

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

BXP

Support person present: No

1. My name is **BXP** My date of birth is **1974**. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My dad's name was **_____** My mum's name was **_____** before she married my dad and **_____** thereafter. I had a big brother, **_____**, who went to the same school as me. He was four years older than me. I had a wee sister, **_____** who didn't go to the same school because there were no girls. She was four years younger than me.
3. My father was in the navy. I was born in Aberdeen because my mum and dad couldn't get married quarters at the time. My mum was living with my dad's parents when I was born. My brother was born in Inverness for the same reason. My parents couldn't get married quarters so my mum stayed with her mum in the Highlands when he was born. My parents kept themselves to themselves. When I joined the army later there was a lot of mixing and parties but my mum and dad didn't socialise much with the other navy people.
4. We moved around a lot. I was in Helensburgh for seven years because my dad was in Faslane. Then we moved to Watford, near London, then Portsmouth for a few years before moving back up to Helensburgh. My dad's friend had a son who went to Queen Victoria School and he gave a good report about it. I went there because we had been

moving around and moving school. A few years after I had started at QV we moved to Rosyth and then to Cowdenbeath so I would have had to move school a few times if I hadn't gone to QV. I think my dad really sent me for monetary reasons. It was cheaper to send your kids there than to have them at home. I don't know the cost but it was Ministry of Defence and you didn't pay much to send your kids there.

5. I knew that I would be going to QV and I wanted to go because it would be an adventure. The only person I knew who had gone was my brother. There weren't many navy kids at the school, it was ninety percent army or maybe even more. My parents asked me if I wanted to go and I said yes.
6. I don't know the ins and outs of applying. I had an interview which I remember because there was a boy called [REDACTED] whose dad had died while serving and he didn't get in. He was a bit younger and he ended up joining the next year. It shocked me because they prioritised boys whose dads had died but they must have thought he was too immature. I remember him crying in the central hall because he wasn't accepted. I can't remember how I was told I was successful and I don't remember where the interview was or who it was with but it was probably the headmaster and a couple of teachers. I don't remember a parent being there.
7. In early September 1984 I went to QV I was still nine and we were living in Helensburgh at that time. I left QV in May 1991.

Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

8. Queen Victoria School was on the outskirts of Dunblane and was set in its own grounds. There was a long steep slope that led to the main entrance where there was a school porter, who was like the security. Inside there was the central hall where they displayed the names of guys who were commissioned in the army, from the founding one right up until present times. There were brass plaques for the head boy every year and there were paintings. That was the main bit of the school and there were four floors.

9. That main school was where the senior boys went but there was a junior school called Wavell which was where you first went. I was in Wavell for three years. I was one of the youngest and they kept all the pupils that started when they were nine back for a year. There were around forty boys who started together. A few kids came and went. Some children were too homesick. The odd new guy would come and it must have been hard for them. I think it is just hard to be the new guy.
10. After primary seven you went to the main school which housed Cunningham and Trenchard. After Wavell I was in Cunningham and then I went to Haig house which was for years four, five and six.
11. If you go up to the school and the main building is on the left, then Wavell is on the right hand side. Wavell looked like it had been built in the sixties whereas the main building looked Victorian or Edwardian. Wavell was all grey.
12. There was 25 metre swimming pool which was great. We could go for a swim and a splash about. There was building that was used for indoor sports like badminton and indoor football. That was a big building. There were changing rooms in there for the rugby and there were terrible showers. You had to do drill in there as well. The school's sergeant major was called Dealie.
13. The headmaster was Julian Hankinson. There was a school **SNR** called **CDP** **CDP** who was in charge of the **SNR** side and he was a retired Black Watch **SNR**. He came out when you had rugby or ceremonial stuff. Every Sunday they used to parade colours in the school chapel and you had to sing God Save the Queen. I think that's why I have grown up hating that song. If the Duke of Edinburgh came then the **SNR** would be the one to do the pageantry and all of that sort of thing.
14. Each house had a female matron. You wanted to go to Trenchard because they had the better matron. She was nice but I have forgotten her name. If you went to Cunningham then you had the battle-axe called Mrs Moncrieff. Haig house had a nice matron as well but that was for the senior boys. You also wanted to go to Trenchard because they had a nice tuck shop. Mr Webster was their housemaster and he had a

really cool tuckshop. Whereas in Cunningham you had QTQ and it was just Wham Bars and a very basic tuck shop. OLB was the housemaster at Wavell and Mrs BXL was the matron.

Routine at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

First day

15. I don't remember an induction day, you just turned up. I was nine years old and I had my mum and my granny with me. You went to the Quartermaster's Store and they gave you your uniform. I was sliding around on a linoleum floor with my brogues on, I couldn't get them on. I think you went to the school hospital for a check-up. When my mum left I was in tears, it was a shock.

Mornings and bedtime

16. The first place you were in was a dormitory and there was at least a dozen of you in a dorm. I think you had single beds and then a couple of years later they put more kids in a dorm and there were bunkbeds. Wavell been built with six dormitories but then, after about a year, it was reduced to four and they used the downstairs room as a recreation room. That was when we ended up more squashed in with bunkbeds.
17. In the middle of the dormitory there was a huge wooden table where you polished your shoes. You had a locker and a foot locker. You had to bring a padlock so that you could secure it. I think after a few years you were allowed to bring a quilt. During my first year or two we used the old army blankets.
18. There was a mix of guys from primary six and seven in my dorm. I remember the names of some of the older boys in my dorm when I started, there was [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and a guy called [REDACTED] but I can't remember his first name. I was allocated my bed.

19. You didn't have the same bed for the whole time you were in Wavell, they would swap you around. When the summer term started they split you up into your age groups so the primary six boys would all be together and the primary seven boys would all be together. I don't know why that happened.
20. When you went to the high school, you were given your bed for the year and then, when you moved into second year of high school, you were in a different part of the dorm so you moved again.
21. I don't remember what time we had to get up but I think it might have been seven. The first thing you had to do when you woke up was air your bed by pulling back all your sheets and blankets then you went to get washed and dressed.
22. On Monday you barracked your bed which meant that you had to fold all of your blankets, sheets and pillowcases and put them at the bottom of your bed. I hated doing it and I used to get a bad feeling in my tummy on Sunday night because I knew I had to do my bedding the next day. It was stupid because it was such an easy thing to do but as a kid I hated doing it. I don't remember if anyone inspected that. On a Monday that was all laundered and you were given clean bedding.
23. I think lights out was at eight or nine.

Mealtimes/Food

24. Once you were dressed you would go and have breakfast. After breakfast you would head back to your dorm and get ready for school.
25. All three meals, and supper at night, were in the main building. At mealtimes a bugle sounded and that meant it was time for a meal, it was really strange. You lined up and there was an order to going into the central hall for your meal. I think it was the younger kids who went in first and then senior boys were last.

26. You went up and picked one main thing to go with your chips or your vegetables and then you sat down at a big table. I think there were ten of you at a big table. You couldn't choose where you sat. Every year had two tables. When you went to High school there was forty in a year but you were split into Trenchard and Cunningham so there were twenty of you in each house and you would have two tables. You had to sit with the kids from your year in that house. Trenchard was on one side of the dining room and Cunningham was on the other.
27. The food was pretty basic and it wasn't very nice. The dinner ladies didn't really speak to you and there was no friendship with them. I think the food came from Sutcliffe Catering and it was basic school food. It wasn't nice and I didn't look forward to any meal. There was toad in the hole, semolina, bread and jam. Certain teachers didn't like you putting chips in your bread so you took a bite of bread and then stuck some chips in your mouth.
28. There was tea and horrible coffee. There was no squash you just lived off water from a tap. You could get fizzy juice from the tuck shop. You would have prep at night and then we would trip each other up and fight over a rich tea biscuit and half a cup of milk.
29. There were a couple of skinny kids but they turned up skinny. Eating disorders were unheard of and everyone just ate. I never heard anyone not eating. Everyone just ate what they were given. There were no vegetarians or people of different religions.

Washing/bathing

30. There were baths and showers and you could have a shower when you wanted. In Wavell you were on a list and there were certain days when the matron would inspect you. She would check that you had washed behind your ears and that your teeth were clean. You could buy boot polish and toothpaste from her, in her office, and I think they took that from your pocket money allowance.

Clothing/uniform

31. The normal every day uniform was from the 1930s. It was corduroy shorts down to the knees, a corduroy jacket, shirt, tie, socks and brogues for shoes. You wore garter flashes to hold up your socks because you had a kilt, a tunic and a ceremonial Glengarry. You had a walking out dress which was a grey tweed jacket and you wore that with a tank top underneath it. You would wear that for walking out into Dunblane, for going out on a school trip or if you were on an outing to the theatre.
32. There were items from a list that you had to bring. You had to bring your own waterproof jacket and a toothbrush.
33. Your corduroy uniform was cleaned two or three times a year. You could have egg yolk rubbed into your uniform but you had to wait for it to be laundered. You washed your socks and underpants a couple of times a week.

Leisure time

34. In the junior school you had a thing called hobbies. There was a list of different activities and you had to do three things. There were things like fly fishing and airplane modelling. I did airplane modelling and you would go to a hut in the evening to do your hobby. That happened after prep. You could choose what you wanted to do but each hobby only had a certain amount of kids so you might miss out. Some were lucky and some were unlucky. You could end up doing things you didn't enjoy because you had to do something.
35. After hobbies you had time for a bit of telly and then it was bed time. Each house had a television room and you watched what the oldest kids wanted to watch.
36. You had to go to school as normal on a Saturday morning. On Sunday you had a church service which lasted an hour and a half and was very Presbyterian. You were free then to go to the woods and build dams, normal kid stuff. On a Sunday night the whole school went to the theatre to watch a film.

37. Different years were allowed to go to Dunblane on different days and you were allowed to go on the weekends. When you were older it was weird and I think you could go on a Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. It was all very innocent. We thought it was amazing just walking about, looking at Dunblane Cathedral. We were sheltered in a lot of ways. That was my life. We would go to the sweet shop to buy fancy sweets or we would buy marbles. You could go and spend some pocket money and as you became older you would be hoping to meet girls. You had to be back for a certain time. You booked out and then off you went. No one ever went missing.

Trips and holidays

38. I went home during the holidays and every time I came back from being on holiday, I would see the BP garage on the outskirts of Dunblane and I would start to feel sick to my stomach but as soon as I saw my friends again I was alright. I just had to get over that feeling of homesickness.
39. In 1988 the school was being renovated and we were moved to a place called Drip Camp in Stirling. It was right by the River Forth and we went swimming in there every day. There was no life guard and how no one drowned I'll never know.
40. We would go to MacRobert Arts to see theatre like Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. We would go to Edinburgh and Glasgow for a theatre trip. There were school trips to Kelvingrove and things like that. If you were in the pipe band then you would have more outings. They played at Murrayfield every home international. I was a dancer so I had more days out. We used to go to hospices and do highland dancing to the pipes.
41. There was a ski trip to France before you left primary school which most kids went on so I went on a ski trip for a week. We flew to France with Dan-Air. You didn't want to fly with them because they had some nasty crashes. The ski trip was fine, we went sledging. My mum gave me the family camera and I just took photos of the bathroom, I never took any scenic photos. I wore the same socks for a week skiing and they

stank. I remember one of the boys had naughty magazines and one of the teachers found them and threatened to photocopy it and give it to our parents. That's my memories of the resort in France. I don't remember any other holidays.

Schooling

42. In Wavell the teachers were OLB Ben Philip, QYL and a guy called Beattie but I can't remember his first name. On the right hand side of the Wavell building there was accommodation and the main bit of the construction housed classrooms. The classrooms to the right hand side were the Wavell classrooms. There wasn't much mixing between the junior school and the senior boys. They were kind of kept apart. There were fire exits between the Wavell dorms and the classrooms but it was an offence to use those and you would be punished if you were caught using them. You had to come out of the dorms and go in the main entrance to the school.
43. We had normal lessons and we had to learn drill in the hall. Drill was once or twice a week. It was quite basic really. It was saluting, standing to attention and standing at ease. There wasn't anything too technical. It was normal army drill but without weapons. You did that for the first year or two and then you had to join one of the cadet forces which meant the army, navy or air cadets. I joined the sea cadets.
44. School finished at about half four. I think lunch was about an hour break and you had a twenty minute break in the morning and another in the afternoon. After school finished it was tea time and then there was an hour's prep which was your homework and study time. That was supervised by an older boy who was there to make sure that no one misbehaved but there was no one there to help you with your work. I used to play silly wee games with football scores and as long as you were sat there being quiet then it was alright. Prep was for an hour but it became longer as you became older. I think it was an hour and a half or two hours by the time I left.
45. I think the schooling was normal and followed the Scottish curriculum. When I was there it was half O-levels and half standard grades. I didn't excel but I don't think it was

bad. I just chose to be a clown. My brother was studious. He passed five O-levels and then he left after fourth year. I left after fourth year, I just wanted to get out of school.

Sporting activities

46. It was all about rugby. You could only play football in your own time. You had to play rugby no matter what the weather. I remember guys crying playing in the snow and hail stones. If you weren't in the scrum then it was torture and you were absolutely freezing. You used to have to stamp on the ice to break it so you could play. Kids that couldn't play rugby had to go and watch it, they couldn't just stay in their rooms. There was no slinking off. In the summer you did athletics.
47. I was only in the second fifteen. I didn't understand the rules when I was a kid. I remember a scrum and I was one of the backs and I just ran in and grabbed the ball in the scrum. I did lots of stupid things. I didn't get the rules until I was an adult.
48. We went to other schools to play and one of the good things was going to a school where there were girls. Everybody would be licking the windows of the bus because there was a girl there.

Healthcare

49. There was a school hospital with a sister and a nurse and they were lovely women. If you were ever sick then you went in there. The advantage of being in there was that they would bring round toast in the morning. You were looked after in the hospital. I remember being in the hospital with a sickness bug. There were times when sickness bugs would go round the school and there would be buckets of sawdust out to cover up where people had been sick. If you felt sick then you went to the school hospital and they bedded you down.
50. Anything to do with a doctor, you would be taken to the GP. I had warts when I was older and I had to go with the Cunningham matron, Mrs Moncrieff, to a doctor's surgery in Dunblane to get them frozen off.

51. A dentist would come and check you over. They had a set up for the dentist in the school. I think if there was a problem then you would be taken to Dunblane but I have perfect teeth so I don't know the ins and outs of dentistry there.

Religious instruction

52. I think the Catholic boys were taken to a service in Dunblane on a Sunday morning. Monday to Friday everyone had the same church service which only lasted for about half an hour before the school day. There were one or two hymns and a wee message from the bible. Every boy had to take a reading from the bible during their time at the school. The Sunday service was the full shebang when you were in a red tunic and kilt and the colours were paraded.

Work

53. There was a rota which gave you a certain job to do but it wasn't anything to mention. I don't think it was every night I think it was a weekly job but I can't remember that to be honest. I know you had a job to do.

Birthdays and Christmas

54. I was at home for my birthday and I don't remember singing happy birthday to anyone else. You could tell when it was someone's birthday because you were given your mail in the central hall and they might have a cake from a Dunblane baker. A lot of kids read comics and they came in a tubular package.
55. There was a Christmas dinner before you broke up for the Christmas and that was the normal turkey and brussel sprouts. There was a Christmas concert with parents invited. The kids who could sing, sang the Christmas songs
56. Halloween was fun and there would be dunking for apples, singing songs and a bonfire.

Personal possessions

57. At the start of the school term you had a balance of about twenty five pounds for pocket money. I presume that money was provided by my parents. You were given pocket money once a week and the housemaster kept a book where he recorded what you had been given. You would spend that on sweets.
58. Kids would have Walkmans and skateboards. You could have a couple of items. We didn't really want much. Ghetto blasters came in and some kids had them. That was the maximum luxury. You didn't have your own tellies or anything.

Bed Wetting

59. There was a kid in my year called [REDACTED] and he was bullied terribly for wetting the bed. I feel guilty because we made his life a misery. We called him "[REDACTED]" even though he didn't leave skid marks, he was a bed wetter. I think the school gave him a special mattress. I'm not on Facebook but I was years ago and there were a couple of kids who I really hoped had done well and he has. He had his own [REDACTED] shop in [REDACTED], a beautiful part of the world, and he had kids. I am pleased he did well.

Visitors

60. Parents could come at weekends. When my parents lived nearer they came to visit. That happened a couple of times. My mum didn't drive then so she used to get a train up and I went into Dunblane with her a couple of times. You could go and do what you wanted with your visitors.
61. You would see relatives because you could have relatives come and take you out and my granny came and picked us up a few times. That was called a late pass and you could take a friend. I had kids who came with me and I was taken out with a few friends.

External Inspections

62. I never saw anything like that and I don't remember any strangers walking around.

Family contact

63. You had a period in the timetable for letter writing so you could write to your parents. You could write whatever you wanted and the letters weren't censored. I think the school had its own letterbox that you posted it in. I received letters from my mum all of the time. You weren't allowed to phone home until you were in the senior school.

Sibling contact

64. I would bump into my big brother in the school grounds or on the playing fields and have a quick chat but four years was a big age difference and we were always in different houses so I didn't see too much of my brother. We weren't allowed in each other's dormitories. I never saw where he slept and he never came over to where I slept. Different age groups were kept apart.

Running away

65. There were a couple of runaway incidents and I did that when I was in second year. I ran away over the Ochil hills and when I came down a guy picked me up from the street. We passed a police car and he handed me over to the police. The police took me home to Cowdenbeath and then my dad took me back to school. Nothing traumatic had happened I just wanted to do it. I was naughty, I wasn't a good pupil or a good kid. I wasn't punished for that, I just had a chat with the headmaster.

Discipline

66. The basic punishment was "the whack" which was a tennis shoe over your arse. You put your hands on the radiator and the teacher whacked you on the bum however many times. On my first night there about twenty of us had to stand in a big line to get the whack. You had to say what you were there for and there was a kid called [REDACTED]

██████████ who had lost his school towel and he still got whacked for that. OLB ██████████ was the one who gave the whack on the first night. The whack was given over pyjamas or over school shorts.

67. You would get the whack for speaking in class. When it was lights out, if you were being naughty, then the dorm leader would report you to OLB ██████████ the housemaster and he would just take the dorm leader's word for it and you got the whack.
68. My brother talked over the years about a boy called ██████████ who was in Wavell. He hadn't been given the whack once in Wavell House so on the last day OLB ██████████ whacked him just because he had never had it done to him before.
69. The teachers gave the whack for anything in class. All the teachers gave the whack but we feared certain teachers for how hard they did it. One would take a run up and I think that was ██████████ teacher, QUH ██████████ Ben Philip made it sting. Even the school chaplain, Sillcox, gave the whack. I remember it was playtime and I was shining a mirror on his bald head so he gave me the whack. He was the Reverend and he taught religious studies.
70. For more serious things you were given the belt. If you went round the beds bouncing from one to another then you were given the belt. I suppose they didn't want anyone splitting their heads open because they would have to explain to a parent what had happened. It didn't happen to me but I saw the after effects of someone getting the belt for bed bouncing. They would be in tears.
71. The belt was for more serious stuff and the cane was unheard of. It was for things like bullying. There was a fight in the school chapel when I first started and I heard the senior boys were given the cane but that was a rarity.
72. You didn't start getting lines and detention until they got rid of corporal punishment. I was in detention all of the time when corporal punishment went out of the window. I never liked the headmaster. My sense of humour was that I used to make my farts as loud as possible. On the plastic chairs you could get them really loud. Some teachers

would ignore it but some modern type teachers couldn't stand it. Stephen Lane was the technical drawing teacher and it really got on his nerves so he would send me to the headmaster. I was always at the headmaster's office for farting as loud as I could, I think he had had enough of me. The headmaster would give me detention.

73. Detention and lines became the normal punishment after corporal punishment had stopped but it was nothing compared to what had happened before so there was no fear. I wasn't afraid of detention, I just spent my weekends sat in a class. Detention was on Saturday, Sunday and Thursday because that was the day you could go into Dunblane. It was supervised by a teacher and you had to do lines while you were there. The worst one I had was given by Ben Philip, I had to copy out of the bible for hours and hours. There was no punishment beyond detention.
74. I remember on one occasion my parents came up and my dad gave me a fiver. He told me to go and get some fags with it. He was joking but he probably suspected I was experimenting with cigarettes like quite a few of us were. When there was corporal punishment you would be given the whack for smoking and then it was detention. I never drank and there were no drugs. We had school discos and girls' schools would come but I don't remember there ever being any alcohol.
75. There were a few kids who were bullied. [REDACTED] was a bit weak and he used to get bullied terribly. Boys were picked on for stupid things. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who always smiled and he went through school being called gay. Kids are just very cruel. I don't think the school dealt with bullying much. It was name calling. I don't think it was worse than a normal state school.

Prefects / senior pupils

76. When you started, an older boy took you under his wing and you were called a "rookie". He was supposed to look after you and see how you were getting on. [REDACTED] was mine and he was a good kid. He showed me round on the first day. In my second year the rookies came again and you had to take one under your wing.

77. When I was in Wavell they had dorm leaders. The dorm leader might have been a year or two older than me and I think the teacher must have picked who they thought was most responsible. I don't remember who the dorm leader was when I started. It was a little bit like Lord of the flies because they could just put you on report. When you were on report then that was it and you got your whack. It was OLB [REDACTED] who would do that. We always liked OLB [REDACTED] and it is only in the last few years that I have started to see things that were wrong with that school. I used to see that as character building.
78. In the High School you had a head boy, monitor and prefects. I can't remember which were more senior but in one group there were about four of them and in the other there were ten or a dozen of them. I think the prefects were senior. They had a disciplinary role and they had the power to give you "a day" which meant that, in the winter, you did supervised circuit training in the morning where you would have to climb ropes and do bunny hops in the gym. In the summer it meant running around the playing fields. I think a teacher was there to monitor you running round but I don't remember them being involved in whether you were given a day. Prefects weren't able to give you lines or detention.
79. There was an official staircase that you were meant to use in the school but it was quicker to use the back, where the old lift shaft was. One of them, a guy called [REDACTED], gave me a day for using the back stairs.

Abuse at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

80. Ben Philip taught me throughout my last year in Wavell when I was eleven and twelve years old. When he was going through my work in class, I would stand next to his chair and he would always have his hand up my shirt, stroking me. He would do that for as long as he was going over my work and he did it every time I was beside his desk. I don't know if I saw him do that to other boys. He probably was doing it but I was in my own wee world.

81. I wasn't horrified at the time, I liked the feeling. I have three daughters and if anyone did that to my daughters I would probably kill them but at that age I didn't see anything wrong with it. I thought he was a nice teacher and he was stroking me. He never did anything else and there were no private parts involved. The only other thing is that my brother told me that he took boys into his flat.
82. I'm not in contact with anyone from school and I'm not on Facebook now, but I was and I remember it being mentioned. At the time, at the school, we didn't talk about it. When you went to Haig he was the housemaster and we didn't say to each other "remember when we were wee and he used to touch us up". We just didn't. I don't know why we didn't speak about it. It was just immaturity. We didn't get anything from it at that age because we were young. I realise he was getting something out of it because he used to do it every time.
83. Ben Philip was strict and you didn't want to cross him. He seemed strict but kind of fair. I didn't think he was nasty and he could be fun as well, he did fun topics. He was a good teacher. When he whacked you he made it really sting.
84. Ben Philip had dark hair but he was going bald and had a bit of a comb over. He had a Victorian moustache and was always immaculately dressed. He used to wear cufflinks on his shirts and bands on his upper arms. He was well spoken. I had heard he was a borstal teacher before but I don't know if that was true. His nickname to all us kids was "bender". My brother used to tell my mum that it was because, before he whacked you, he used to bend the tennis shoe. That was naivety and it was what I thought it meant. I didn't know about that name when I was young.
85. Mrs **BXL** was the matron in Wavell and her accommodation was on a mezzanine level which had glass either side of the stairs going up to it. The glass looked into the dorm. Every time we were getting changed in the dormitory she was always watching. We just laughed about it and would comment that she was watching us again. At the time I thought it was a bit odd. Now I don't know what I think about it. I have a definite idea of what I think about Ben Philip but with Mrs **BXL** I don't know. I could be the only one mentioning it. Maybe it's just something that stuck in my head.

86. I have been looking for stuff online about school and there is a bit of a narrative about [REDACTED], CDQ [REDACTED]. I left in 1991 and I had never seen him in the school. I think I would remember his face. The only adult that we thought was creeping about was the housemaster, Glen Harrison. [REDACTED] QTQ [REDACTED] as the housemaster of Cunningham. He seemed to walk around a lot more than any teacher there. Maybe he had genuine concerns but I never saw anything strange in the dorms whatsoever.
87. I think Glen Harrison's heart was in the right place. Teachers would do a patrol while you were in bed and they did their rounds, that was normal, but he seemed to do that often. I don't think he was a paedophile. Whether he was right or wrong, I think he really was concerned. Because he went round all the time we used to set traps for him. We put empty tin cans in a row so he would trip over them. We just had a laugh about it.
88. At the time we thought that the way Glen Harrison went round more than the other duty teachers was funny. He never approached you in bed and there was no talk of that. I have read stuff online about Glen Harrison having written letters to parents talking about abuse. At the time I knew nothing about it. I have read online that he is saying that people came to the school to collect boys in cars but I never heard or saw anything like that. You only went away with relatives.
89. I think I read something in [REDACTED] about a boy called [REDACTED] who lived in [REDACTED] having been sexually abused by older boys in the school but I never heard anything at the time. I never heard anything about sexual abuse between boys in the school. There was such an anti-gay thing in the school that I don't think anyone would have thought about that.

Leaving Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

90. I was expelled during my exams. I had been due to leave in a couple of weeks anyway but I was being a bit disruptive so they got rid of me and I went to Beath High in Cowdenbeath. I was only there for a couple of months before the school broke up and I left that school.
91. My mum died in 2009 and she had kept all these letters from the school. I had terrible reports. I had never read all of this. What stuck in my head was that one of them accused me of urinating down a lift shaft. It said a head boy had said that I had urinated down a lift shaft. I never did that. We all used to spit down the disused lift shaft at the back. I never wee'd down there but there was a letter to my mum saying that was what I had done because a boy had said that. The first I knew about that was 12 years ago when she died. I hadn't been accused of that at the time but I learned it was one of the catalysts for me being expelled. My mum had never mentioned it and it was never put to me by the school.
92. I thought I was expelled because my friend and I skipped the Sunday church service. We had been doing the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and we had gone out the back to cook bacon and make bacon sandwiches. We made a bit of a mess with the smoke and one of the teachers came over and saw us. I think it was pretty much after that I was gone. I was a bit of a bugger, being disruptive and naughty. It was just stupid stuff. I was never a bully. There was an incident in the central hall when I flicked a bogey on someone and we started fighting but fights went on all the time. Later on he was crying to the headmaster.
93. I don't really remember what happened when I was expelled. I just wanted to leave school. I don't really remember, I just went home. I think I just got a train home, I don't think my parents came. They were in Cowdenbeath by then.
94. I left with Cs in standard grade English and science. I never tried. I hated school and I didn't see the point. I was stupid. I wanted to join the army. I didn't see the point in learning mathematics because I was never going to use algebra in my life. The things I enjoyed like Geography and history, we didn't do and they weren't on the curriculum. You had Latin and French, metal work and wood work. I just didn't enjoy it.

Life after boarding school

95. I went back to QV a couple of years later for a bit of a reunion. There's a thing for ex-pupils to have a meeting and we went out on the town in Stirling. I think I was in the area in 1997. I popped in and that is the last I have been back.
96. When I left Beath High School I became an apprentice plumber and I didn't enjoy that. You had to go to college in Dunfermline for a week every month and I found it tedious. The boss worked in Edinburgh and he didn't teach me anything. I just crawled about under floor boards and plumbed things in. He used to laugh that I didn't know the names of the tools. When I was at the college the other guys said I was the fourth guy with him because no one had lasted long. I did that for about five months.
97. I joined the army in March 1992 when I was seventeen. I was in the army for eleven years. I was in two regiments and after eleven years I just got bored and left. I struggled to get a job and then I found a job with the Ministry of Defence doing security. It was a civil service job with perks. I did that for eight years and then I took voluntary redundancy. I got a dog handling job which was alright but a lot of the guys abused the dogs. They shouldn't have been dog handlers because they were neglecting them and mistreating them. The boss was on the ball and knew everything about dogs but he was a Jehovah Witness and he was taking on guys who were the sons of elders and then letting them get away with murder.
98. I met a Welsh woman in London and then ended up in Cardiff. We split up and I was going to come back to Scotland but it fell through. I met my ex-wife and had kids and that's why I'm in Wales. I have three daughters.

Impact

99. I think I took the wrong route in life and I should never have followed that path into the military at all. I don't know if I was brain washed but maybe I was. I don't know.
100. I was in Belfast and my mum sent me a letter saying that Ben Philip had died. He fell off a ladder putting up Christmas decorations at the school. I wasn't upset or happy when I heard that. I thought it was a shame and that was it.
101. I'm hopeless at relationships. My ex-wife is a psycho but she is probably the woman I deserved because I don't deserve a nice woman. I don't think I am cut out for relationship stuff. I am a good guy but I do things wrong. I am going through family court to see my kids.
102. I used to think that corporal punishment was a good thing but I am a sadomasochist and I think it could have been that school that did that to me. I'm a bit of a "perv" and I think that might have something to do with QV, corporal punishment and it being an all-boys school. I have only accepted in the last two or three years that I am gay or bisexual. I have only just started coming to terms with that. With my wife in the background it has been torture. There are two other guys from the army that turned out this way and they are dead through drink. I have been drinking hand sanitiser and if it wasn't for my four year old daughter then I wouldn't be here. I have been in touch with mental health and I have an interview with them in August.
103. The word gay has been a negative thing all of my life. There were kids picked on for it and that has been the way it has always been. Anything bad was called "gay". You are seen as sub-human and I have had that all my life. The regiments I served in had all white males and there were no different ethnicities. Everything was the way it had always been and that was it. People who were different were looked down upon.
104. I'm not cut out for relationships. I drink too much and I'm an insomniac. I haven't seen any counsellors in the past. I have a letter from primary mental health support services saying that I have a telephone assessment on the 9th of August. I organised that through the GP. I spoke to the GP on the phone to get some assistance and they put me in touch with these people.

Reporting of Abuse

105. I only started thinking about what Ben Philip had done after Jimmy Saville but I haven't told anybody about it.

Records

106. I don't have my records and I don't want to get in touch with QV.

Lessons to be learned

107. I see things as building a picture, like a jigsaw. I contacted the Inquiry to say what Ben Philip did to me because he may have done worse. I just see myself as a wee bit of the jigsaw. I have read about what has happened to kids who have been around Catholic priests and it makes this look like a holiday camp so I don't feel I had it terrible.
108. I would not send my children to QV. I think boarding schools should be for posh people and it was stupid to send kids like us there. I totally disagree with same-sex schools, especially boarding schools. It is not natural. You should grow up knowing each other and you shouldn't be kept apart.
109. I don't think we are a free society. In my work I have had to go to the probation office to unlock the place. On Monday evenings there is a paedophile and rapist class. You go in there when it is empty and you can see all of the chats and everything that they learn about their behaviour. We were told on a Monday to go there later but I wasn't told and when I went there were people in that classroom. I told the receptionist what I believe should happen to them and a day or two later my boss moved me from Cardiff to Newport. They wanted my job for expressing an opinion about what I think should

happen to them. You can't help them, they are the way they are and that's it. My opinion is that you can't rehabilitate paedophiles.

110. I think everything has become softer and I think everything must be better now. I think it is good that I have been able to talk about it after all of these years.

Other information

111. 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..... 

Dated..... 09 August 2021