

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

CQX

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is CQX. My date of birth is the 1942. I am 78 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Fettes College.

2. I was born in Newcastle upon Tyne and my parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My mother passed away in 2019. I was the oldest of four and my siblings were called [REDACTED] known as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There is four years between me and my sister, another four years between my sister and oldest brother and then five years between my brothers. There are thirteen years between me and my youngest brother.
3. I learned from my father that my name had been put down at birth for attending a public school when I reached the correct age. In my case my name was put down at four different schools. Both my parents had attended public schools. I had to pass the common entrance exam before I could be accepted at Fettes College in Edinburgh.
4. Prior to attending Fettes College I was schooled by a lady who would take turns to hold classes in different houses. It was a kindergarten school. At age seven I went to Newcastle Preparatory School for four terms. I was nearly nine when I then attended a boarding school called Corchester in Corbridge, Northumberland where I stayed for thirteen terms. I went to Fettes College when I was thirteen.

5. I lived with my family in a village called [REDACTED] which was about 10 miles outside Newcastle. My father was an ex-military man and extremely autocratic. My father used to beat the elder of my brothers and me with a swagger stick. I used to find it very upsetting when he would beat my older brother who would only be about four at the time. My sister still recalls the distress that this caused.
6. My mother was very strict and very keen on good manners. My sister also recalls an occasion when my younger brother coughed on the strawberries when we were sitting at the dining room table. My mother was furious and my sister recalls my father telling my mother to hold down my brother while he was beaten with the swagger stick.
7. Sometimes we were all very happy at home but there was always the threat of being beaten by my father. You would be punished for very minor breaches of manners and etiquette like leaning on your elbows at the table and you could end up being sent to your room for at least two hours.
8. My mother would tell us that we would have to wait till my father came home and he would beat us at her request for some very minor transgressions. It meant that you would be waiting about all day for my father to come home and you knew what would happen. It was very distressing.
9. We had a very good relationship with my grandparents and we would visit them every Sunday. Those were the happy times I remember but you had to be careful not to do something you could be punished for later.
10. About six months before I went to Fettes my father went through the four choices I had for public school and based on what my father told me I elected to go to Fettes. It was my decision.

Schooling at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

11. When I arrived at the school I was allocated to a house called College East located in the main building. College West was also part of the main building. There were other houses which were in buildings within the grounds. They were called Moredun House, Kimmerghame, Carrington and Glencorse. Some younger thirteen year old children were housed initially in Inverleith House. Inverleith House was situated outside the grounds but nearby. Boys who were at Inverleith were not fags, whereas children who enrolled in the other houses became fags from school entry. Fagging continued for two years. .
12. There were about 440 boys at the school in total and I suspect that the new intake when I arrived would be between sixty and eighty boys. There were about eighty boys in each academic year group. There was 3rd, 4th, 5th, lower 6th and upper 6th. I think that there were seven or eight new boys in College East who started with me. The boys in the other houses apart from Inverleith House were all aged between thirteen and eighteen.
13. The Chapel which was a main focus and all the school classrooms were situated in the main building. The houses College East and College West were also situated there. The communal dining rooms were within the main building. There was a dining room upstairs and one downstairs in the main building. There was a science laboratory and an art block which were situated in one of the outside buildings. There was also an indoor swimming pool.

Routine at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

First day

14. On the first day at Fettes I was driven there by my father. I had all my clothes and personal belongings stored in a trunk. It was very heavy. My father just left me at the main building and drove off. An older boy helped me carry the trunk to my dormitory where I emptied the contents on the bed. He then helped me to drag the trunk up a number of stairs to a storage room where all the trunks were kept.

15. I was placed in my house which was called College East. You stayed in the same house through your entire time at Fettes. My house was in the main building. There was no induction process and I didn't meet any teachers when I first arrived.
16. Later that evening at about six o'clock there was a meeting held in the common room of College East for all members of the house. No one told me and another new boy about the meeting and we only stumbled upon it by accident meaning we were late and did not have the best start.
17. This meeting was addressed by the housemaster Mr Henderson. This was the closest thing to an induction. Mr Henderson called all the boys just starting at school "new men". I wouldn't say that it was a nice friendly welcome.
18. At the end of that meeting the prefects chose which boy was to become their fag for the remaining time they had at school. I was the last boy chosen. These selections were made by the eight prefects who were all aged seventeen or eighteen. There were no teachers or other boys present when the fags were selected.
19. There was a further meeting later that evening where the whole school was present. That meeting was addressed by the Headmaster Mr Crichton – Miller who also referred to the boys as new men.

College East

20. College East was situated in the main building and occupied the second and third floors of the east wing. There was also a staircase leading from the assembly area on the third floor to an upper room. Downstairs were the classrooms and the main dining room. On the second and third floors were five dormitories and they were based on the year that you were in. I think that the new first year boys were all in the same dormitory. There was a common room on the lower of the two floors and it had a library where you could select books from. It was a place for relaxation.

21. The Housemaster Mr Henderson had his rooms on the second floor. The upper room was where the new boys who didn't have studies could do their prep. It was the room that was used by the fags. There was a buzzer system and if the prefects needed something done they would buzz the room and one of the fags would be despatched.
22. There were a number of studies for older boys where you could do your academic work. As you got older there would be fewer boys in the study and you had more room. The idea of the school was to keep you fully occupied at all times. The schoolmasters were in charge during the day but outside the classroom, day to day and evening time routines were run by the prefects. Everyone was called by their surname.

Mornings and bedtime

23. There was a bell system that told you whatever was happening next. I think it woke you up at 7:00 am. The first thing you had to do was go to the shower area and have a cold shower. If you tried to skip the shower you could be beaten by the house prefects. Sometimes the prefects were there ticking you off on a list as you took your shower.
24. You would go back to the dormitory to get dressed, make your bed and then make your way down to breakfast. Breakfast was generally served in the lower dining hall. From there you went to an assembly for the whole school. It always took place outside in all weathers and was never moved inside. It was usually addressed by the Headmaster.
25. You never saw Mr Henderson in the evening but just before lights out on most nights he would visit the dormitory with two prefects just to check that everything was okay.

26. During the course of assembly the Headmaster would announce which boys had obtained their school colours for representing the school at rugby or whatever other sport they played. I think that it was after assembly that you had to go to Chapel. I can't recall which came first.
27. Like the cold shower first thing in the morning the visit to Chapel was compulsory and if you missed it you could be beaten by the prefects. The service at chapel lasted for about half an hour. The chapel was enormous and had upper and lower stalls.
28. The lessons would start after Chapel. When I started as did most of the boys we were in the third form. I started in form 3(b) and all the other boys in 3rd year were the same age as me. There were four classes in third form, Upper 3rd, 3(a), 3(b) and Lower 3rd. In the third term of my first year I was moved up to 3(a).
29. There would be a mid-morning break and you would go to the cloisters at the front of the school near to where assembly was held where you would be given a bottle of milk to drink. Lessons would continue until lunchtime when you made your way to the upstairs dining room where you were served lunch.
30. In the afternoon you did different activities on different days. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays there were no afternoon lessons. On those days also on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons you played sport. You would have lessons on Monday, Wednesday and Friday all day and on a Saturday morning.
31. The school was very proud of its rugby team which had been undefeated by a Scottish school for five years. You played cricket in the summer as they were the main sports. In the sixth form you could do other sports including athletics, golf and swimming.

32. After sports or lessons and you were showered you would have your evening meal. There would then be a meeting in the assembly area on the third floor where you had to tell prefects what activities you would be doing that night. They would make a note of it and write it down. The whole house had to attend that meeting as you had to do some activities that were approved. You had to do an hour of prep every night up to the fifth form. You did an hour and a half prep in the sixth form after your chosen activity. After prep there would be a compulsory service in the Chapel for the whole house. After this you would go to bed and the time you went to bed depended on your age.
33. On Sundays you would go uptown to an Edinburgh church. During the week you could on occasions also go uptown on personal errands like watch repairs. This meant that you went into Edinburgh. You could only go up town if you had a reason to go. You would have to leave a note for Mr Henderson the Housemaster asking permission and when he signed it you could go uptown. You were only allowed out for the purpose that you had put on the note to the Housemaster.
34. There was one occasion when some senior boys went into one of the pubs. The Head of School, a boy called [REDACTED] knew about this and didn't report it. The result was that [REDACTED] was asked to leave school for failing to report the incident. The high table in the dining room was where the prefects sat and when [REDACTED] didn't appear at the table we all knew that he had been expelled. I think that I was in my third year when this happened.
35. All these events started with the school bell being rung which told you that it was time for the next lesson, meal or activity. They also rang for Chapel and assembly.

Fagging at Fettes College.

36. On my first day I was the last choice fag and my prefect was called [REDACTED]. He was the prop in the rugby team and he was about seventeen years old and a very severe looking person. In the second year I was at Fettes I had to fag for a prefect called [REDACTED]. I would be in fourth year of the school which was my second year there. We were never thanked for fagging duties but once a year they had a "fags groice" where the prefects cooked a breakfast for all the house fags. The prefects also waited on the fags.
37. I was to be a fag for two years. All the school and house prefects had fags and it would change every year with the prefects leaving and the new boys coming to the school. Typical fagging duties included, removing mud, polishing including the underside and washing the laces of rugby boots. Removing ash, cleaning the hearth and resetting the fire in prefect's studies. Dusting prefect's studies. Washing coffee mugs from the previous day that were in the prefect's study. Answering prefect's buzzer calls to the assembly area in the upper room and running errands including visiting the school tuck shop to purchase confectionary for prefects. Beating and cleaning mats in prefect's studies. Cleaning the hearth and resetting the fire in the house common room including collecting twigs from the school grounds.

Prefectorial system.

38. There could be eight house prefects attached to every house. The top two prefects from that house were also school prefects. There was a Head of School who was the leading prefect. Prefects would only be appointed amongst the senior boys. The Prefects ran the day to day business of the school while the teachers concentrated on teaching.
39. The prefects could hand out punishments including beatings and lines. The Housemasters would be aware of what the prefects were doing. The prefects would also have fags to do chores and run errands for them.

40. The prefects took full advantage of their authority and privileges. No opportunity was lost to ridicule junior boys. The prefects also taught Scottish Country Dancing and again this was frequently used to ridicule younger boys.

Mealtimes / Food

41. The food was absolutely dreadful and all I had to compare it to was the food at Corchester School which was very good. I recall the plates of meat being brought into the dining hall and they would be swimming in globules of fat. Overall the only thing that was nice was the fresh bread roll you got for breakfast in the morning.
42. I can recall having bacon and eggs, fried bread and porridge. There was a buffet and you could choose what you wanted. It wasn't nicely cooked or presented as it had been lying out for too long.
43. Dinner was typically a plate of sliced meat swimming in fat globules. There were also some vegetables. I think I may have had a soup and a pudding but they didn't stand out as being nice so I can't recall them. I only remember the plates of meat. You didn't have to eat it as when it was served you didn't put any on your plate. I don't recall any fuss for not finishing your food.
44. You always sat at a table with the rest of the boys from your class. In the evening it was less formal and you could sit where you wanted with people of your own age. At the conclusion of the meal you all had to pass the plates to the top of the table and they were collected by one of the staff. We didn't have to wash dishes or anything like that

Washing / bathing

45. Every morning you had a cold shower in the showering room. Every boy of all ages at the school had a cold shower. You waited your turn and there was no privacy. There were only four or five showers. I remember being told by a friend whose father had attended Fettes that in their time they had to have a cold bath in the morning and he can recall having to break the ice to get into the bath.

46. In addition to other school toilets there was a toilet in College East which was half way up the stairs. It was meant to be for the exclusive use of the prefects. There were hot showers and a bathing area on the ground floor. The bath was enormous and communal and it was where you went after games and all the boys participating in games would share the bath.

Clothing / uniform

47. We wore a uniform but not like the boys who are there now who wear smart jackets and trousers. We had to wear what was described as grey coloured lumber jacket made from corduroy. If you went out of school you had to wear the school cap. On Sundays you had to wear a suit and white shirt with separate collar, stud and cuff links.

Education at Fettes.

48. One of the problems with Fettes was that when you looked at the teaching staff they were all from Cambridge and Oxford universities. If you won a scholarship for Fettes you went straight into Upper Fourth class. If you entered the school in the normal fashion through the common entrance exam you went into the third form. The teachers spent more time with the more intelligent boys who had entered on a scholarship.
49. The standard of teaching was not inspirational and the teachers had an aloof attitude towards you. On one occasion the music teacher told us that we were not known for our academic ability. On another occasion my Housemaster who taught English read us a newspaper article instead of teaching. He told us not to mention this to anyone. Were we were not worth teaching?

50. I recall recently that the Headmaster of Worksop College in Nottinghamshire which was also a public school was interviewed on television and stated that all children have talent and it was up to the teachers to get the best out of all their pupils which certainly did not happen when I was at Fettes. I was above average academically but was not part of the scholarship group so I didn't attract the best teachers.
51. When I reached sixth form I was allowed to do A levels biology and geology. My biology teacher was called Mr Massey. I recall after I had completed the first year Mr Massey told me that I had succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. He was genuinely pleased as he said it with a smile but I feel that I could have done better with more teacher support. I sat and passed the first year paper for A Levels in both biology and geology. Mr Massey said that I could split biology into botany and zoology, so I was on course to sit three A Levels.
52. After I had left Fettes I recall reading the results of A Level examination passes that were published in the press. It was clear that the grammar schools were performing much better than the public schools as far as passes and results were concerned.
53. When I left school I had attained passes O Level passes in Latin, elementary maths, French, English language, English literature and general science. When I was at Fettes I don't recall any official or unofficial visits from any of the educational governing bodies. There may have been inspections but I was not aware of them.

Punishment

54. You would get lines to do and sometimes it would be the whole class that would be given lines. It was the prefects that gave lines although the teachers could also give lines. It was rare for teachers to beat boys, this was usually done by the prefects. There were two types of prefect beating, a house beating and a school beating. The school beating was much more serious and took place in the main building in a common room between two glass doors. It involved the school prefects as opposed to just the house prefects.

55. The beatings handed out by the prefects were always done with a cane on top of the clothing. The beatings were formal and if there was a school beating it would be twelve strokes and a house beating would be eight strokes. They made a big deal of letting the school know that a boy was being summoned to the common room. They didn't use the word beating but all the boys knew what was going to happen.
56. An announcement was made after lunch in the dining hall in front of assembled boys that the space between the glass doors was out of bounds and a named boy was to report to this common room. The boy would be beaten by the school prefects,
57. There were occasions when teachers would yell and shout at an individual in front of the whole class. This could have a terrible effect on the boy being shouted at and I think in some ways it was worse than the other punishments. I was never hit or beaten by a teacher but I know that some of the boys were because they told me. If you were beaten by a teacher it would be in his room and not in front of the other boys.
58. I remember on one occasion when I was in my first year at school I was given a task by a prefect called [REDACTED] to clean out the ashes of a fire and also clean the granite surround. This prefect noticed that I had not dusted the mantelpiece. Not realising that this was required I appeared upset so he gave me one hundred lines for "Gross Disrespect the Prefectorial Bond". When you had completed the lines they had to be signed off by Mr Henderson the Housemaster so the teachers knew what was happening.
59. There were things called prefect privileges and they could give you lines for very minor offences like having dirty shoes or your jacket not being properly buttoned. The prefects would often wait outside Sunday chapel to try and catch you out when you were wearing your best clothes.
60. Examples of prefect's privileges included tying your tie in a Windsor knot, unbuttoning your jacket, superior studies and having fags to carry out mundane demoralising duties.

61. There was an incident when I had to report to one of the prefects called [REDACTED] early in the morning. I can't remember what I was supposed to have done. He instructed me to write an essay on the "facts of life". I had no idea what the facts of life were. I wrote an essay about the economic facts of life. The Housemaster called me to his room for being disrespectful to prefects. I told him that I could not respect someone who asked me to write an essay on the facts of life. The master told me to get out of his rooms but I heard later that the prefect called [REDACTED] got a good telling off. It was the only time that I was even close to complaining.

Leisure time.

62. Sunday you had more free time. You had to attend a church in Edinburgh in the morning. There was some leisure time on a Sunday afternoon when you could read or write a letter home. There was very little leisure time through the week as all your time was taken up with different activities.
63. Big Sunday occurred three times a term when you were allowed to go out and visit relatives or relatives came to visit you and took you out for the day. You couldn't hang around the school with the relatives. My father came once a term and I had other relatives living in Edinburgh. You were not allowed to phone your relatives. If the school put on a school play I would be able to invite my uncle on my mother's side to come and see the performance.

Sport at Fettes.

64. Rugby was the main sport at Fettes and all boys played rugby. It is an aggressive sport and I had played it before at Corchester. You would play during "games time" and the match would be refereed by one of the prefects who would shout at you the whole game.
65. In my last year in sixth form at Fettes sport improved for me and I joined the athletics team. The physical education teacher was a nice man and he encouraged me in my

training for athletics where I ran and threw the hammer. Because I was a hammer thrower I was allowed to miss out on the rugby. I represented the school at quite a few inter-school athletics matches. There was also a golf course in the grounds that you could play on but I was left handed and the golf clubs were all right handed.

66. Fettes had a cadet force. There was an inter-house cadet parade competition. The prefect in charge of training for this took the opportunity to ridicule us instead of moral boosting.

Trips / Holidays

67. The school sometimes had trips out but they were more like endurance tests. They would take you and other boys to the beach at North Berwick for a walk and then tell you they would collect you seven miles further on. We would go on long walks in the Pentland Hills under the direction of a prefect. There were no educational visits, apart from one occasion when we were allowed to visit a cinema in Edinburgh to watch Richard the Third.

Birthdays and Christmas

68. I had my birthdays during term at Fettes and there was nothing done by the school to acknowledge them. I would always be at home during the school holidays including Christmas.

Healthcare

69. I had a problem with asthma and I had to do special remedial exercises for loosening the lungs. If you needed to see a dentist you arranged it for during the holidays. There was a doctor at the school who you could visit but he was not proactive in visiting you.
70. There was a sanatorium in the school grounds. During the time I was at Fettes there was an outbreak of Asian flu. I had a dose of flu so I was put in quarantine for a

week and looked after by a Matron. Those were the only incidents I can recall with regard to health care.

Career advice from Fettes.

71. When the O'levels results were announced the boys going into 6th year were all assembled together. All the boys were asked what A Levels they wanted to do. There was me and one other boy who were not allowed to do the A Levels that we wanted. I was only allowed to do biology and geology.
72. There was a room which was dedicated to careers. It was not attended by any school masters but there were a lot of leaflets laid out and you could go there and read the leaflets. There was no one to counsel or guide you. I think that the whole year was addressed by a careers advisor but no personal advice was offered.
73. When I read through the leaflets it became apparent to me that with the subjects I was doing I would not have the qualifications to go on to study geology at university. I would need another science subject either physics or chemistry.
74. I explained all this to my father and told him that Fettes were not allowing me to sit other suitable A levels and that by not sitting them I would be unable to go on to university to study geology which is what I wanted to do. This was the root cause of me leaving Fettes.

Happy memories of Fettes College.

75. Things improved for me in the last year I was there. At the end of the first term of 6th year the biology teacher told me that I had succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. I was also a member of the house and school athletics team and the PT master was very supportive of me. SNR [REDACTED] at Fettes gave me a good report at the end of the first term in 6th form year stating that "at last I was being of use to Fettes".

Abuse at Fettes School

76. When I was thirteen my parents split up. The actual divorce didn't happen until I was about fifteen. There was a fair bit of press coverage of my parent's divorce. I am sure that the Headmaster of the time Mr Crichton-Miller felt that there may be reputational harm to the school if I was to appear in the press as a pupil of Fettes College. There had already been a number of letters between the Headmaster and my parents with regards to my future education at Fettes.
77. I am convinced without any proof that the Headmaster, Mr Crichton-Miller then instructed the staff and prefects to make my life a misery in the hope that I would leave Fettes of my own accord.
78. The next thing that happened was that there was an announcement in front of the assembled house that the space between the two glass doors was to be "out of bounds" and that I had to report to the common room. I knew then what was going to happen but I had no idea why.
79. I could only think that there was an incident when I was out running with the rest of the school and one of the prefects called [REDACTED] told me to run. I responded that I was running and I don't know if he thought that I was being insubordinate but it is the only thing that I could think of at the time.
80. I attended at the common room at the appointed time and I saw that all the house prefects were lined up. I was told by the head prefect a boy called [REDACTED] to get onto a chair which was on a table. I had to bend over the chair and face away from the prefects.
81. The next thing that happened was the first prefect ran the length of the room and hit me with a cane. The first blow was extremely painful but it also helped to dull the pain of the other blows that followed. I also thought back to the beatings that I had received from my father which were much worse and far more painful.
82. This continued and I received a further seven strokes of the cane. I turned round and I looked at all of them when they hit me. They didn't like this and kept telling me to look in the other direction. I didn't cry or show any emotion towards them.

83. I was fifteen and they would be seventeen or eighteen. The only names I can remember were [REDACTED] who was head of house and a school prefect, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They hit me on the bottom over my school clothes. No explanation as to why I was receiving the punishment was given to me.
84. I did hear about another incident when one of the boys was to receive a beating from a master and he put either blotting paper or a magazine down his trousers. This was discovered and the boy was told to take off his trousers and was then beaten which I thought was particularly severe.
85. Relating to the Headmaster Crichton-Miller's attitude to me was when I was in my GCE year in year five I was moved down a class from 5B to 5C. This happened without any explanation and the first thing I knew about it was when I looked at the school noticeboards. I feel that this was done to try and get me to leave school as my parent's divorce was causing the school some embarrassment.
86. Additionally there was another occasion when the [REDACTED] teacher Mr [REDACTED] had a complete tirade shouting at me. It went on in a loud voice for several minutes. He said during the rant that I had been mentioned in the Headmaster's conference but I don't know what had been said about me. All that I had done was to arrange some pencils. It had never happened before and I just felt that it was the school trying to make me leave. I don't recall it happening to any other boys as it was completely over the top.
87. There were two other incidents when I saw someone regularly hit by the prefects. If you talked after lights out the prefects would come into the dormitory and hit the offenders on the backside with a slipper.
88. I recall being hit by the prefects on my backside. One of the dormitories had a suspended bar that all the boys had to rotate over. It was above head height and you would have to pull yourself up and swing backwards over the bar. Once a year the prefects stood on either side of the bar and as you swung over they would slap you

on the backside. They seemed to think that it was quite amusing but I certainly didn't as I found it impossible because of my build to swing backwards over the bar and the prefects had to drag me over. I don't recall the names of the prefects.

Reporting of abuse at Fettes College.

89. You would not dare to complain to anyone either the masters or prefects at the school. You couldn't complain about the food because the masters also ate it. There was no one to complain to if you thought you were being bullied or abused because they were the bullies and abusers.
90. I never told my father about the beating I had received from the prefects at Fettes and I wasn't in contact with my mother at that time.

Leaving Fettes College, Edinburgh

91. I had a long chat with my father and I told him that I was very unhappy about not being allowed to sit my A level exams. I told him that I wanted to leave and go to a technical college where I could finish my education properly and be able to sit the exams I needed to go to university and study geology. I know that my father was disappointed that I was leaving.

Life after being in care

92. I studied a year at technical college where I did pass some exams but not the A levels that I had hoped for. My father told me that he wasn't going to support me through further education. There had always been a civil engineer in the family and that is what he wanted me to do.
93. Both my mother and father had also left their respective public boarding schools a year early and I think that this had a bad effect on my father as he was against me leaving school. After a year I had a fall out with my father who had remarried and I moved into digs.

94. Becoming a civil engineer was very difficult without the support of my father. I enrolled in a diploma course for civil and structural engineering in what is now called Teesside University. That was a four year sandwich course where you worked for six months and then studied for six months.
95. This was followed by studying for a post graduate diploma in traffic engineering. Finally after several years further training and suitable experience I attended professional interviews for entry into both the Chartered Institution of Municipal Engineering and the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering. I passed each first time and the average first time pass rate was below 40%.
96. I was employed as a civil engineer with Northumberland, Durham and Nottinghamshire County Councils. After twenty six years I changed over to waste management until I retired.

Impact

97. The whole experience of Fettes left me feeling useless. One occasion which I remember was when I was looking over the balcony in College East to the ground floor three floors below. . I was contemplating falling over I feel I wasn't suicidal but not far behind it.
98. I just feel that I have spent the last sixty odd years trying to put right what happened to me in Fettes. When I received the letter from the current Headmistress inviting me to contact the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry she also offered me the opportunity for a visit to Fettes. For me setting a foot inside Fettes would be absolute torture. I couldn't physically make myself do that. I would not recommend Fettes College to my worst enemy.
99. As a result of my Fettes experiences I always had difficulty with my relationships with people in authority. I didn't take kindly to people not recognising the work I was doing. Having been at public school was not a help but more of a hindrance as I did

not form easy relationships with senior people. I always felt that I had underperformed academically and that this held me back in my career,

100. About three years ago I was sitting in Durham Cathedral with my wife when the local priest engaged us in conversation. We got round to talking about Fettes College and he said that a friend of his had been there. He then asked me if I was scarred for life as his friend had obviously been.
101. Without a doubt my spell had Fettes has affected my relationship with my siblings as they hardly saw me because I was away at school. My youngest brother [REDACTED] went on to attend Merchiston School in Edinburgh. I now have a good relationship with my sister who lives in Australia and my brother [REDACTED].
102. I have never beaten my children and have always felt that I was firm but fair. I have always maintained a good relationship with them and my grandchildren. I have been married to [REDACTED] for 55 years. Neither my brother [REDACTED] nor my sister [REDACTED] marriages lasted.
103. I am unable to forget my memories of Fettes and think about them frequently. My wife has suggested that I should see about getting some counselling or support from an expert. I have not pursued this as yet. A lot of that counselling would involve my relationship I had with my mother which is a whole story on its own but not particularly relevant to your Inquiry.

Records

104. I have never requested my records from Fettes. Fettes did send out school reports every term I was there. I have never informed anyone at Fettes about my experiences. Fettes do continue to send out invites to attend anniversaries of my time at the school but I have no interest in going. It was the Headmistress at Fettes that encouraged all Fettesians to contact the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and give evidence. I had ignored the first letter I received from the Headmaster about two years ago but when the second letter arrived my wife persuaded me that it was important to give evidence.

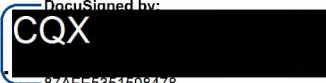
Lessons to be learned.

105. I feel that I am here to help you with your Inquiry. I have drawn great help being able to talk to the Inquiry staff as they are the only people I have met to date that really understand what I went through. I have found this very helpful to my state of mind.
106. I know that some of the things that happened to me can never be put right and most of the offenders will be deceased. It would not surprise me if the underlying attitudes still persist at Fettes although the beatings and other punishments will have changed.
107. Fettes was a breeding ground for bullies and autocrats. There was no pastoral care. There was no one to speak to for guidance and help. It would have helped me if there was someone although I am sure there is something in place now.

Other information

108. Every year I get a magazine sent to me because I am considered to be an Old Fettesian. On my seventieth birthday I received a birthday card from Fettes. One of the comments on the birthday card was that I had lived for three score years and ten and that my time was nearly up. The author thought this was funny but I certainly did not.

109. 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..........
DocuSigned by:
CQX
87AFE5351508478...

Dated..... 17 February 2021