### Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

### Philip DUNDAS

Support person present: No

1. My name is Philip Dundas. From birth all the way through my school years I was known as Philip **1965**. My contact details are held by the Inquiry.

# Life before boarding school

2. I was born in East Sussex and more or less at birth was adopted by a couple but they split up not long after I was adopted. I remained with my adopted mother **constraints**.

. I spent the first four or five years in the south of England.

- 3. In 1971, when I was six, my mother married the man I refer to as my father \_\_\_\_\_\_.
  Merrice I. He was a farmer in Haddington, East Lothian. We moved into his farm which was in a very isolated location. The school bus used to come into the farm, pick us up, then take us to school then return us at the end of the day. Apart from children at Yester primary school in Gifford I had little connection or interaction with other children because of where we lived. My adopted parents were Christian Scientists so were probably considered to have had strange ideas by most people which, along with living on a farm, made us even more isolated and not part of the community.
- 4. I imagine I was always a bit of a precocious child in respect that I was able to communicate easily with adults and could speak on their level. I was also advanced

for my reading age. At school I was reading books way ahead of the other children. I did however suffer from poor concentration and this was reflected in most of my school reports which referred to my daydreaming and overactive imagination. In any modern school my behaviour would be identified now as ADHD or unusual anxiety. Towards the end of 1975, when I was nine or had just turned ten, my parents decided I should go to a private school. This was disappointing for me as I had made a small group of friends at primary school.

5. Edinburgh Academy prep school was chosen for me. I don't really know why but I suspect it was through links or contacts within church circles. I recall being dragged round a few other schools like Steiner's school but my father quickly discounted this one. I guess my parents would have wanted to send me to Fettes but couldn't afford it at the time.

. I don't remember having to sit an entrance exam or any kind of selection process for Edinburgh academy and I don't recall any kind of pre-visit before I actually started at the school.

My parents were probably given a list of equipment and uniform that I had to get before
 I went to the school but I don't remember this. In the documentation which I later got
 from the school it states that my parents paid a deposit of £5 to the school.

### Edinburgh Academy prep school

7. I started at Edinburgh Academy prep school in January 1976. My parents probably wanted me to start in September 1975 but I needed to boost my knowledge of other subjects so sent me to Basil Paterson's for a while. I was still ten when I started at Edinburgh Academy and was probably one of the youngest boys in my year at the academy. I was sent to make the step of going to independent school a little easier for me by teaching me subjects I had never heard of. My tutor was an old man, and it was all quite intimidating. I was there for one term.

- 8. Next door to Edinburgh Academy prep school was a family who were known to my parents, possibly through the church. His name was David Anderson QC and was a former and somewhat disgraced Solicitor General for Scotland. I spent a lot of time after school in their house waiting to get picked up by my parents. This had been arranged by my parents.
- 9. The prep school was very close to the Botanical gardens. The playing fields were on Arboretum Road on the left-hand side then three or four boarding houses. I did occasionally stay there but only for very short periods if my parents were away. Entering the school drive on the right there was a music school and a running track and then on the left-hand side was the main school. The main school building was modern looking. Through the back of the main school were a couple of portacabin classrooms. In the main building was a staircase leading to classes above. I think there were two classrooms and between them was a staff room which may have had glass doors. I was in the classroom on the left. Downstairs was a science classroom. I can't remember where the dining room was.
- 10. The headmaster at that time was Mr Brownlee I believe. Mr <sup>BL</sup> was my form teacher. I don't remember many of the other teachers. There were around twenty other boys in my class at various stages of physical development. They would all have been between around the same age as me although I was young for my year. I have no idea how many boys in total there would have been at the school.

### Routine at Edinburgh academy prep school

#### First experiences

11. I think going to prep school in the city was quite a traumatic time for me having come from a primary school background and having lived in such an isolated rural environment with limited company of boys my own age. I was met with bullying and a completely different culture. I was a sensitive, small, weak, possibly effeminate boy and from the first day I felt intimidated. 12. A lot of the boys were from Edinburgh and knew each other. Some of them had been at the prep school for two or three years and if not, those in my class, had all been together for a few months because I didn't start until the January. This meant they were well into the system, knew how it worked and had all bonded. I was singled out as being almost like an outsider. I didn't even know how to make a friend or even know what a true friend was. I was desperate to find something familiar that I could cling to. Mr BL man had occasional rages, but was sometimes very kind to me. At some point he even came to our house for tea.

# Daily Routine

13. Most days my mum or dad would drop me off at school in the morning in time for my classes to start.

There may have been an assembly first. I don't have a great memory of the routine at prep school and most of it is a little vague. School classes finished at 3:00 pm or 3:30 pm but then there would be organised games after, but not every day. I was generally picked up at 3:00 pm or later from the family who knew my parents and lived very close. I would often sit there and do my prep until they arrived. I didn't have to stay in the school to do my prep.

## Mealtimes/Food

14. I have no memories of the dining hall or any of the meals at the prep school.

## Knowledge of boarding houses

15. I did stay at one of the boarding houses once or twice when my parents were away for a week or so when I couldn't go home. I can't remember which boarding house it was. I slept in a dorm with five or six other boys. These experiences were okay and it was obvious that they used sport, prep and clubs to manage the boarder's time. If you weren't involved in any of these then they weren't really able to keep tabs on where you were and what you were doing. In the dorms I did witness some slightly sexualised behaviour and culture. Some of the boys were a bit older and more developed than others. It was all just within our peer group and there was no staff involved. Boys would be lying in their beds shining torches under their sheets. I really didn't have a clue what was going on because I was so inexperienced.

## Trips and holidays

16. I went on a school trip to the Farne Islands in Northumbria with Mr <sup>IBL</sup> and other teachers. We drove to Bamburgh in a minibus then got the boat from there. It got too rough so we had to go back.

## Schooling

17. We moved from class to class depending on the subject. I was in the orchestra and I remember my music class. There were two boys whose father was a famous conductor. There were times when we had to go in on a Saturday for some extra classes but I don't remember much about it. I thought in general the teaching was okay. I remember getting a gold star for a project I did on Edinburgh castle but to be honest it was just copied from a brochure.

## Sporting activities

18. Games was where I especially stood out but for the wrong reason. I had never played rugby before and had no idea about the rules or what it was all about. I was probably shocked from the rough and tumble of it all. When summer came along it changed to cricket and I knew even less about that. It was clear that if you can't catch a cricket ball you were considered to be useless. They put me somewhere on the pitch quite far out and I just hung about there.

## **Overall Culture**

19. There was a definite culture that the ability to survive in those brutal circumstances depended on your ability to perform. If you were not any good or didn't show any promise then, rather than take you to the side and teach you or bring you on, they

would just leave you at the bottom of the heap. You were considered to be a second division pupil. This remained the case throughout my time at both schools. This was both the staff and the other boys. If you shone at sports then the chances are you would have a better time at school. In my situation I did not show any talent in sport so my time was miserable. They didn't really know where to put me or what to do with me on the field regardless of the sport. It was definitely the survival of the fittest. This persisted through both schools.

- 20. Between the teachers and the boys there was definitely a 'them and us' culture. If you weren't part of them, then they showed no interest in you. If you were academically strong or physically strong and thus good at sport then you would thrive. If you didn't fit in to either category then you floundered. This is what I did in my first two terms at Edinburgh academy junior school, I floundered. All children have challenges at various points in their schooling but I had them all at once and had no support. The whole idea of agency was taken away from me in a flash. I had no agency over my time, my brain or most importantly my body.
- 21. I remember more from my primary school days before I went to Edinburgh Academy. I think that is because it was a far more caring and nurturing environment. I had a lovely teacher who I am still friends with. I think at Edinburgh academy there was a state of polite embattlement where the loud, noisy, entitled young boys were mimicking their parents' attitudes, making it a very difficult job for the teachers. I don't think many teachers were patient enough or committed vocationally to fulfil their role. I have a feeling that a lot of private school teachers were unfulfilled academics who didn't make the grade and fell back into the system they had been raised in. Or were former army officers and wanted to be in a regimented environment. Dotted amongst them were the occasional committed, vocationally driven teachers who had young people at their heart. These were few and far between.

# Day pupils vs boarders

22. I am not sure what the ratio of day pupils was to boarders in the prep school. Within the school there was no distinction between day pupils and boarders and we all

seemed to be treated the same by the staff. I discovered later this was far from the case and that many of the boys in the boarding houses were subjected to abuse. I subsequently learned this from many other boys.

#### Prefects / senior pupils

23. I don't recall the structure in relation to prefects at prep school.

### Abuse at Edinburgh Academy prep school

- 24. There was one teacher, I think her name was Miss ICF who on one occasion stabbed me on the back of the hand with a pencil. She did this to show me how sharp my pencil should be. I was bleeding.

### **Edinburgh Academy Senior School**

26. The senior school is on Henderson Row in Edinburgh. The front door is between big pillars at the front. As you go in there is a big assembly hall. Hamish Dawson's

classroom was just inside on the right-hand side. He was a history teacher although he taught remedial maths to the lowest set. The headmaster was Lawrence Ellis. Mr Marks was my first-year form teacher. **Bark and the set of the se** 

27. The boys in first year are called 'Geits'. After that you move into second year then third year and so on. The boys were split up into houses in the senior school. I was in Cockburn. My classroom was behind the main building up a few stairs.

## **Routine at Edinburgh Academy Senior School**

#### First day

28. By the time I moved on to the senior school I suppose I was a bit more settled in. I remember my first class was held by Mr Marks who was my form teacher. I am sure that first day was full of excitement probably in the knowledge that I was making some sort of progress through the school.

### Daily Routine

29. By the time I was at senior school my parents were dropping me off in Henderson Row so I would go to school and spend the day there. It used to start with an assembly in the main hall

### Clothing/uniform

30. In first year, there was a choice to move from wearing shorts to long trousers. My mother had just bought me shorts for my short spell in junior school so I was made to continue wearing them. It did make me stand out a bit but I wasn't the only one wearing shorts.

### Schooling

- 31. They seemed to stream all the problem children into one class. Today this would be considered to be children with behavioural, emotional and developmental issues, and children with dyslexia, learning difficulties, ADHD or things like that. I don't think this is a good way to educate children.
- 32. There were particular teachers who did what they could to get the best out of the boys, some of whom would be bright, some would be willing and others wouldn't be. The structure of the school was such that it was not a nurturing or supportive environment. You were basically left on your own to survive. There was no question of thinking about asking for any help or support. If you were lucky, you might have a good teacher who would be willing to help.
- 33. There is a note in an end of year report for me. Not a school report just notes from the rector. He says something about me being intelligent but didn't know how to apply myself to my subjects. I was not good at joining things and the expression was that I was living in a sea of my own vivid but highly irrelevant imagination. Looking back, it may have been fairly accurate but alarming in that no questions were asked and no attempts were made to find out the reasons why or make me good at anything. I enjoyed quite a few subjects at school like French and probably was quite good at it. I did quite well in the subjects I liked. I found music which was something I was good at and became enthusiastic about it. I was given a part in a school music performance.

# Sporting activities

34. Games after school were obligatory and were usually rugby, hockey and cricket. At the end of the school day I was despatched off to Arboretum Road or Inverleith Park wherever the games took place. Looking back, we were just a bunch of kids around the age of eleven and we were made to walk through Edinburgh and there was no chaperone or supervisor. I think this was wrong and anything could have happened to us. This isn't something I would approve of if I had an eleven-year-old child. By this stage I became an expert at getting out of doing games usually by skiving off. I didn't

get off with it completely but tried to avoid it as much as I could. I was so bad at sport that it was so much easier for teachers to let me disappear.

# **Religious instruction**

35. I went to church with my parents on a Sunday and on a Wednesday.

# External Inspections

 I am not aware of any kind of external inspection or anyone coming in and doing any kind of checks.

# Family visits

37. I have no memory of my parents coming to any parents' night. They were distanced in their parenting and were probably of the view that it was beneath them or that they had handed over this responsibility to the school. The only time I recall them coming into the school was if there was any trouble which latterly there was.

# Discipline

38. I think I overcompensated for my failing at everything by being irritating and attention seeking to basically gain favour of the other boys. My general concentration was poor. Discipline may have been a whack with a ruler on the back of the hand which was quite common. There was other physical aggression. Each teacher had their own weapon or implement for issuing punishment. Hamish Dawson was notorious for having his range of instruments of torture. Other teachers had different ways of punishing the pupils. Most of the teachers were probably quite decent but verging on the hopeless.

### Prefects / senior pupils

39. The prefects were called ephors. I have no idea how they were chosen. I imagine it was based on whether you were good at sport or how clever you were. I am not sure what the ephors' role was apart from making sure you kept quiet in the library and behaved in the dining hall. I never really had any interaction with any of them. There was an ephors room where you could go and they would beat you if you had done something wrong. It never happened to me.

#### Abuse at Edinburgh Academy Senior School

#### Peer abuse

- 40. From the very start there was a lot of peer abuse. Going to the toilet was like running the gauntlet. The older boys would be in there smoking and you were likely to be tripped up on the way in or subjected to some form of violence. It was a hell hole. It was intimidating for a sensitive young boy as I was. Some boys were bullied a bit more than me. I think I was learning how to hide by then or at least not be seen. Some of the bullies were in the year above me but they were probably across all the years. There was physical stuff like getting tripped up, pushed around, tormented, humiliated and school books thrown about. I am not sure how widespread the issue was but I knew it was happening to me and it wasn't nice. It had the effect of making me feel very isolated.
- 41. I was very badly bullied by one boy in particular. He tormented me so much that I gave in one day and bashed his head off the table. I pulled up the lid of his desk and it hit him on the head and it knocked him to the ground. My issue with this was that this, along with other things, marked me out as being a problem yet no one asked any questions. I got into trouble for it and it was reported to my parents. This was the first time I had fought back and I felt that it actually gave me a bit of status but it didn't last for long.

IBU

- 42. There were specific teachers who I specifically remember because of their behaviour and they had a powerful impact on me. IBU was a PE teacher and he was an awful man. I was a small, knock kneed, skinny young boy, still nervous of being around other boys and I was terrified of sport. I knew nothing about it. There was a school rule that you weren't allowed to wear day clothes in gym or when you were doing sport and that included underpants. He seemed to know who would be wearing underpants and he lined us up in his office which is at the back of the school below the gym. He then made us take our shorts and underpants down then stand and ogle at us then tell us to put our shorts back on. He made me do this but he never touched me. I am not sure if this was his fantasy or if he just liked to humiliate the boys.
- 43. After PE <sup>IBU</sup> would stand in the showers and watch us when we were washing. In today's world we would think very differently about his behaviour but even back then it should have been considered inappropriate. It is something that has remained with me until this day.

# Hamish Dawson

- 44. Hamish Dawson was a man who appeared to be a ridiculous clown. Everything he did was a game and he performed in front of the boys all the time. He strutted about like a peacock but underneath there was something particularly unpleasant about him. I can only describe him as being creepy. In his classroom he had an old-fashioned desk which was on a raised platform. There was an umbrella stand within which he stored his instruments of torture one of which had nails sticking out. There were broom handles and a 'clacken' which was the school's mascot. I think it was used in a game.
- 45. Hamish Dawson taught me maths in his remedial class. When you were working in his class and put your hand up to ask something he would call you up to his desk. Sometimes he would just call you up to his desk anyway. He would make you stand beside him and this would be where, because of the angle of his desk, you would be partly hidden from the rest of the class. In my first year I would still have been wearing

shorts and his hands would be everywhere. He had his hands up my shorts and inside my underpants and was pinching me. I am not sure how I felt at the time when he was doing it. I would still have been eleven at the time and very innocent. I am not sure how many times this happened.

- 46. Hamish Dawson often threw the wooden board duster at you and if you were lucky, it missed you. I remember mum was furious sometimes when I came home and my blazer was covered in chalk dust from when he threw it. Hamish Dawson was also known to lift up boys' shirts and write with a felt pen on their torso. I don't think he drew on me but I saw him doing it to others.
- 47. Another incident with him was when I had transgressed in some way but I can't remember what I had done. He would make a big show of it all and was very theatrical and would ask you to choose the instrument you wanted punished with. He had names for each of them, along the lines of things you would expect to be in Harry Potter. He also had an old earthenware jar on his desk with smaller instruments, and another jar containing jelly beans. Before he beat me, he put his hands down the back of my shorts which he said was to check if I had put a book or something down there before I got beaten. He then gave me six of the best with the clacken on my backside over my shorts. It didn't seem that sinister at the time.

#### IPT

48. In my second year in senior school nothing much had changed for me academically. I was still ticking along but wasn't particularly successful. I had one or two more friends but they weren't particularly close because I never really saw them out of school. I don't have a lot of memories from my second year. PT was a very young teacher possibly straight from university. I have worked out it must have been around February or March 1978 partly because it was dark after we had finished school. Because I often had to hang around waiting for my parents to pick me up. For some reason PT was taking a class that I was in, possibly a class. I am not sure why but he put me on a special detention so I had to go to his

classroom after school had finished. His classroom was on the right-hand quad at the back where the **sector** block was.

- 49. In went into the classroom and he was at the front of the class. The classroom was quite dark but there were lights on at the front where he was. I approached and he told me to sit down on a high stool and he sexually assaulted me. He stood in front of me then separated my knees and moved his body between them. He made some comment about what he was going to do with me. He pulled himself between my legs and was pressing his crotch into me. He was obviously aroused. He lifted my shirt out from the front of my trousers and ran his hand up against my bare chest and started caressing me. His hands were cold and clammy. He was very close to me and my face was pressed into his chest. I could smell his breath.
- 50. I must have been terrified beyond all description and to be honest I have tried very hard to remember what happened next or how it stopped but my brain has put up a blank. What I do recall is I must have left my school books there and I went back to get them the next day. I was terrified to go back in.

#### General abuse by teachers

51. I don't remember it being unbridled violence by the teachers like in 'Tom Brown's schooldays'. Boys weren't flogged on a daily basis. Everyone knew that if you crossed the line then you would get a beating. I don't recall being thrashed very often.

#### Abuse outside school

52. After the incident with pt because I was so disturbed by what had happened, I stopped hanging around the school or near the provide the gates of the wait for my parents at the end of the day. Instead, I waited outside the gates. Increasingly I started playing truant in the afternoons. When I was supposed to go to a club I didn't and would just slide away. I ended up going further along Henderson Row and that's when I was unwittingly thrown into the path of a paedophile. I think it is important to highlight that at that time I was only twelve.

53. There was a row of shops in Henderson Row and two of them were

sort of shops. I regularly gazed in the windows to pass the time. The man who owned one of the shops came out and we started chatting. I was quite confident and used to speaking to adults at church. His name was **Wass** and was in his thirties or forties. He claimed to have been a film director having been involved in the making of 'Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines'. Over a period of time, I am not sure how long, I started going into the shop with the man for tea and biscuits. After a few weeks another boy started coming into the shop. He was a Heriot's schoolboy maybe two or three years older than me.

- 54. The man lived in the basement of the shop, where there was a bed, sink, TV and at the back a toilet and possibly a shower. We often went down there and had a bit of a laugh. One day I went down and there was pornography playing on the video. I didn't really know what was going on and started to feel really hot and flushed. I was not sexually aware by then and was very confused.
- 55. Another day I was in the shop and the man locked the front door before we went downstairs. I was a little anxious after the video incident. I went to the toilet and when I came out, he was sexually abusing the Heriot's boy. The boy was performing fellatio on him. This image has been etched into my memory ever since and the experience had a huge impact on my later life. I can't remember how I got out of there but I assume I made some excuse and left. He never did anything to me but there is no doubt I was being groomed by him. I wasn't there to serve tea and biscuits. I met the man years later in a bar in Leith. I just pretended that nothing had happened.
- 56. I think it is shocking that I managed to leave the school grounds without any teachers knowing where I was. I consider this to have been neglect or lack of care on their behalf because I was supposed to be doing school activities but I had managed to leave the school grounds without them knowing or caring. At the time I was in their care, and they were getting paid handsomely for it by my parents, I was out being groomed. It was claimed to be one of the finest schools in the country but they were showing nothing but dereliction in their duty of care. There was no safeguarding, no pastoral care, no requirement to take responsibility.

## Reporting of abuse at Edinburgh academy.

- 57. I never talked to anyone or told anyone about the abuse I was suffering at the time because I probably assumed that I was the only person it was happening to. The staff would without any doubt have known what was going on in the classrooms or had some idea but they did nothing to try and stop it. There was no vigilance on their part. They may have intervened on occasion in the playground if they saw bullying or fighting but that is all.
- 58. I never told my parents because they were very strict and very religious. They struggled to pay for my schooling and they constantly reminded me of that. I didn't want to disappoint them. I was probably a bit off the rails by this point so if I told them anything they would probably have turned it round and blamed me.

# Leaving Edinburgh academy

- 59. I was in the library one day with another boy and I had been doing some drawings on bits of paper. It was around the time of the movie Star Wars, possibly 1977, and I was drawing spaceship penises and I must have left them under a book. Someone must have found my drawings because one Saturday morning I was summoned into my mother's bedroom and she showed me the drawings. I tried to explain it was all just a joke. My parents were subsequently summoned to the school. Rather than ask any questions of me, the headmaster told them I was a problem child, that they couldn't deal with me and they should move me to another school.
- 60. It wasn't long after that I was asked to do the common entrance exam for Fettes. I believe my parents spoke to the husband of someone at their church, who had been the assistant headmaster and housemaster at Fettes. He had a word with a housemaster PLZ who was and a really nice man. I probably wasn't bright enough to pass the exam but somehow, they managed to get me through. I have managed to get sight of my entrance exam results which were not glorious but apparently good enough. Mr Chenevix-Trench made

comment that it would have been a pass had it not been for my deplorable maths but would get through who the school liked and because I was good at music. He wrote what was required to get me in.

61. I was so pleased to be leaving Edinburgh Academy. There was a sense of relief to get away.

# Fettes college

62. I started at Fettes in the summer of 1978 as a day pupil. I only boarded in my last two years at Fettes which would have been from 1981 to 1983. I was in Glencorse house which had boys who were both day pupils and boarders. The vast majority of boys were boarders. In Glencorse there were only two or three other day boys like me.

# Pre-visit to Fettes

63. I went into Fettes on the afternoon the day before I was due to start. There were three boys playing poker using polo mints as money. For some reason I stole and ate their polo mints then had to run away because they were going to beat me up. By then I had learned better how to survive. One of those boys has remained a lifelong friend.

# **Routine at Fettes college**

## Mornings and bedtime

64. The school day probably started around 08:30 am after I got dropped off. There was a morning assembly or register in house then we would go to the chapel in the school for a morning service which may have lasted fifteen minutes after which there may have been some choir where the head of music would get us to sing.

#### Leisure time

- 65. After school we had free time. I had Combined Cadet Force which was obligatory up to a certain point. A teacher called Ronnie Guild gave us an alternative where, instead of CCF, we could take older people out from the Western General hospital or a nearby home and take them for walks in their wheelchairs. There was a spell where for almost two complete terms I managed to get away without doing either of those. I was basically hanging about the music school. Someone discovered that I hadn't done CCF or been at the hospital so I had to choose an activity. I managed to get the last place in the rock climbing/mountaineering club where I discovered a lifelong passion for the outdoors.
- 66. Nick Ridley, a teacher who later became a housemaster, was the instructor. He was a good guy and one time actually saved me from drowning. We were on the Isle of Skye, standing on the rocks when a wave washed me into the sea. Nick Ridley saved me and pulled me out. Nowadays the school would probably have been sued because of their poor safeguarding.

## Trips and holidays

- 67. I went to a few school day trips. Some with Nick Ridley and some with Dr Coshan who was a biology teacher. He was a climber and a bird watcher. I went to some of his bird watching trips.
- 68. In 1981, when I would have been fifteen, I went with other boys to Whitehouse near West Linton. This was a cottage owned by ECG
   He had something to do with the governing board of Edinburgh Academy and was highly thought of at Fettes. I had encountered ECG
   on a couple of occasions. Another teacher, Mike Macintosh-Reid took us to his cottage and ECG
   ECG
   arrived later around the time we were having supper.
- 69. At bedtime there were about six of us in bunk beds in a room. At some point through the night, when we were supposed to be asleep, I was aware of someone coming into

the room. I immediately panicked and instinctively rolled myself into a ball and pretended I was asleep. I have a vague memory of people coming in and out through the night. I don't know who it was that was coming in and out but nothing happened to me. I just felt very anxious.

# Schooling

- 70. As a day boy at Fettes it was still the survival of the fittest. There was no attention paid to each individual's particular development. I was still getting told in my school reports that I should pay more attention and try harder. By then, I realise now, that I was damaged and as a result my concentration was very poor and my imagination was my way of escaping. I was still poor at games but took up the clarinet. The only thing I did enjoy was singing in the choir. Because I was a day boy, I didn't get to participate in everything that was going on in the evening so probably missed out in quite a lot like the school plays. I was excluded from quite a few things but can't really blame the school for that.
- 71. To all intents and purposes, I left without any qualifications although I did well in my mock 'A levels. I passed a couple of 'Highers in the year before.

## **Religious instruction**

72. Chapel in the morning was all encompassing. There was no deviation or arrangements in place for specific religions. There were various teachers who were fathers of different religions. One housemaster was an Anglican reverend and one was a kirk minister and Norman Drummond later arrived. My opinion is that there was nothing godly at all about them they just couldn't think of any other way to play rugby for their whole lives other than getting ordained.

### Discipline

73. Fagging still took place at Fettes and corporal punishment by older boys still went on in my first year of being there.

### Prefects / senior pupils

- 74. There was sexualized behaviour at Fettes. I remember one prefect who I was assigned to suggested to me that I give him a blow job at some point. I declined so I don't know what would have happened if I had agreed to do it. I suppose it is difficult to imagine that there wouldn't be such behaviour when there is a school full of post pubescent adolescents, where there were no girls. It was odd in some ways but in other ways it wasn't.
- 75. The house prefects would still be responsible for some of the discipline. They could still beat you if you had your hands in your pocket. I was taken into the prefects' room once for a beating with a cane. It wasn't a serious beating and it was more just intimidation. After my first year the beatings by the prefects stopped. They could also issue lines or give you detention. I didn't have many dealings with the prefects and they didn't bother me too much.

#### Boarders vs Day pupils

- 76. Boarders and day pupils were treated differently. Day pupils were treated as outcasts. I had come from Edinburgh Academy where I was treated as outcast and here I was at Fettes being treated as an outcast for different reasons. Fettes worked for those who were boarders.
- 77. I think that being a day pupil for the first few years protected me from a lot of the evils because I was getting to go home in the evenings and was home at the weekends. As a day pupil apparently I should have stayed at the school until 9:00 pm in the evening until prep was finished and the boarders were going to bed. Because I lived so far away, I got to leave earlier.
- 78. The culture, as it had been at Edinburgh Academy meant that you could succeed if you were athletic or good at sports, or if you were naturally academic. I wasn't either of those so once again I was a second division pupil and was pretty much isolated.

### **Boarding at Fettes academy**

- 79. I boarded for the last year and a half I was at Fettes. I wasn't getting on well with my parents. I was a fetter and the set of the set
- 80. Each house had a housemaster and a deputy housemaster. My housemaster at Glencorse was FTG who had been SNR and the assistant housemaster was John Begg initially, then someone else, who I can't remember took over. I was in a dorm with around twenty boys. Each bed space had a plywood partition wall giving some privacy. There was a bed and that about all. By the time we got to sixth form we had our own studies. At the end of the dorms were the bathrooms, sinks and showers. We had a kitchen if we wanted to do our own cooking. We all had our own food supplies so it was quite like being at home. By the time the boys were in sixth form we had a study to do our prep.

#### Daily routine

81. I think there was a bell that was rung to wake us up. Being young boys, we weren't the best at getting washed and had to be encouraged. We had a quick sink wash in the bathroom. I think I could have had a shower if I had wanted but I am not sure. The boys were generally left on their own to get on with it. After washing we would head to the dining hall for breakfast. After breakfast we would go back to the house to get our stuff ready for classes. We would then go to the chapel for the morning service, sang hyms then went to our classes. After we arrived at chapel there wasn't any difference through the day between the boarders and the day pupils.

#### Abuse at Fettes college

- 82. I think one time I had tormented the music teacher, along with others, to such an extent that he threw his baton down and was threatening to resign. I was called up as a result to see Chenevix-Trench. One by one he took us into his office. I was last. I am aware that he would get boys to take their shorts down but I am sure I didn't. He did however make me bend over the desk and asked me to recite some Latin. I expected to get beaten on my backside but he didn't. After a few minutes he just told me to run along so I left.
- 83. There was another teacher CHV who was nicknamed CHV. He was a teacher. He would come and sit beside me and his hands would be all over me. It was really uncomfortable. Sometimes he would say he was tucking my shirt in my waistband. One time he took me round to the back of one of the free-standing roller chalk boards that was on wheels. When I was there, he lifted me up by my waist onto a cupboard. He didn't do anything too intrusive but having his hands all over me was a bit uncomfortable. Based on my previous experiences at Edinburgh Academy he didn't appear too predatory or dangerous.
- 84. I also heard, at the time I was there, that he sometimes showered with the boys and he was visibly aroused, although I never saw him in the showers. He may have been a housemaster in Schoolhouse by then. Compared to what I had previously experienced it was quite benign and it was only later that I thought it was a bit weird.
- 85. I also heard a rumour that a boy, who he had apparently abused, locked and barricaded himself in CHV s classroom. It turned into a siege situation. I am not sure how true this was.
- 86. I am aware that in my third and fourth year there were often members of staff that hung about when the boys were showering after games. There were some teachers who definitely did this although I can't really remember who they were. It was purportedly to ensure good behaviour and to stop us fighting however I don't think that was the real reason. Some staff may have been there genuinely but there were a certain few

who used this opportunity for their own gratification. I am not sure there was any real cause for staff to be there and it could have been done by prefects.

- 87. By the time I was at Fettes I had probably grown into a gangly, spotty faced, unattractive youth so was no longer attractive or of interest to men who were sexually interested in young boys. I also think there was less opportunity for abusers to be able to act freely because the boys were older and bigger. I would imagine any abuse was more likely to happen within the boarding houses so I was protected for a while because I was going home.
- 88. There was a lot of bullying by the older boys and my peers. I spent a lot of time trying to avoid them.

# Leaving Fettes college

- 89. When I was boarding there was a lot more free time. In my last year I got involved in things out of school I shouldn't have been doing. I started drinking in bars and night clubs, and started taking drugs, mostly smoking hash at that stage. This became a regular thing. It wasn't that I got taken in by a bad crowd, I was just part of it. I was careering towards disaster although did very well in my mock 'A' level exams.
- 90. Late one night I was pulled up by FTG along with three other boys and told that drugs had been found in our possession. This was not true. We were put separately in different cars and taken up to the headmasters house, who by then was Cameron Cochrane. We were put in separate rooms without any support or consideration of our welfare or with no one to represent us. I was intimidated into admitting, without any evidence, that the allegation was true. I was then told that I was going to be expelled the next day, which was actually going to be my last day at school anyway. This would have been in June 1983. I was indeed expelled the next day.
- 91. In 1983 I believe there was an apology from the board of governors to my parents regarding my expulsion. They felt my housemaster **FTG** and headmaster

Cameron Cochrane had single-handedly and inappropriately, without any consultation with the board of governors, dealt with the situation. It was even reported in the Scotsman newspaper about how a Fettes drugs ring had been broken. Cochrane and FTG seemed to be completely inexperienced and helpless in dealing with a fairly minor offence. Their actions had a huge impact on my future life

### Life after boarding school

- 92. After leaving school at seventeen I went back home to live with my parents for a few months. The best way to put it is that we endured each other. I kept myself busy working on the farm. In September 1983 I packed my bags and moved to Edinburgh. I stayed at various places. One of the people I stayed with was a former house matron from Fettes, IMM. She would have been in her forties and was a kindly soul. My parents and everyone thought it would be a good idea for me to stay with her.
- 93. I was sometimes getting visits from boys from Fettes who were a couple of years younger than me and they came into her house. I have a letter I subsequently received from the new Glencorse housemaster telling me that I shouldn't allow them into her house and that I was never again to enter the grounds of Fettes. I am not sure why he thought I wanted to come into the school. I heard, only a couple of years ago from other former pupils that UH was offering sexual favours to boys from the school but had since died.
- 94. After I turned eighteen I had five years that were just absolutely lost with drink and drugs. In 1987 I started to pull myself together and saw some potential in London. In 1988 I returned to Scotland and set up my first of several businesses. This business was in PR and publicity which did okay for a few years. I worked with a few well-known bands in the music industry. If there was one thing I learned through school was how to fake it and talk a good game and be what people wanted me to be. I went back to London where I worked for a big record company for a couple of years. Unfortunately, I could not control my relationship with drink and drugs and found it hard to sustain that kind of life. I came back to Edinburgh where I ran a bar.

- 95. About nine years after I had left school, I met a very caring man who encouraged me to do night classes at Edinburgh university. I managed to get onto an access course where I did some A levels. I was then offered a place at the London School of Printing but was also offered a place at Oxford university having applied there and got through an interview. I started there in 1993 as a mature student and studied English. I got through the course and successfully got my degree.
- 96. I struggled to keep my life on track but managed to get a research position at Glasgow University doing a Masters in Philosophy on a part-time basis. I got a teaching job at a college for a few years. As a result of that I got a job with the BBC as an assistant producer moving on to become a senior producer within a couple of years. As was normal with me something happened inside me. What has always driven me is my creative instinct and I never felt this was being brought out. After around six years I decided to change my career path and took on a couple of other consultancy type jobs. I would have been forty by then. In 2003 I met my current partner who is now my husband. This was the first stable relationship I had ever managed to sustain.
- 97. When I came back to London I opened a restaurant which was hard work but became successful. Since then I have been writing books and have trained as a humanist celebrant which I am still doing. Being a humanist celebrant I get to work with lots of people who need support. My life experiences have given me a strong sense of compassion.

### Impact

98. Over the years I have come to terms with most of the stuff that has affected me but I have just been left with a lot of shadows. I think everything that I have described that happened to me at school has affected me deeply. There was no consistent, developing experience of growing friendships, developing interests in different subjects, going to clubs and gradually developing into a complete child then into the next phase of becoming an adult. I think most of the time I was basically drowning and doing everything I could to keep my head above the water. No one at school in

authority tried to provide me with a lifeline and no one was asking questions about my behaviour or wellbeing. I was gradually sinking. When the worst things were happening to me, as previously described, I was just ditched and characterised as a problem.

- 99. The incident with IPT at Edinburgh Academy senior school, has been a continuous demon in my life.
- 100. Throughout my adult life there have been internal demons which surfaced at various times. One of the main things I got from my experiences at both schools was a complete sense of worthlessness. When I came out, I was emotionally disabled and not able to articulate my feelings. I had no sense of personal ownership or agency, or physical ownership or what they meant. I was also struggling with understanding the reality of being gay. This was in 1983 and a time when AIDS had become prevalent. My instinct was to self-medicate and anaesthetise the pain. I did this through drink and drugs. Despite being addicted to heroin for four years I managed to hold down a job. It wasn't easy and I struggled to survive. However in the end it became too much for me and attempted suicide.
- 101. Around 1985 or 1986, when I was in Edinburgh and in a mess through drink and drugs, I was befriended by a guy whose name I don't know. I am not sure how I met him. He said that he was the son of the man who ran the Fett-Lor boys club. This is a boys social club sponsored by both Fettes and Loretto and was in the grounds next to Fettes school. It was designed to help local boys. ECG was somehow involved in its running. This guy was definitely grooming me. He and others got me drunk and tried to get me to go back to their flat to have sex. I somehow managed to get away from them. This was a rare example of a situation I didn't go into blindly and without concern for my safety. I can't help wondering if ECG used access to the club to facilitate his sexual preferences.
- 102. I had very little sense of both physical and sexual self-respect and found myself in many difficult risky situations. I was raped on a couple of occasions by men who considered themselves to be part of Edinburgh's elite. I usually recognised when I was

in danger but this was a very difficult time for me. I inevitably ended up the wrong side of the law and was arrested and charged with various fairly petty drugs offences. On one occasion I was arrested doing petty crime in George Street. I have never been in prison but did spend a weekend locked up in a police cell beside some very unpleasant people. This was a bit of a wakeup call for me and the few friends I had left by then made it clear that I had to sort myself out. It was after that I saw no one was going to help me and I started to pull myself together.

- 103. I was more or less estranged from my family from the time I left school. Both my parents have now passed away.
- 104. I have a bit of an issue if someone approaches me from behind. Even if they are affectionate and only trying to give me a hug. I associate this to the incidents that happened to me at both Edinburgh Academy and Fettes. The combination set in motion within me a sense of fear and terror. As a young immature adult, I knew how to reach for the nearest drink or drugs, but I didn't know how to deal with it as an adult.
- 105. I was probably hypervigilant and massively alerted to dangerous situations but ironically as an adult I would throw myself into situations that I knew were dangerous. I had this weird hope that everything would work out. As a young adult I had a tendency to dissociate and switch off 'me' and do the other stuff almost as another person. It felt like it wasn't me that was doing the stuff but it was my body that was doing it or another version of me. Sometimes it felt like I was watching myself in these situations doing these things and being taken in, sexually abused and exploited.
- 106. When I came to London I met some famous people. One man in particular was very interesting, charming and he invited me to his flat for a drink. I walked right into that situation and before I knew it, he sexually abused me. I knew it was going to happen but I suppose I hoped something good was going to come from the situation. There was probably a self-destruct button within me but somehow, I kept managing to survive. I am not sure how much I can blame all of this on my times at school. I will leave that for the experts to decide. I would love to ask the men that abused me both

at school and as a young adult what they thought the long-term impact would be on me and what it would do to me.

- 107. I had a mix of fear and respect for those that abused me. As a result, I have no respect now for authority. After I left school, I was never going to have anyone tell me what to do.
- 108. I still have flashbacks to my time at school, particularly the incident with afterwards with in Henderson Row. This has been happening increasingly in the last few years since giving statements and all this has brought it back to me. I still struggle with intimacy and find it very hard to dissociate myself from the abusive situations I was in even after forty five years. That's when these thoughts come back into my head and it proves difficult to manage.
- 109. Since I gave a statement to the police about IPT I have had considerable struggles with depression and have been prescribed antidepressants over a number of years. I had strong suicidal thoughts around this time and an overwhelming feeling of having failed. I wasn't an unhappy person but felt that my life could have been so different. So many aspects to my life have been affected by the abuse I suffered, not least being my inability to settle and my constant fear and hyper vigilance.

## Treatment/support

110. I have spent thousands of pounds on therapy with a lady called **sector and a** private psychotherapist. I started therapy around two years before I met my husband. This probably helped me sustain a relationship with him. My therapy was all organised privately. I had psychotherapy and we have been working on and off since then. We have a lot of Zoom contact. I have had to see her less and less over the years but when the **PT** thing kicked off it all came back to me. I haven't needed any medication since August 2022.

- 111. What has caused a significant change in me is since Nicky Campbell's podcast and the fact I have started talking to others who have had similar experiences to me. Ironically many I have spoken to have struggled far more than I have and never faced up to what had happened to them. It feels good to be supportive to other people as well.
- 112. Becoming a celebrant has also helped because I have tapped into the more spiritual side of myself and faced real demons, like the fear of death. I am a great believer that everything happens for a reason at the right time. Even though so many bad things have happened to me it has made me the person I am today.
- 113. I have done a lot of voluntary and paid work with children from challenging backgrounds and young offenders centres. I set up a restaurant in a prison in Belfast which was amazing. In many ways it was very similar to the boarding schools, just similar characters in different clothing. One of the grounding thoughts over the years is believing how privileged I was compared to these people who I was working with.

## **Reporting of Abuse**

- 114. The first time I started talking to anyone about my time at both schools was after I met my husband in 2003. That was the first time I felt remotely comfortable in telling anyone.
- 115. The first time I considered reporting anything was in 2012. I met someone and we started talking about our experiences at school. It made me think about it and I did a bit of my own research. I found that IPT , who had abused me was by then at I was apprehensive about alerting the school because I was worried that I may have been the only person who he abused and that I might ruin his career without any supporting evidence. I wish I had said something at this time which could have stopped the abuse of other boys. I thought about it for a considerable time.
  I was in Glasgow and I opened a daily paper and was shocked to see a photograph of IPT who I recognised immediately even after all

those years. I was close to vomiting in a visceral reaction. The news article indicated that he had been sentenced to **sentenced** years for abusing boys at **sentenced**.

- 116. I contacted Police Scotland and because of where I was living, they said I had to contact the Met police. I did and this, horrifically and insensitively, resulted in two uniformed police officers in a marked police vehicle coming to my door. I almost felt like I was a criminal. I gave them a statement and later had to go into the station to fill in some gaps in my statement and I was herded into a small booth. I made an issue with them because of the sensitive nature and they put me into a private room. My statement was apparently sent to Police Scotland and the next thing was I got an email to say they were going to put the allegations to Private I have a statement in prison, taken to the police station and he denied the allegations. The case and my hopes died.
- 117. In 2021 I received an email from an operation in Police Scotland who asked to go over my statement again. I was coming up to Glasgow anyway so I met them at Central police station and they took me in a police car to Springburn police station. Being in an interview room with the police triggered lots of unhappy memories for me. I thought I might have been allocated a family liaison officer but that didn't happen. I gave a further statement about provide the paralegal in February 2023. I was told memory new charges were going to be actioned against provide. What does concern me is that he does a deal in the court and gets away with the more minor charges. I am not sure how I will feel about that. I would have liked to have faced him and had my day in court. I feel passionately about mandatory reporting and the responsibility it holds.
- 118. The police are coming to see me again to give them a statement about everything I have included in my statement to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.

# Records

119. I have obtained my records from both Edinburgh Academy and Fettes just within the last few weeks. In my records from Edinburgh Academy there should be notes where

my mother was contacted but where I expected there to have been records there was nothing. There is nothing in there regarding the circumstances that caused me to leave the school and there would have been contact with my mother towards the end. I am not sure why this contact wouldn't be recorded. I find this quite suspicious. There was basically one paragraph of around six lines and that is all. This just shows laziness with their lack of comprehensive notes. Fettes records are quite similar in respect that there is very little information recorded. Most of the stuff was contact I made with Fettes after I had left looking for references. I have subject access request but they are withholding some information from me. There must have been something recorded in there about my expulsion.

## Lessons to be Learned

- 120. What concerns me most is that so many of the masters seemed to be unaware of both the abuse of boys by other masters and the bullying going on in the school. It is hard to believe that the staff were not aware of what was going on. Edinburgh Academy was set up on the Spartan principle that only the strongest survive. I do not believe that this is a compassionate or nurturing culture for the education of young people.
- 121. There was emotional abuse by some of the masters in the classroom and that was by intimidation. It facilitated their own behaviour and encouraged the culture for the other boys to continue it. There is a certain amount of what goes on in the school playground that is all part of growing up and there is outright bullying. There was no vigilance by the staff.
- 122. One of my questions I would like to put to Edinburgh Academy is "Where was the safeguarding and classroom care?". I often read that the standards back then were lower and times were different back then. This seems to be an inadequate excuse. Not only did the lack of care fall below today's standards but by any standards of child protection at any time.

- 123. No one sat down with me at any time in my seven years at these schools to ask me how I was and what was going on. They might have learned something. I was literally thrown to the wolves when I started in senior school at the age of twelve. I had no agency and no control of the circumstances around me. I was just navigating on my own, as best as I could, through the choppy waters. There is no doubt I was seen as vulnerable, wasn't good at sport or academically gifted so I was singled out especially by IPT The singled me out as in isolated, vulnerable child and spotted the opportunity to pounce on me.
- 124. My biggest complaint about the school is that they chose to ignore what must have been obvious signs of dysfunction. Even if what they interpreted about my behaviour was as a result of the parenting I had received then they should have tried to help me. I was obviously an intelligent boy with a lot of potential to succeed academically. Having been told by two schools that I was fit for nothing I went on in my adult life as a mature student to Oxford then Glasgow to obtain two Masters degrees.
- 125. What really sickened me to the core was when I later read the statements of provide a victims, his behaviour was exactly the same as what he did to me, by getting boys in his class at the end of the day. I realise he must have been testing out a technique which he went on to use many times. He left Edinburgh Academy very quickly after abusing me and I now question why that was the case and whether he was a given a reference.
- 126. Edinburgh Academy and Fettes college are independent cultures sitting within the structures of our society which seem to have autonomy in all sorts of area which should not pass the scrutiny of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. If safeguarding and child protection is considered important in the wider community then it should be treated the same within the school environment. Success as a human being shouldn't be judged on the ability to play sports or academic ability. I would like to think that things have moved on dramatically since my time at school.

## Hopes for the Inquiry

127. I know that abuse is still happening in many institutions and organisations today and I hope that coming forward will encourage others to do the same. The power of silence is what has kept this issue under wraps for too long. We are now aware that sexual abusers target prepubescent boys who internalise everything, knowing that they will fear to tell anyone. Where abuse is known to have happened we must let the light in. There is no reason why these private or independent schools shouldn't be under exactly the same level of scrutiny as every other school in the country.

#### Other information

- 128. Edinburgh Academy and Fettes were very different animals. Edinburgh Academy educated the children of professional classes like lawyers, doctors and surgeons. They also taught the rest of the Edinburgh gentile society children. There were also the children who followed the footsteps of their fathers and grandfathers and those with parents who lived abroad who ended to be the boarders.
- 129. Fettes on the other hand had established itself, on the English system, as a public school. It attracted what I would call county worthies and children of parents who thought they were the great and the good. It had the impression of being much grander. They did 'A' levels rather than Highers. Fettes was a boarding school through and through.
- 130. I am part of a survivor group and, whilst we are careful not to talk about our individual circumstances, we talk a lot about the lack of action from our teachers and housemasters at the time. We query what they were doing when all this stuff was going on around about them. I know that some of the group have been in touch with some of the housemasters. One was the chaplain at the time, Howard Hazlett, who was always dismissive of me because of my parent's religion.

- 131. At one point when I was applying for university I wrote to Fettes and asked for a reference. They wrote back saying how pleased they were and thought it was marvellous that things had worked out for me.
- 132. Around 2021, the same time as I gave a statement to the police in Glasgow about IPT somebody contacted me and asked if I had heard Nicky Campbell's podcast with Alex Renton. I listened to it and subsequently went to meet Alex Renton in the summer of 2022. I talked to him about my experiences and subsequently joined a support group which has been really helpful. For the first time in my life I understood I was not the only one to suffer these experiences and that there were hundreds of boys who were abused and whose lives have been damaged as a result.
- 133. I have written an article in the Times newspaper. I felt it was one thing I could do and the one weapon in my armoury that I can use. I was probably hoping that it would prompt others to come forward and if it stops the abuse happening in the future then it would be worth it.
- 134. I have given a statement to my lawyer Laura Connor, from Thomson's solicitors. I am taking civil action against both Edinburgh academy and Fettes college. My motivation is because there seems an unbelievable lack of contrition, culpability or support for victims. Edinburgh Academy and Fettes may have publicly apologised but they haven't apologised to me personally. They haven't offered me any kind of support, including therapeutic support, or even shown any concern to the specific pain I have suffered. I was a bright, clever young chap who should have had every opportunity to excel. Going to one of the best schools in the country I should have ended up incredibly successful and probably wealthy as a result of my privileged education, but I only ended up enduring pain at their hands.
- 135. Edinburgh Academy made a very bland statement along the lines to any former pupil who believed they may have been abused. I don't believe I may have been abused. I was abused. That statement is just adding insult to injury. The fact is that when you are speaking about truth to power, the only way it hurts them is by hitting them in the pocket, because they are businesses. Both schools failed in their duty of care and cost

a huge amount of money. If I get any money back it will go towards my therapy which has cost me a lot of money. I will use my voice to support those who have been abused and are not able to articulate their suffering. I have nothing to lose and no longer care who I offend, especially if important people think they can keep me quiet. I have made a commitment to campaigning for mandatory reporting of allegations of child sexual abuse and will continue to hold these schools to account until they are able to guarantee the highest standard of safeguarding for children in their care.

- 136. I don't think my coming forward is just about Edinburgh Academy or Fettes college, it is more about our society. Too often royal commissions and public inquiries disappear into the mist and years go by before any recommendations are made. I hope this inquiry uses its power and authority to ensure that all private and independent schools are compelled to undergo regulatory independent assessments and inspections and commit to mandatory reporting.
- 137. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. <u>I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.</u>

Signed				
Dated	7 1L	Man	2023	