for my brother. My dad had been travelling a lot from Singapore around the region so he wasn't there enough for my brother. My parents really felt that he needed to go to

boarding school. Because they were considering Aberlour for my brother and younger sister, they sent me to Gordonstoun. I think they looked at a few schools and liked the outdoor nature of Aberlour and Gordonstoun.

9. My parents and I looked at the brochure for Gordonstoun. We went up to visit and I think I had an interview, but I can't remember much about that. I didn't have to sit an entrance exam, which I had done before starting at the Mount School. After being interviewed, we went to Aitken and Niven in Edinburgh to buy the uniform. I tried everything on and it was put into two trunks which were sent up to the school. I moved to Gordonstoun in the middle of the school year. My sister, **Example**, stayed at the Mount.

Gordonstoun School, Moray

- 10. I was thirteen when I started at Gordonstoun. I was in the youngest year group. The age range was thirteen to eighteen, nineteen years old. I'm not sure how many pupils there were altogether. There may have been about three hundred boys and girls. There were about fifteen pupils in each class and about two classes in each year group. There were far more boys than girls, probably four times as many. There were day pupils, but only about half a dozen. They were mainly the children of the teachers. A lot of the teachers lived on campus or in houses roundabout or in Duffus village.
- 11. The grounds were enormous. I was in Hopeman House, which was a girls' house. Siblings would be placed in the same house. As you come up the long driveway, past the rugby pitches, Hopeman was the first house on the left. On the right, there was Cumming House, which is where Prince Andrew was. Duffus House was outside the school gates, a bit further away. Windmill House was also a girls' house. The other boys' houses were Round Square, Bruce, Altyre and Gordonstoun House. Gordonstoun House was officially the main building of the school but not very much happened there, apart from school dances. Most of the classrooms were to the south of Round Square. They were all separate so you would put your coat on when you went between classes.

- 12. Hopeman House was a kind of H-shaped building with two wings and a central section. The central part had the common room and laundry room downstairs. Upstairs, it had the house prefect's room and possibly a room for a member of staff. The main entrance was in the central section. The two sides of the H-shape had bedrooms on both floors. Some of the bedrooms were what we called horse boxes, which were like cubicles with a half wall in between them. The showers were in the other part of the H.
- 13. When I first arrived, Mr Young was the headmaster of the school. He was an elderly, kindly sort of headmaster. He left after about two years. Mr Mavor arrived at that point. He was younger and far more strict than Mr Young had been. He would go jogging and things like that. He was quite firm and very much in charge. There must have been an assistant head, but I can't remember who that was. There were a lot of subject teachers. You would get to know which teachers were teaching staff and which were housemasters. Some of the housemasters taught as well, but some didn't.
- 14. The housemistress at Hopeman House was Mrs Johns. She was a widow and had two children who attended the school. I remember that she was a very large lady and she was quite strict. I think she taught a bit of maths, but not very much. She had a flat which adjoined the house. There was a door from the end of one of the Hs into her bungalow. There was an assistant housemistress called Miss Sivill. She taught either maths or physics. She had a bungalow just up the hill from our house. She was very changeable. We were never quite sure whether she was going to be nice or not nice. There was another assistant housemistress who had a room in Hopeman House, but I can't remember her name. She came laterally and she was a bit younger.
- 15. There was a pupil appointed to be head of house. I think it was **a second s**

16. The school motto was, "Plus est en Vous." It was French for, "There is more in you." The ethos of the school was that you can be independent and you can do it. There would be times when we were taken on expedition into the Torridon hills. We would put up our own tent and then be taken off in a Land Rover. We were given a compass and a map and told to find our way back to the camp. I remember being waist deep in snow, trying to find the camp. It was that kind of initiative training which was the ethos of the school. There was a lot about character building and using your initiative.

Routine at Gordonstoun

First day

- 17. I went to Gordonstoun at the start **start start of** It was before term started. It was very, very cold. My uniform had been named and packed at Aitken and Niven. It was sent up for me but it arrived at the school a couple of weeks later. I remember that I had a really nice, stripy mohair jumper when I arrived. I really liked it. You weren't allowed to have patterned jumpers. I asked whether I'd be allowed to keep my jumper and they said that I couldn't. I was a bit upset about that. I think I had to pack it away. We were allowed to wear our own clothes in the afternoons, but they had to be cords, not jeans, and jumpers with no logos or patterns.
- 18. There weren't many people at the school when I arrived because the new term hadn't started. There was one girl down the corridor from me, **Started**, who was **Started**. She was in the same class as me. Her **Started** was **Started** and his surname was **Started**. He also taught **Started** and ran**Started** at the school. She knew her way around the school well and she showed me around. She befriended me from the start. We walked down to the refectory and had lunch. We became very good friends.

Mornings/bedtime

- 19. We either had our own horsebox or our own room. There were ten girls on each corridor or leg of the H in Hopeman, four horseboxes and a single room on each side. Past the showers there were about four single rooms. The single rooms tended to be for older pupils, although one of the sixth formers would be in a horsebox to keep an eye on the younger children. We didn't have to do any chores in the boarding house. There were cleaning staff, but we didn't know them.
- 20. I can't remember what time it was, but we were woken up by a bell. Straightaway, we'd have to pull on our tracksuits and go and do the morning run. It wasn't a long run and it took about ten minutes. We would have a shower then get dressed quickly. We would walk down to breakfast, which was quite a long walk. It was half a mile, three quarters of a mile. After breakfast, we usually went straight to chapel although we sometimes had time to go back to the boarding house to get our books for the day.
- 21. At bedtime, we brushed our teeth and got ourselves to bed. There was a lights out time. I think our lives were ruled by bells. There was probably a bell and a colour bearer or colour bearer candidate who would come and check that we were in bed. We might chat for a bit, but we were so tired we usually went to sleep quite quickly. Mrs Johns would be in her flat at night. I suppose we could go into her if we had a problem during the night, but we wouldn't really do that.
- 22. There wasn't really any supervision at night. During the summer term, it was very light. I would get up and go out in the middle of the night. I would go to the fields and meet my friends. I had some friends who were in Windmill House. We would just walk and talk and have a cigarette. It was a sense of freedom and being able to do what we wanted. I liked the peace of being out in the middle of the night and even seeing the aurora borealis. It was quite exciting and adventurous to do that, but we knew we weren't allowed to go out. We'd then go back to bed. I think people probably knew that it was going on. Two of the princes were at Gordonstoun at the time and they had bodyguards, but they didn't intervene. If we had been caught by one of the colour bearers, we would have been in real trouble.

Mealtimes/food

- 23. The dining hall was past Gordonstoun House. The whole school ate meals there. There was a toaster and a kettle in the boarding house, but that was all. There would be jam sandwiches in the boarding house at teatime, but otherwise we had to get our own tuck. Gordon McPhail, a local grocer in Aberlour, used to deliver to some of the better off kids.
- 24. The dining hall was like a cafeteria and you could sit where you wanted. You went through a canteen and helped yourself to whatever you wanted. You would then sit down with your friends. Breakfast was usually cereal and toast, maybe a boiled egg. I think I just used to have toast. The food served for lunch and dinner wasn't very nice. There was a choice, but I can remember eating a lot of cabbage. I had decided to be a vegetarian because the vegetarian options were slightly better.
- 25. There were dinner ladies in the dining hall, but nobody oversaw what we ate. I didn't eat very much and I did lose weight at one point. There was a bit of a spate of anorexia in my year group. We all got weighed at the beginning and end of term. A note was sent to our parents if we'd lost weight, saying that the weight loss should not continue. Although I lost weight quite dramatically at one point, I didn't become seriously anorexic. I know that other girls did and one girl in the year above me eventually died of anorexia after she left school. She was a good friend of **metabolic** and she was beautiful.

Washing and bathing

26. There was a communal shower area on each floor of the boarding house, at each end of the H-shape. I think there was a row of three or four showers and one bath. There were no curtains or anything between them so you didn't have any privacy. If you didn't do your morning run quickly and get in early, the shower would be cold. You could shut the door if you were taking a bath, but we never really had time to take a bath. The water was never hot enough anyway.

Clothing/uniform

27. The uniform was a lot more complicated than the uniform for the Mount School. There were kilts and seamanship uniforms. We wore our kilts if we were going out of the school. On a normal school day, the uniform was a plain grey skirt. On school days, we would change into our home clothes after lessons finished at lunchtime.

Schooling

- 28. I started in the youngest year group, which was called third form. We were in small classes of about fifteen pupils. We moved around to the different classes and each subject had different teachers. We had about five minutes between classes to make our way around. I found maths challenging. I wasn't a natural mathematician but I always wanted to conquer it and do well. The maths teacher was quite strict and demanding, but he made you really want to do the subject. All of the teachers were really good. The Latin teacher was amazing. He would strut about the class, telling us ghost stories in Latin. He made the subject interesting. It was in a tiny old-fashioned classroom in Round Square.
- 29. The **second** teaching wasn't as good as it had been at the Mount. **KX** the school **wasn't**, taught us **second**. I quite enjoyed it. It was the subject that I was good at naturally. German was very easy for me because I had been to a German school. I wasn't completely fluent, but I didn't have to go to classes to get my General Certificate of Education (GCE). We also got to know some of the teachers through going on expeditions with them. Mr Pownall, the French teacher, took us on expeditions. I really liked him. I quite liked French because we had that shared experience of the mountains.
- 30. We had lessons until lunchtime and lessons or some other kind of activity after lunch. We probably did sport two or three afternoons a week and community service on Wednesday afternoons. After sport or community service, we had tea and then we did prep at our desks. We had a table, wardrobe and bed in our horsebox areas. Prep was a quiet time in the house. One of the colour bearers might check on us, but it wasn't

really supervised. We wouldn't go out of our rooms during prep. I can remember doing prep after dinner on some days. I think the time might have changed.

- 31. We had something called a training plan. We had to fill it in every day about when we'd done exercise and this, that and the next thing. It wasn't kept very well. I think the plans were overseen by the colour bearers and the colour bearer candidates. I do remember having to show mine to the headmaster at one point and I hadn't filled mine out.
- 32. After I was caught smoking in my first year at Gordonstoun, I decided I was going to sort myself out. I worked really hard the next term. I revised for exams and did what I should have been doing. My academic performance had improved so much that I was sent to the headmaster for a commendation. Some names were read out during chapel, including mine. I had to go and see the headmaster in Gordonstoun House. There was an incredible carpet in his study. I think it was specially woven for Gordonstoun and it had ships in it. He asked to see my training plan, which I hadn't filled in. He said I'd really improved and done well. I was then put into a group for potential candidates for Oxford and Cambridge Universities. We would have little meetings and talk about what we might do, but it wasn't very helpful. Apart from that group for potential Oxford or Cambridge applicants, there wasn't much in the way of preparation for life after leaving school.
- 33. The school followed the English curriculum. As we progressed through the school, we selected subjects for GCE and then A-level. I did really well in my GCEs. I got A grades in English, maths, Latin and German. I wasn't able to choose very well what I wanted to do. I was carrying too many subjects at A-level. I was taking art, German, double maths and English. I only did the first term of A-levels before leaving Gordonstoun.

Sport

34. Sport was tough at Gordonstoun. We had to do cross country runs every time we came back to school after holidays. It was extra cross country to get us fit again. We also

did the morning run every day. There was a swimming pool. I used to swim competitively before I went to Gordonstoun, but I'd given it up.

35. I was in the tennis team. I was also in the hockey team but it was so cold. I think I played left wing. I remember being commended by the teacher. He told the other girls to use me because I was like a gazelle. We weren't allowed to wear tracksuits. We had to wear skirts. I can remember playing a match against a school in Buckie. The playing fields were right out on the peninsula. It was so cold. I can remember thinking that I wasn't going to do it anymore. I kind of just stopped. I stopped running and I stopped trying. After that, I was dropped from the team which I suppose was what I wanted.

Community service

- 36. I was never part of the Combined Cadet Force. I don't think girls were given that opportunity. Everyone had to do some kind of service on a Wednesday afternoon. There were the coastguards, there was surf life-saving and there was a working fire service. I was in the Venture Scouts. I was **service** of the Venture Scouts, which was a mixed blessing. I had to manage a group of boys who didn't want to do stuff. I remember building someone's patio and the boys all disappeared and smoked so I was building the patio on my own. We also went gliding every week and on camping expeditions.
- 37. If you were in one of those community services, you did have some contact with the local community. It was actually very little. The school was a long way out of Elgin. We didn't know people in the village of Duffus. At most, we would walk to the post office. We used to do seamanship at Hopeman and cycle there, but we had very little contact with the outside world.

Leisure time

38. We didn't have a lot of free time during the week. On Thursday nights, we had a little bit of free time. We would go and watch *Top of the Pops* in the TV room at Round

Square. We would all stand around watching it, a bit like a gig. There was a TV in Hopeman House as well. We got to do lots of things. There was a gliding club as part of the Venture Scouts and I went gliding. I loved that. It was on an evening and we'd be allowed out of prep.

- 39. We had a half day of classes on a Saturday. If you didn't have a match in the afternoon, you were free. Sometimes I would go and do art in the art block. You could take a bus into Elgin if you wanted to. We would have to wear our uniform. I think I did that a couple of times after I started at the school, but then I didn't bother. I often went for walks up to the cliffs. I would go with friends. Sometimes, we would take a picnic with us. We would usually get the picnic from the Duffus Post Office. We were supposed to sign out and say where we were going.
- 40. There were weekends when we could be taken out. Because my parents were abroad, I would go home with a friend. There were probably two of them each term. I didn't have many free weekends. There would often be expeditions or skiing at the weekend. I would do a bit of camping with the Venture Scouts. People who went skiing went on an early bus on a Sunday morning. The bus took us down to Glenshee or Glencoe. I did that a few times. If we didn't go skiing, we had chapel on a Sunday morning and free-time in the afternoon.
- 41. There were probably pupils who took drugs, but I wasn't aware of that. There was alcohol around. I remember one person who would get a table at a restaurant in Elgin. He would invite everyone for lunch and have drinks. They would spend the whole afternoon there. I don't know how they got away with it. I was only invited once. There was also a pub in Lossiemouth. People would either cycle or get a taxi there. There was a taxi service that was sympathetic to Gordonstoun kids. I can remember going to the pub in Lossiemouth.

Personal possessions

42. I don't remember having very much money. I think the housemistress may have kept money for us. We had our own wardrobes and our own trunks, but we couldn't lock

anything away. People did lose things and then there would be big intrigue over where things went and who had what. That didn't happen to me, but I can remember happening it to the boys. People would have money stolen and it wasn't very nice.

Trips and holidays

- 43. I think there were two compulsory expeditions every school year. For a couple of years, there was also a school cruise on the Sea Spirit. We very much looked forward to that. The yacht slept twelve children. We went down the Caledonian Canal on our cruise. It was beautiful. After our GCEs, we could choose our own expedition and create an itinerary. We were encouraged to do that and given food and a tent to take with us. I can't remember anybody getting lost, but I do remember a story about a tent going on fire. There were incredible opportunities at Gordonstoun, particularly at that time, in the seventies and eighties. It was phenomenal and I loved it.
- 44. I developed a real love for the mountains. I loved going on expeditions and walking with the French teacher, Mr Pownall. I would go on voluntary expeditions as well as the mandatory expeditions. I went to Fort William and climbed three peaks there, Ben Nevis, Carn Mor Dearg and Aonach Beag. It's one expedition that sticks in my mind because it was really beautiful.

Healthcare

45. There was a 'san', which we would go to if we were ill. It was behind Cumming House. I didn't have any cause to go to the san while I was at Gordonstoun. It seemed to me that it was run by two old ladies. They were probably nurses, but I don't know. I would never have asked their advice or gone to them for anything. I wouldn't have been very confident in them. There may have been a doctor who came to the school once a week, but I didn't have cause to go to the doctor. There wasn't really anybody in a pastoral role or anybody we could approach if we had concerns.

Religious instruction

46. We had chapel every day before lessons started. There would usually be a song, prayers and any announcements. The service was normally led by the chaplain, but sometimes it was led by the headmaster or the organist. We also had chapel on a Sunday morning. It was compulsory, but pupils could be released from chapel if their parents specifically asked. They had to go to go the library instead. Children didn't go out to any different churches.

Peers

- 47. We were very aware that we were in a school with people who were well known. They were ordinary in the school. People didn't really like it when you made a big deal of it, but we would find out that there were well known pupils at the school. Prince Andrew was there. He was sort of treated like an ordinary person, but he was also seen as being very arrogant. He didn't handle it well whereas his younger brother, Edward, handled it very well. Andrew would go down to the refectory with a magazine under his arm which had his own face on the cover. You don't do that at school. The article might say how sporty he was, but he was only in the second XV rugby team.
- 48. Members of the **second family were at Gordonstoun when I was there.** They were the cousins and grandchildren of **second family**. There were twins and their older brother, **second for breakfast together from Cumming House.** They used to walk down for breakfast together from Cumming House. **Second for the second holidays**, along with one of the twins. When the remaining twin returned to school it was very sad to see him walking down to breakfast on his own. **Second for the second holidays** were present but not on the boat when the **form the second holidays** affected by it.
- 49. I was invited to a party in London held by another branch of the **second second** family. It was in Knightsbridge. I was fifteen, sixteen at the time. It was quite exciting when there were all these children of well-known people in one place. I didn't feel intimidated. We were friends. Nobody stood on ceremony. We were aware that it was an environment

of powerful and influential people. I was not in that category. We would get invited to parties in beautiful homes in the Highlands. I enjoyed it, but I was very aware that people had connections.

- 50. We would be reminded in chapel that we should never say anything about the well-known people at the school. It was put across as being a protection to those people. It was communicated in a way that made you aware it would be a serious thing to do and you could be expelled for doing so. It was also being conveyed as an issue of loyalty to the school. It would be viewed as disloyal to the school if you were to speak publically about its well-known pupils.
- 51. It was an environment where really close and deep friendships were formed. Amongst the girls, there wasn't really any bullying as far as I was aware. It was all quite amicable. It wasn't like a girls' school environment where it was very intense. We had really good friendships. We had friendships with boys as well as girls. The girls were fairly popular because there weren't very many of them. There was definitely bullying amongst the boys. I was aware of intimidation rather than physical bullying. You would hear stories, but I can't remember any specific examples.
- 52. The intimidation really came from the colour bearers. There was a head boy. At one point there was a head girl, **Constitution**. They lived in Gordonstoun House. There was a group of colour bearers, like the one who confiscated my cigarettes, who were very powerful. You couldn't say anything against them. You wouldn't stand a chance. They were a very tight-knit group.
- 53. I met my boyfriend when I was fifteen. He was another pupil at the school. We were together for about a year, a year and a half before he left to go to university. It was a good relationship.

Visits/inspections

54. We didn't have visitors very often. Occasionally, someone would come to do a lecture or a film night. There were some quite famous kids at the school. It was well connected

in that way. **Second and a son** was there at the same time as me. Through those connections, sometimes people would visit. The Queen did visit when I was there, but I wasn't chosen to meet her. It snowed before she arrived. Somebody wrote 'Welcome Queenie' in massive letters in the snow on the north lawn, which was in front of Gordonstoun House.

55. I hardly ever saw my family when I was at school. My mum and grandma came to collect me at the end of term on one occasion. My dad came to visit once. My younger sister had joined the school by then and she had had a really bad term. My dad took us out and bought us some new clothes and things. When he came to visit, he stayed in a lovely country house nearby, the Rothes Glen Hotel. On one occasion, we were able to go and stay with him and that was really nice.

School holidays/family contact

56. I would fly home for school holidays. There was a certain taxi driver who would take us from Gordonstoun to Aberdeen. We would get a flight from Aberdeen to London and then London to Singapore. We just saw it as normal. Other than the school holidays, I only had contact with my parents through letters although I didn't write very often. We had a weekly letter writing session at the Mount School. That didn't happen at Gordonstoun. My parents received a report card every term. That was the only contact the school had with them. I do remember the feeling of not being able to get in touch with them. Contact with parents was neither encouraged nor discouraged. Students whose parents were in the UK could phone home but there was no provision for international students. There was one payphone in the corridor and that was all.

Siblings

57. My younger brother and sister were at Aberlour when I was at Gordonstoun. We didn't have very much contact with Aberlour. It was quite separate. My sister, **10000000**, was in the same house as me when she started at Gordonstoun. She struggled. She had some relational issues. She ran away the term before I left the school. There was something to do with a boy, but I don't know what. She ended up running away to

Darlington, where my older sister was. She took an overdose and ended up in hospital. She had to have a pregnancy test so something that was not good had happened. I was sent to Darlington to look after her, which I didn't do very well. I was not in a very good place myself at the time and I felt exposed and vulnerable there. We had no adult supervision. I was there for three or four days. I had to get her on the plane back out to Singapore. Looking back, I don't think that was an appropriate action for the school, with a duty of care to both us, to take.

58. She left Gordonstoun at that point. She was quite young at the time, about fourteen. After leaving Gordonstoun, she stayed at home with my parents in Singapore. I don't think she ever fully recovered from that experience. She ended up having a very volatile childhood. I'm not sure whether my parents made any kind of complaint to the school about what had happened. My parents would have dealt with it well, but they wouldn't have involved me or my older sister in that. They would have kept that to themselves.

Discipline

- 59. I had a difficult start at Gordonstoun. I was quite alone because I hadn't been at Aberlour and I started in the middle of the school year. I didn't settle in my first two terms. I was still smoking. I think I found the time smoking on my own to be a bit of solace. We used to smoke at sheds where the gardeners kept their equipment. We used to call them the 'bogey sheds'. I was caught by some colour bearers and sent to the housemistress. It was a bit of a nightmare because my parents had already moved me from the Mount School to Gordonstoun after things went wrong there.
- 60. I can remember a colour bearer confiscated my cigarettes and told me to go to the housemistress. I had £5 in the cigarette packet and he'd confiscated that as well. A couple of days later, I saw him in the refectory queue. I told him I'd had £5 in the packet. He still had them and he took them out of his pocket. He obviously hadn't handed them in. He gave me the £5 back.

- 61. After I was caught smoking, I did go and see the housemistress. I think she gated me, which meant that I couldn't leave the boarding house other than for school lessons. I remember a shotgun went missing from Duffus House. The entire house was gated until the shotgun was found. It was a fairly serious thing.
- 62. Colour bearers were the main method of discipline at Gordonstoun. I think the main punishment was usually penalty drill, which involved doing a run around the South Lawn on a Saturday afternoon. There would be one colour bearer or master standing in the middle with everybody else running round the outside. You could get half an hour, an hour or two hours. I was punished in this way on one occasion, but I can't remember what I'd done.
- 63. Alcohol wasn't allowed at the school at all. If you came back to the school under the influence of alcohol you would be expelled or rusticated. I can remember pupils being expelled or rusticated, but I can't remember what it was for. It was public in that everybody would talk about it, but I don't remember it being announced. If the school found out that you were involved in any kind of sexual relationship, you'd be expelled immediately. It was absolutely not countenanced. Boys could be expelled for being in the girls' bedrooms.
- 64. There was corporal punishment, but it wasn't used on the girls. I was aware of it being used on the boys. One or two housemasters were known for using the belt, but I can't remember specific incidents. There probably was a physical element to colour bearer's use of discipline, but I don't know.

Abuse at Gordonstoun

65. There was an element of grooming of the young girls by the older boys. I think that was a fairly common thing and I certainly experienced it myself. They had a way of manipulating girls. Now I know about grooming, I see that was what it was. I had a boyfriend, **Communication**, who was really positive and kind and nice to me. He would then change his mind and have nothing to do with me. I remember being involved in a

concert in the chapel. I borrowed a friend's dress and I was playing the clarinet. Apparently, I looked really nice and he was really complimentary. He said that we were back on. The next day, he would say that he had changed his mind and he wasn't interested. It would be an on-off sort of thing. It was definitely a way of coaxing me into having sex with him.

- 66. We had sex in the geography library, which was near Round Square. He had a key and he told me where to go in the middle of the night. I think it happened twice, but I've blanked it out. I now recognise that was what he was doing. At the time, I was completely confused. He was older than me. I was fifteen and I think he was seventeen, but I'm not sure. He was very manipulative. It only lasted about two months and I really regretted it. It was just horrid. It was during my anorexic phase. It was a very uncomfortable time.
- 67. I think the boys kind of taught each other to do that. It was the environment that they were in. There was a group of boys who would talk about the girls in that way. They managed to put pressure on girls and manipulate them. You feel so alone in an environment where there are no adults to talk to. The colour bearers were incredibly powerful. The boys were a lot bigger and stronger. It's only looking back that I understand why I did what I did and why certain things happened. I witnessed that kind of thing happening to other girls as well, but we didn't really talk about it. I think my friends knew a little about what happened to me, but I didn't say how I felt about it. I felt shame and I tried to hide it. It definitely happened to my sister before she ran away from the school.
- 68. My best friend, **Mathematical**, went through trauma as well. She ended up getting pregnant at school and having an abortion. She was unable to tell anybody. I would say that a similar grooming thing happened to her. I remember her phoning me up and she said that she was still bleeding, but she couldn't tell anybody. It was terrible.
- 69. After what happened with and a local strength is the boys. I was probably talked about a fair bit by the boys. I think that made me vulnerable later on. I had just come back from holidays in January 1980. My boyfriend had been at university in Southampton for a term so I wasn't

looking for a relationship at school. The second or third weekend of term, I was in bed. I had been listening to some music on my record player. My window was open and I remember that there was a streetlamp outside. My bedroom was upstairs and I was in the horsebox closest to the door. For no reason at all, I used to sleep with no clothes on. It was all girls in the house. Boys were not allowed in the house, apart from the common room on a Saturday afternoon. They were not allowed anywhere in the bedroom area.

- 70. I woke up and I just had this sense of overwhelming evil. I was really afraid. I didn't have a faith at all at that time, but I remember that I said a prayer because I was so afraid. I went back to sleep. I woke up again about an hour later and there was someone on top of me. It was **someone**, although I wasn't immediately sure who it was. He was eighteen, a colour bearer and in the oldest year group. I was sixteen. I had barely spoken to him and had said hello to him once as I passed him in the art rooms. He was in no way a friend.
- 71. **The second second**
- 72. It probably went on for about three quarters of an hour, maybe an hour. It was a long time. All I could do was protect myself with what I said. I remember talking in a hoarse whisper. I was in a horsebox so the girls along from me would have heard. They were a lot younger than me. I can't remember any of their names, but they were questioned later. I remember telling that we would be expelled and that I would scream. Everything was in this stage whisper. If I screamed, I thought that I would be expelled as well. Eventually, he left and I went to sleep.

- 73. The next day, my throat was rough from having whispered. For the first time ever, I didn't wake up at the bell. I only woke up when everybody was coming back from chapel. I was just in a complete tunnel that you go into when you're in shock. It was as if everybody else was far away. I remember going for a shower, which was cold by then. I just stood in the cold shower for ages. I couldn't get clean. One of the other girls noticed that I wasn't at breakfast and asked whether I was up yet. I think she was called **shower**. She said something like, **HPR** is pissed off," like she thought I'd ran away.
- 74. I knew that I couldn't go to classes. I somehow made my way to the san. I think I was allowed to stay there for the day, but it might have been longer. I didn't tell them what had happened. I didn't know who I could talk to about it. I knew that I couldn't talk to Mrs Johns. I knew that I couldn't talk to Miss Sivill. I just went through the motions for a few days, in that tunnel most of the time. My best friend, **Mathematical Science**, was away. She had had an operation. My boyfriend was in Southampton. My little support network wasn't there. I couldn't call my parents. I had to go to classes and do the things I had to do. It happened on a Saturday. By the Thursday, I realised that I needed to tell somebody.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Gordonstoun

- 75. The Thursday night after I was assaulted, everybody else had gone to watch *Top of the Pops*. I was in the house, still in shock, wondering what to do or who I could tell. I felt as if I might go under if I didn't talk to someone. I thought that the only person I could tell was the headmaster. He was strict, but he seemed efficient so we had a sort of respect for that. In my young mind, I thought he might be reasonable and sort it out but he didn't.
- 76. There was a route through the forest that led to the headmaster's house. The trees are huge at Gordonstoun. I can remember the sound of the wind thrashing through the trees. It was a really stormy night. I had never been to the headmaster's house before. I knocked on the door and his wife was there. She said that Mr Mavor was away. She

insisted on me coming in. I didn't tell her anything. I just said that I needed to talk to the headmaster. I then went back to my house.

- 77. The next morning in chapel, an announcement was given that I had to go to the headmaster. I didn't know that I was meant to go immediately. I think I went to my maths class and someone was sent to come and get me. I then went to see the headmaster. By this time, he had worked out that I was the person who had come to his house. He wanted to know what the reason was. I can remember looking at the carpet and telling him what had happened. I told him that someone had come into my room. I don't know what exact words I used, but I told him that I had woken up and he was on top of me. He knew the nature of the event.
- 78. The headmaster asked me how long the guy was in my room. I think I said that it was only about ten minutes. I knew that was a lie at the time because it was more like an hour. I think I said that to him because I didn't think he would believe that I wasn't complicit if I said that it had been an hour. I thought the headmaster would think that I'd invited him in. My sixteen year old self made that decision. I later heard that they questioned the girl who was next to me in the room. She said that the person had been in my room for much longer so my account wasn't believed.
- 79. I couldn't tell Mr Mavor the name of the person who had done it. I couldn't possibly tell him the name. I knew that I wouldn't have a life worth living if I said the name.
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- 80. Nothing was reported to the police. The school was very aware of publicity and that kind of thing. We were very aware that everything that happened at the school stayed

at the school. We were reminded about that a lot. It was clear that nobody should talk to the press or anybody outside.

- 81. The headmaster told me that I needed to focus on my work. He told me that I needed to go back to the boarding house. He gated me and gave me an hourly report, which meant that I had to report what I was doing every hour. He was very cross that I wouldn't tell him the name. It did my head in being gated. I felt trapped. I realised that I had to leave. I couldn't stay at the school because the headmaster hadn't believed me. The fact that I was given a punishment made me realise that I hadn't been believed. I think the headmaster felt that I was out of control and that what had happened was my fault in some way. I felt blamed.
- 82. After I left, I couldn't talk about what had happened to me. I remember going for my interview at my new school. My mum was there and she asked me to tell the headmistress why I'd left Gordonstoun. I said that I couldn't. The headmistress said that was alright. I couldn't possibly talk about it. I probably talked to my boyfriend and one or two close friends. Everybody at Gordonstoun very quickly knew that something had happened. **Severybody** was sort of expelled from the school, but he was allowed to sit his A-levels. His parents rented a caravan for him at a caravan park on the cliffs. He could effectively remain at the school without living at the school. People would have heard his side of the story.
- 83. I later learned that when **and the boy's** name, but I can picture him. He was another with another boy. I've forgotten the boy's name, but I can picture him. He was another one of a group from either Bruce or Altyre House. I think it was the guy who ended up as a paraplegic as a result of a skiing accident later on in life. The other boy went to see another girl in the house, who was his girlfriend. I think the girl was She told people what had happened. I never revealed **and the set of**'s name, but he was expelled because of what had happened with me. The headmaster said, "I'm really sorry that I have to do this, **and the set of**, but I have no choice." I think I learned that from my best friend, **and the set of** when I returned to Gordonstoun to collect my things. She came out to dinner with me and my parents.

84. After **Mathematical** had assaulted me, there was no way I could tell my parents and no way that I could talk to them. There was just one payphone and they were abroad so I couldn't call them. That was why I had to talk to the headmaster. I do feel that he reacted very badly. He compounded what had gone wrong. He almost said that it was my fault and shamed me by punishing me. That just made it impossible. I couldn't pull things back together and stay at the school.

Leaving Gordonstoun

- 85. After the headmaster gated me, I started trying to get enough money for the fare to Southampton. I asked a couple of friends, who I knew had money. My friend had come back after her operation by that time. She gave me her bank card but she didn't have any money. One of the Middle Eastern students, **1**, had money. He gave me enough money for the train fare. I spent Saturday night trying to get a taxi. Eventually, the taxi driver answered the phone. I met him on 'the Green Road', which was the track to the cliffs, very early on the Sunday morning. I gave the taxi driver **1** south a surety that he would get paid. I used the cash to buy a train ticket and went down to Southampton.
- 86. I somehow found my way to my boyfriend's halls of residence. I stayed there. The next morning, the police came and knocked on the door. They said that they'd been sent to find me and asked whether I was okay. They said that they hadn't been sent to take me back to Gordonstoun, but told me that I had to phone the headmaster. During that phone call, Mr Mavor spoke nicely, reassuringly, quite differently to how he'd spoken to me in his study. He said that I could come back and it would be fine. I didn't think that there was any way I could go back.
- 87. I think the headmaster informed my parents and they flew over from Singapore. I went up to Darlington and my parents took me up to Gordonstoun. I wasn't allowed in the school grounds, not even to collect my belongings. Someone else was asked to pack for me. We were allowed to take **Constitution** out for dinner, but that was all. We then went to look for another school for me. I remember that I didn't feel at all ready to go

to a new school, but I had no choice. I ended up going to a sixth form college in Oxford. I had just completed the first term of studying towards my A-levels when I left Gordonstoun. I remember being in the new school by my birthday in **Constitution**. I forgot that it was my birthday until the evening. Nobody knew that it was my birthday and then somebody mentioned the date.

Life after leaving Gordonstoun

- 88. The period after leaving Gordonstoun was a hard time. My parents were aware that something had happened to me, but they didn't probe too deeply. They were very good, very supportive and very sympathetic but they did seem to want to solve the problem. They wanted to get me into school. They did want to bring me back to Singapore but they couldn't find a place for me anywhere.
- 89. The sixth form college was a slightly freer environment than Gordonstoun had been. I did rather go off the rails for about two terms. I was put into a room with two girls who were quite wild, but they were great fun. It was a good place to be, but I did react badly. I did some very silly things at that time. I went home for the summer. When I was at home, I had a really good heart to heart with my mum. I had expected a lot of criticism from her, but she was actually really kind. I had a religious conversion experience that summer. I found peace that way and it was such a relief. I completely turned myself around and worked really hard. I did the International Baccalaureate, which was probably better for me than A-levels, and ended up going to university.
- 90. I studied English at Edinburgh University. Early on in my time at Edinburgh, I went into Teviot Row House and saw commendation coming down the stairs. I just avoided him and I didn't see him again after that, thankfully. I got married while I was at university, between my second and third year. My husband and I had our first child the following year so I did my fourth year with a baby. I then had two more children. We moved to Singapore and I got my first job in publishing. I've worked in publishing ever since that time.

- 91. We moved back from Singapore to Leicester for my job. My husband travelled a lot for his work. We had another baby. We moved again to Guildford in Surrey before going out to the Gulf. We've had ten years, on and off, in different parts of the Gulf. My children are happy and well-adjusted adults. They've all been through university. One works in IT, one is a trained pilot and one works at the **Guildford in London**. The youngest one has just finished university. He's still at home, but he's going to be a pilot in the Royal Navy.
- 92. My husband also went to boarding school. He is aware of my experiences at Gordonstoun. Our youngest child went to boarding school when we were living in the Gulf. He was the only one of our children to go to boarding school. It was a very difficult decision but it was the right thing for him. I found that boarding school had changed a lot since I was at school. Our son went to Merchiston School in Edinburgh. It was really good for him. He loved it and he saw going there as a great privilege. They did have a whole inquiry into abuse while he was there. It was awful. I saw the impact on the school when the issue of abuse is raised. There was the suicide of a teacher. My son wasn't affected by it and I felt that the school dealt with it well. I think they dealt with all problems well. I thought that the headmaster was very good and my son would say that too. It was a very different experience than I had at Gordonstoun.

Reporting of abuse after leaving Gordonstoun

- 93. I didn't have any contact from Mr Mavor after I left the school. My contact with other people from the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I did have a little contact with for the school was quite limited. I were also there. I wrote to her about the incident with for the school was quite to her and I told her what had happened. I can't remember writing the letter. I probably wrote to her and one or two other friends at the time.
- 94. About eight or nine years ago, wrote to me to say that she'd been going through old letters. She had found the letter that I had written to her in 1980. She felt

that it was mine and asked me if I wanted the letter back. She said that she wanted to check whether I wanted it back. I told her that I would like it back. I didn't know whether my memory was the same as what I had written and I wanted to know. She said she would send the letter and I gave her my address. She never did send me the letter.

- 95. I saw again about two years ago. I asked her why she hadn't sent me the letter. She said she had decided not to send it because she felt that it was digging up the past again. The way she talked to me made me wonder if she'd been sent to talk to me to find out whether I was going to say anything. It was all that she wanted to talk about. It was a bit weird. I do feel that people did protect
- 96. I've never made a complaint against the school. I don't know what good it would do now. I know that the school probably has lots of complaints against it. I didn't really want to dig it all up again. I didn't want to go through the whole process of that. My only thought has been for my parents and whether there is some sort of compensation for what they went through. I've never done anything about it. I don't speak to my parents about what happened. It's just too painful. I've never spoken to the police about what happened. I understand that the Inquiry made a referral to the police, but the police haven't yet made any contact with me.
- 97. I think that I can manage my experiences now, but it would be good to see some justice done. I don't want vengeance, but it would be good for somebody to say that was wrong and it shouldn't have happened. That applies to the school governance and to misself. As far as I can tell, he's still incredibly arrogant and has never had to reflect on what he did. I think he's pretty wealthy as well.

School reunion

98. When I was in my early forties, I was invited to a Godonstoun reunion. I always ignored the invitations and I never went. All of my friends were trying to get me to go. I stupidly ended up buying a ticket. It was my youngest son's birthday and I had spent all morning at a farm park in Leicester. I can remember coming home with goodness

knows how many five year olds. I then remember being in the bath and thinking that I'd just put on any old dress and go. I decided to drive there and drive back.

- 99. I eventually got there. When I walked in it was a sea of middle-aged people. I didn't recognise anyone. I then saw a girl called who hadn't changed a bit. She bounced up to me and asked me how I was. She then asked me if I remembered she introduced me to him and I said that I needed to go to the bathroom. That happened twice more that evening. Everywhere I went, someone said, "Do you remember set"? I realised that I didn't need to do that. I didn't need to feel embarrassed.
- 100. I saw over on the other side of room. He was talking to one of my friends, She was having a conversation with him about who had got off with whom and who had snogged whom. She asked whether I had ever got off with Simultaneously, I said no and he said yes. I looked him in the eye and I said very calmly but firmly, "No, this is what happened." I told him what had really happened, what he had done and the effect that it had had on my family. My friend was very drunk. Was also drunk. He blanched when I said it. I told him the effect it had on my parents, my schooling, my friendships and the rest of my life. I said, "That is what happened," and then I walked off. I felt fine after I did that. It felt like closure.

Impact

- 101. For a long time, I cut what happened out of my memory. I didn't go there and I didn't think about it. I didn't have anything to do with it. I just moved on. What did happen was that I completely cut myself off from all my close friends and everyone that I knew at school. I just couldn't deal with any of that world anymore. I felt such shame. I just couldn't be a part of it anymore. That included my best friend, **1000**. I didn't immediately cut all contact but I did over the course of the next six months to a year.
- 102. In my early forties, I thought I'd moved on. I had been a bit of a workaholic up until that point. I was incredibly driven, but things were falling apart with four kids, a very busy

job and no confidence. I then talked to somebody about what had happened. It was really good. I felt different and more in control. I disclosed what had happened to the pastor of my church. He asked a couple of counsellors to talk to me and I found that really helpful. It completely transformed things for me and was a real turning point in my life. It was around that time that I went to a school reunion and confronted

. I now feel that I've worked through the issues that the experience of the sexual assault at Gordonstoun had thrown up.

- 103. About eight, nine, ten years ago I was invited back to Gordonstoun. Through some friends, I was asked to talk about doing some prayer spaces in the school for teachers. It was the first time that I had been back. I stayed with a couple of teachers in Duffus House. They were lovely teachers who had done a huge amount of good in the school. The next morning, I walked around the grounds. I just thought what an amazing place it was to have been at school. I couldn't believe it was where I used to be at school. I absolutely loved Gordonstoun. You wouldn't have been able to get me to leave, apart from the way that I did. When I went back, I had a strong feeling of what had been taken away from me. I felt that loss and I felt regret. I don't go to the old Gordonstonian day. I've never been and done any of that sort of stuff. Other people go back year after year and keep their friendships. They're all in touch. I just don't feel that I can be. I feel that as a real loss. I wish that could have been more positive.
- 104. I can see the fact that I had to leave Gordonstoun in two ways. In one way, I was taken out of a terrible situation, which was a relief. In another way, I lost the school that I loved. I lost the environment and all of my friends completely. I think my education probably was impacted, but I don't know. I think the future steps I would have taken, the group I would still have been a part of and the opportunities that would have been there were lost. I get invited to do the Gordonstoun carol service, which is held at the Canongate Kirk on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh. Afterwards, everybody comes to talk to me about their sadnesses, which happens when you've been leading

Now, seeing people from school is fine. Lots of people have been through all sorts of sadnesses. Those kinds of experiences make you grow or mellow you in some ways.

- 105. The fact that I had that counselling and that I was able to speak the truth to really helped me. Sometimes I do regret and I do wonder what life would have been like if I hadn't had Gordonstoun taken away from me. It was such a privilege to be there anyway. The impact I really do regret is the impact it had on my parents, to have had two children suffer in this way. My sister suffered far more than I did. She ended up running away from home again and she had two failed marriages. She had an abusive husband. Her journey was just horrible. She lost two of her children, who were taken away by one of her husbands. I think the experience of being groomed at Gordonstoun had a huge impact on her. The impact on my parents was pretty massive. It was wrong and the school dealt with it badly. It really had a big impact on the whole family.
- 106. My experiences at Gordonstoun definitely impacted me as a parent. I was definitely very protective of my children. I think it's also affected the way that I make friends. I think it's probably made me more work-focused and less relationship-focused. I think it made me more protective of myself. I think it's affected my confidence, but I think that I've recovered. It could have been a lot worse than it was, seeing how things affected my sister. I've had a supportive husband and a really good marriage. My kids have been great. I'm really grateful for that. That's been the absolute bedrock for me. It probably has affected my relationship with my husband, but I only see that in hindsight. It would make me more reluctant to have sex. I'm more careful.
- 107. I think my faith completely restored what was a very broken life at the point when I left Gordonstoun. It's been a source of strength. I never think about what happened anymore. That wasn't always the case. I used to have flashbacks about what had happened. Around the time I spoke to the pastor, I was having flashbacks and I hated it. I thought that I'd put it behind me and forgotten it all. Something brought it back to the surface. It may have been that my daughter was about the same age as I had been when I was attacked.

Lessons to be learned

- 108. I think that Gordonstoun was an incredible time. We had a lot of freedom. We learned how to push ourselves and how to grow, which was very creative. It really was a positive time until **Control** assaulted me.
- 109. I think the main lesson from my experience would be that everybody should be treated equally. Boarding schools should never make allowances for wealthy kids. They should not be swayed by how much money their parents have. You see it happening time and time again. There should be some way of checking that doesn't happen, but I don't know how. It's awful that kids' parents can buy their way into institutions like that and then their kids can basically do what they want. I think that's terrible. There are no rules applied to them and they're above the law. There shouldn't be a code of secrecy or loyalty, or anything which enables or condones bullying or grooming. The truth should be told.
- 110. I think that was still an issue at Merchiston when my son was there. He was towards the end of his time there. He had a very difficult group of kids to look after. Two of the children were related to the the term. They were very difficult but they couldn't be disciplined because of their standing. He

found it impossible and he had to stand down from that job. Various things like that happened. There were minor royals there as well who were given slightly preferential treatment. That just shouldn't happen at all.

- 111. I was not at all surprised about the allegations about Prince Andrew. I didn't meet him very often, but I do remember him leaning out of the Cumming House window. I'd been playing tennis with one of my friends. He had been to Canada for year. He told us that all the girls ran down the street with 'I Love Andy' t-shirts on. He used to go through one girlfriend after another. It was known by sixth form entrants. It shouldn't be like that. They should have the same rules applied and the same respect for other people.
- 112. There was nobody I could have approached after I was assaulted. The housemistress was completely detached. There just wasn't anybody. It would definitely have helped

me if there had been someone I could have told. It was my main problem, having nobody to go and tell. The last resort was to go to the headmaster. I couldn't think of anybody I could talk to. The headmaster should have arranged some kind of counselling, even if he couldn't do it himself. And he should have made sure that **mathematical** was properly punished, and made clear that behaviour was unacceptable.

Hopes for the Inquiry

- 113. I hope that this stuff will stop happening to girls. It would be lovely to know that our kids are safe and that they don't have to go through this trauma. That would be the best thing. I would also like to see the record put straight. I would like not to have to feel the sense of embarrassment. When I went to that reunion, every time I was introduced to **see they are sense**, people would then say, "Oh, sorry." They all remembered what had happened but they remembered it from their point of view. I would like the truth to be told. If, as I suspect, **see sense** has done other things then I would like that to be brought to light. It's only fair. I have no way of knowing whether he has or not.
- 114. I would like to see my parents somehow compensated for the trauma that they had to go through. What happened to me and my sister at Gordonstoun really had a massive impact on our family and on our lives as a family. It broke the relationship between my mum and my sister. It probably had a big impact on my mum's health. That's never really been addressed at all.
- 115. 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.

HPR	
Signed	
Dated 13th May	2022