

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of:

PRL [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is PRL [REDACTED]. My date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1967.  
My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Life before boarding school**

2. I was born and brought up in Surrey and my parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I have a [REDACTED] called FHZ [REDACTED] and an older sister called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is about two and a half years older. My father worked in the film industry and mother was a full time parent. I attended an all-boys prep school in Surrey and loved my experiences there.
3. I lived in Surrey till 1980 or 1981. My parents were splitting up at the time and that is what led to me being placed at Aberlour and then Gordonstoun as a boarder. My sister FHZ [REDACTED] went to Aberlour a few months before me as she suffered from dyslexia and it was felt that Aberlour was the best school to help her. I was not dyslexic but I was also sent there as my mother was contemplating moving to Scotland after the breakup of her marriage.

### **Aberlour House School, Speyside 1979 – 1980**

4. I was about twelve years of age when I first walked into Aberlour School and although I had left a good school experience in Surrey. I loved the feel of Aberlour from day one. I became a fee paying boarder at the school which was regarded as the junior school of Gordonstoun.

5. I went to visit Aberlour on an "open day" prior to enrolling there. I don't think that I had to sit an exam but I was interviewed by the Headmaster of the time who was called Toby Coghill. It was a very informal interview.
6. I started at Aberlour very soon after the interview and was to spend a whole year there prior to going to Gordonstoun. The school was mixed sex and there must have been about one hundred and twenty pupils. The age ranges were between seven and thirteen. I would estimate that at least ninety percent of the school would go on to Gordonstoun for secondary education.
7. Aberlour School was a very large sandstone building set in fifty acres of its own grounds. There were two classroom blocks. Most things like eating and some classes went on in the main house. The main building is now used by Walker's shortbread company.
8. There were about six dormitories for boys and three dormitories for girls. There were about ten to a dormitory and they had bunk beds. I think that the younger children were together and from about ten years old onwards the dorms were in mixed age groups.
9. The school was divided up into houses. I think that there were three or four different houses. They existed so that there could be sporting competition between the houses. I was in Rinnes house with all the houses named after local mountains.
10. I have to say that this was the most ideal place to be a young boy at school. You could play sport, run around the countryside of the Scottish mountains. You were with likeminded people and my experience of Aberlour House was that it was a wonderful place and I had a fantastic year there. I was never abused by staff or my peer group and I never witnessed any abuse of other pupils.

11. I was in a very good year group and when we went on to Gordonstoun and completed our education with a couple of pupils going to Oxford and Cambridge and other good universities with many becoming very senior people in their chosen careers.
12. I met some of the other boys on my first day, one called [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and another called [REDACTED]. I am still great friends with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Similarly I remain friends with many of the girls in my year. [REDACTED] was a mentor for me while I settled in.

*Staff*

13. Toby Coghill was the Headmaster and stayed with his wife in a large house in the school grounds. He was a great man and was what you would describe as the typical Headmaster of the time. He was very supportive and approachable.
14. David "Tatty" Hanson was the science teacher and he was an inspiration to most of the pupils. Richard Woods was a geography teacher and he would come on the trips and expeditions we were encouraged to undertake. I got on very well with him. He was a lovely man.
15. Mr<sup>LAU</sup> [REDACTED] was a [REDACTED] teacher and was passionate about his [REDACTED]. Mr<sup>OPQ</sup> [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] teacher. Miss Cochrane and Miss Port were in charge of the younger children and they lived in the main house near the girls' dorms... Mr<sup>CFP</sup> [REDACTED] taught [REDACTED]. Mrs McLeod was the Matron and she lived in the girls' quarters. She had help from other Matrons but I can't recall their names.
16. Mr<sup>CFP</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>LAU</sup> [REDACTED] lived in the main school building. I think that most of the other teachers lived locally nearby to the school.

## **Routine at Aberlour House School, Speyside**

### *Mornings and bedtime*

17. I think that a member of staff, who would be on duty, would wake us up at about seven. The whole school would meet downstairs and we would go for a run round part of the grounds. We then got into uniform and went for breakfast.
18. After breakfast we had an assembly of the school before we went off to classes. The assembly consisted of the whole school meeting in a large hall in the main building. We would sing traditional hymns and there would be school announcements. I don't recall any disciplinary matters being raised at assembly.
19. We would eat lunch and we would play sport in the afternoon depending on what time of year it was and how much light was available. We could then have an afternoon tea before a shower and then dinner. We would have prep after dinner and then off to bed. It was a very full day.
20. You did prep every night but I can't recall whether it was before or after dinner. There was always a member of staff present to give you a hand if you were struggling with any classwork.
21. I think that the younger boys were in bed by seven and the older boys like myself were in bed from eight thirty. I think that bedtimes, which included brushing teeth and washing, were supervised by the Matrons. Mr <sup>CFP</sup> and Mr <sup>LAU</sup> were always available to deal with any issues as they lived in the house. There was always a staff presence.
22. I don't recall any incidents through the night where the staff were needed but I do remember being caught out of our dormitory at two in the morning by some staff. It was near Christmas so I don't think we were punished.

23. I was very comfortable at Aberlour although some of the younger boys may have been sad and missing home. The Matrons, Miss Cochrane and Miss Port and Mrs McLeod, were women in their sixties and they were very maternal and caring. The whole school was a very caring place. There were a lot of brothers and sisters. My sister <sup>FHZ</sup> was also there.

*Mealtimes / Food*

24. You always had your meals in the dining room in the big house. There would be twelve to a table and each table had a Master sitting at it. The tables were random with different aged children at each table. The food was typical school food and gave us the energy to run about. I enjoyed all the food. I don't recall any of the pupils having trouble with the food.

*Washing / bathing*

25. There was a communal showering area which also had wash hand basins. I think that you had to shower every day and the showering was supervised by staff. I think that Matron may also have been present.

*Clothing / uniform*

26. We wore a school uniform consisting of blue corduroy shorts, long socks, a grey shirt and a blue jumper. You wore shorts and plimsoles for going for a run in the morning, the girls also wore a top when doing the morning run. The girls had a similar uniform but they wore culottes.

### *School classes*

27. We had very small classes and because the school was not selective in its pupils the teachers had to deal with a few children who had issues like dyslexia. The teachers were able to spend time with pupils who had learning difficulties. We also had some very bright children. I didn't enjoy science but the science teacher Mr Hansen would make it interesting.
28. This was the final year of junior school for me and I had to sit the common entrance exam to get into Gordonstoun. I didn't get brilliant grades but I managed to get in to Gordonstoun. Any pupil that didn't get in went to other schools like Rannoch.
29. There was a very thorough report card sent to my mother when I finished my first year. There was always a lengthy report written by the Headmaster which formed part of the report card. It was a very honest report.

### *Sport and leisure activities*

30. Sport was fitted round the classwork and the available light at the different times of the year. If you weren't playing sport it was because you were in classes. The main sports were rugby, hockey and cricket. There was also cross country running and orienteering. You would play against other schools and you would often travel to the other schools to play.
31. Most pupils were encouraged to play sport but not all pupils were sporty so they could indulge in other activities at other times during the week. They could play chess, do photography or go swimming amongst other activities on offer.
32. There was a television and at weekends we had a lot of leisure time. We played table tennis and indoor sports. We could go for long walks or go on a bike ride but always within the school grounds. If you were going to leave the grounds you needed the permission of a member of staff and you would be given a time you had to return. This only happened in your final year. We had to write home once a week



### *Trips / Holidays*

33. I recall one trip which was called “medieval madness” where the whole school went to a ruined castle and we all dressed up in period costumes. We had a hog roast and slept out under the stars. It was a great thing to do for young children and there are not many schools that gave opportunities like that.

### *School holidays*

34. I would always go home during the school holidays and my mother would come and pick me up at the school.

### *Visits*

35. My mother would come and watch the odd sports match on a Saturday if we were playing locally or at home. I would see my mother every few weeks at these matches. I can't recall if there were regular family visits. As long as you told the staff I think that there were not any problems being taken out by your parents at the weekend and going for a meal.
36. I don't recall many other visitors to the school and I don't remember any inspections by the authorities.

### *Healthcare*

37. If you were ill you went to the “san” which I assume was short for sanatorium which was run by the Matron. They could deal with most of the medical issues. I recall that it had four beds. If people were upset they could go there and speak to Matron or seek out their favourite teacher.

### *Running away*

38. I don't think anyone ran away at any time that I was at Aberlour.

### *Discipline/punishment*

39. In the time I was there they still used the cane but I never saw any one being beaten with it. I think that the Headmaster would be the only one allowed to cane a pupil but it never happened to me and I don't recall being told about anyone receiving the cane. A more common punishment was that you could also be made to stand still in the hall for ten minutes to give you time to reflect on your behaviour.

### *Prefects*

40. There were prefects at the school but they were called "officers" and consisted of the older, more senior boys. They were not there to punish but were there to administer and guide. There was a rank hierarchy but I can't recall how it went. I ended up becoming an officer having worked my way through the ranks and I think that all I had to do was offer advice to the younger boys. I did not witness any bullying at Aberlour and it would not have been tolerated.

### *Ethos of Aberlour*

41. The ethos of the school was based on the educational workings of Kurt Hahn. It was very much an environment where children were taught teamwork and independence at the same time. We had to think on our feet and the expeditions were hard physically.
42. It was a great place for a twelve year old who loved sport. It also helped to prepare you for senior education at Gordonstoun.

### **Leaving Aberlour House School**

43. I had passed my entrance exam for Gordonstoun. During my time at Aberlour I had been well prepared to adjust to senior schooling at Gordonstoun where the ethos of Kurt Hahn continued. I knew what to expect and I looked forward to schooling there with the friends I had made at Aberlour. I was now thirteen years of age.



44. I had been to Gordonstoun on a few occasions to attend school plays or concerts. I also knew some people who were at the school. My sister [REDACTED] was at Gordonstoun and was two years ahead so it helped with my relatively easy transition.

#### **Gordonstoun School 1980 – 1985**

45. I went with ten of my best mates from prep school. It was quite daunting being in a house with older boys. We were assigned mentors or shadows who helped us with the routine. I would estimate that there were five hundred boys and girls at the school. The age range was thirteen to eighteen.
46. There were five houses for boys and two houses for girls. You were put into a house when you first arrived. I was put into Round Square House.
47. There were dormitories holding about ten boys. The boys were mixed ages with two from each year. I think if you requested to be in the same house as your siblings this would have been allowed.
48. Gordonstoun had a very large imposing central building ('G House') which had admin offices and a boys' house. It was a very long campus and near to the "far gate" were three houses Bruce, Altyre for boys and Windmill for girls. There were squash courts, swimming pool and gym and an area where "the services" were located. There was a refectory where everyone ate and next to it was G House. My house Round House, which looks like a large doughnut, was next and then you had the classrooms. Next to the classrooms was a girls' house called Hopeman and a boys' house called Cumming. Just outside the grounds was another boys' house called Duffus. I would estimate that the school grounds were at least 150 acres. Bruce house and Altyre house were old Nissen huts left after the Second World War. I think that these have since been updated into more swanky accommodation.

49. It was a tough school and I could see how some children would find it hard. You were in the middle of nowhere and some children could not adapt as easily and missed their home life. There were five hundred children in a school in the middle of nowhere and it was the 1970's and 1980's. Many kids were starting to experiment with smoking and alcohol so I suspect that the school would be worried about this.
50. All pupils were treated the same whether you were a Prince or from a less affluent family. There were quite a few pupils who were at the school on scholarships but as a pupil you would never know and it was a level playing field for all. The school was renowned for providing scholarships for the less well off, indeed roughly forty per cent of the school had some sort of fee reduction.
51. I was never subjected to or witnessed any abuse on any of the pupils during my five years at Gordonstoun.

*Ethos of Gordonstoun*

52. Again it was very similar to Aberlour and based on the Kurt Hahn module. You had to show initiative. You were constantly being tested.
53. When I was in the lower sixth form I was given a job by the Deputy Headmaster David Byatt which was to look after guests. If a guest arrived at the school they were shown round by a senior pupil and I had to organise the rota by leaving notes for school 'guides' at different places to advise them who they were meeting, when and where. As there were no mobile phones and social media at that time, so communicating between pupils was difficult
54. Taking part in expeditions you could be given a starting and a finishing point and then told to make your own way without any help from the staff. These expeditions were a great way to learn as you were on your own with your friends. It was all part of the school ethos and taught you independence.

*Staff and school staffing structure.*

55. The Headmaster was called Michael Mavor who sadly died in his 60's in 2010. The deputy Headmaster was called David Byatt. Underneath them were ten housemasters. Then there were heads of department and their teaching staff. I got on very well with David Byatt who was very approachable.
56. My housemaster was called Angus Miller. He was like a father figure to me especially in view of the breakup of my parents' marriage. I went to him with any issues I had. I also had a tutor for academic issues called Dr Ron Pickering who was a lovely and a very approachable man. I got on very well with the classics teacher called James Fitzgibbon. I was not academic but classical civilisation was my favourite subject because of the way it was delivered by Mr Fitzgibbon.
57. My housemaster Angus Miller became Round Square Housemaster as I started my first term there. He would not let you sit in your room. He encouraged you to go out and try things. He made sure that you contributed to your house. He provided the pastoral care and was a lovely man. I am still in touch with him to this day. Many of the staff spent twenty or thirty years teaching at Gordonstoun
58. I think that there would be about twenty five members of staff living on the campus while the rest lived in nearby houses. If you needed to speak to a member of staff at any time there were always plenty available.
59. The only teacher who was there when I was there and I heard about being accused of abuse and subsequently being jailed was Mr Keir. My dealings with him were that he was a very quiet man who wouldn't say "boo to a goose". Mr Keir was a physics teacher. I was very surprised when I heard about him. I think it was recently in the last few years that I learned about him having read it in the newspapers.

*Prefects.*

60. There was a head boy and head girl called Guardians. There were also prefects who served for a year called Colour Bearers. The heads of House were called House Helpers.
61. The main roles of the Guardians were to lead by example. They put their back into everything. They encouraged others to try things they may have never done before. I remember being persuaded by Angus Miller into singing in an opera which I would never have thought of until I actually did it.
62. I don't think that the Guardians ever dispensed any physical discipline but I seem to remember that they could make you run round the South Lawn if you had been misbehaving; it was called Penalty Drill

*Accommodation*

63. I stayed in a building called Round Square House which had been built by Robert Gordon. It was an iconic building with lots of rooms and staircases. There were five dormitories each with about ten boys. The older boys had their own studies and the younger boys shared studies with three or four others.
64. You had your own desk and were able to keep your personal effects in a tuck box which you could lock. It was quite Spartan. You didn't really go in and out the other houses.

## **Routine at Gordonstoun School 1980 – 1985**

### *Mornings and bedtime*

65. The day started at 7:05 am and I know that because I took my turn to waken the whole house each morning for a term, as part of my house duties. The house would then go for a morning run. You would shower and then go to the refectory for breakfast.
66. After breakfast you would go to school assembly in the Chapel with the whole school. You would sing hymns and there would be announcements. You would then go to classes. There was usually sport in the afternoon and after that, some more classes. You would have some spare time before dinner.
67. After dinner you would go to prep. You could also have one to one tutoring with your tutor. When prep finished you had some free time. I recall that during the week you couldn't visit other houses but at weekends this was allowed. If there was any spare time you could play table tennis or pool or played rugby, hockey or football outside on the 'cabbage patch'
68. There was not a huge emphasis on the academic side of schooling. There was more effort put into sport and the principles of Kurt Hahn. You were always doing something and I am sure that there was no schoolchild as busy as a pupil who attended Gordonstoun.
69. I don't recall any initiation ceremonies carried out by the pupils as a test that had to be passed. It would be considered as a sort of bullying and was not allowed.

*Washing and bathing.*

70. There were communal showers and two baths available to you. There was also a cold shower that had a large shower head which we used regularly as part of the school regime. It was refreshing and helped with skin complaints. There was no supervision by staff in the showering area.

*School uniform.*

71. We wore black trousers, a grey shirt and a blue jersey. When we were not in class at weekends we could wear our own clothes. There was a well-used laundry.

*Medical care.*

72. There was a sanatorium on campus which was staffed by Matron and her staff. There were about twenty individual rooms. There was also a doctor who came in every day and held a clinic there. I do recall that you were measured and weighed every term to check on your growth and development. I think I saw the doctor on a few occasions with minor rugby injuries.
73. If you had any issues or concerns you could go to a senior pupil or your housemaster along with any other teacher that you got on well with. I was in a very strong year and we had very few complaints about the school. I was never aware of any complaints system that was in place. I can't recall anyone ever running away.

*Food and mealtimes*

74. The food was very good and I think that the school won prizes for their food. The mealtimes had to be staggered as the refectory could not cope with all the pupils. You were fed when it was your house's turn. There was always plenty of choice.

75. There was toast and coffee on the go most of the time if you needed it in the evening in your house... There was also a tuck shop and you could buy sweets and drinks if you wanted. I think that your parents provided the school with your pocket money but I can't recall.

#### *Chores*

76. There were some chores to perform and you had to clean the house inside and out. We had to pick up litter and on rotation the houses had to clean the refectory. It was all about respecting the community. You didn't drop litter or you would be letting people down. The senior boys who were colour bearers would oversee the chores being performed.

#### *Religion*

77. Every morning there was an assembly where we sang hymns. There was a Minister or Chaplain attached to the school. I think that the school was multi denominational and there was not a huge emphasis on religion although you had to attend church on a Sunday unless your religion dictated otherwise. You could take communion on a Sunday morning at the early church service whereas the later service was less religiously specific.

#### *Leisure time.*

78. At the weekends it was more relaxed and there were dances on a Saturday night at different houses. There was also inter house sports played on a Sunday. There was always something to do and you found that you would be involved in it whatever it was.



### *Sports at school*

79. There were two teams in all the years at the school the firsts and the seconds. You had full fixture cards and would play all the other private schools and local state schools. It was always a very busy fixture card. Your parents could come and watch the games on a Saturday.

### *Combined Cadet Corps and Services*

80. There were several services that were available at the school including the Fire Service, The Coastguards, Surf Life Saving and the Combined Cadet force (CCF). I was involved in the coastguards. We were auxiliary coastguards and would have to go on to the lookout post and monitor shipping going past, when the weather was poor. We were also trained to fire a line out to a ship that was in trouble, called the Breeches Buoy. We were trained to rescue people who became stuck on cliffs. The service training usually took place on a Wednesday afternoon.

### *Bullying*

81. There was a zero tolerance to bullying and this was reinforced by Mr Mavor and Mr. Miller. The only incident of bullying that I recall was one boy called [REDACTED] who was bullied by two other boys. This was dealt with very quickly and both the boys whose names I can't recall did not return after a Christmas school holiday. [REDACTED] also left. It happened in my house and Angus Miller my Housemaster had to deal with it.

*School rules/discipline and punishment.*

82. There was a ban on smoking and drinking and also having sexual relationships with any other pupils. I was part of a group who were involved in stamping out anti-social behaviour in our house. I think for smoking it was two strikes and you were out. If caught drinking alcohol. It was one strike and you were out. Drugs did not exist when I was at Gordonstoun although I believe before I arrived there were some pupils asked to leave after being caught smoking cannabis.
83. Some of the policing of the school was carried out by the pupils themselves which was part of the growing up process. It encouraged the pupils to take responsibility. You would rarely hand anyone over to the staff unless the incident was significant with a major breach of the school rules. You would have a word with them and tell them to behave. It was always felt that if you brought disrespect on your house then the other house members were not going to like it.
84. There was a daily training plan that you had to adhere to. It was all done on trust. There was a list of about ten things you had to complete every day for the first two years of school when you were a junior. You would see a senior boy every day who would confirm that you had completed the plan. You were expected to own up if you failed to complete any of the tasks. They were simple things like how you brush your teeth or taking a cold shower. Persistent failure to complete the plan meant you were required to do "press ups" with ten press ups per task you failed to complete. The press ups were not supervised by the older pupils it was expected that you would complete them in your own time.
85. There were discipline measures. They still used the cane but I was never subjected to it. The Headmaster or the Housemasters were the only teachers who could use the cane. There was detention on a Saturday night which stopped you going to dances or social events. There was house gating where you would be confined to the house for a period of time. There was also rustication which meant you were sent home.

86. On one occasion I was caught drinking when I was about fifteen. I had a long chat with my housemaster and he agreed that it may have something to do with the breakup of my parents. The Housemaster used his discretion and as a result I was house gated and that was the end of the matter and I was not punished further.

*Trips or excursions*

87. There were a lot of expeditions and walking to the tops of mountains. You carried large packs and would end up dirty and sweaty but you would have accomplished the expedition. This helped us all doing our gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and we found the required expedition very simple...so we effectively doubled the amount of miles required to make it harder. You were always aware of the staff who also oversaw most of the expeditions without interfering unless necessary. I never saw any accidents or pupils being hurt or taken to hospital despite the fact that we were mountain climbing and abseiling down the mountain sides. You also learned to sail aboard the school sailing vessel 'Sea Spirit'
88. When you were a senior boy you could go out to Lossiemouth or Elgin and have dinner on Saturday nights. You needed the permission of a housemaster to go there. You didn't have to wear school uniform but you still had to conduct yourself properly as it was felt that you were representing the school. Some of the boys were eighteen and could drink in the pubs. Elgin and Lossiemouth were not friendly environments for Gordonstoun pupils.

*Visits/visitors*

89. My mother did visit on the odd occasion and I would go out for a meal or she would watch a match that I was playing in. I remember when the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] came with his son to look round. There were also occasional visits from the royal family who still had a connection with the school. I don't recall any official visits from school inspectors.

### *Report cards*

90. There were report cards sent directly to your parents after every term so they could keep an eye on how you were progressing.

### **Preparation for leaving school**

91. I think that Gordonstoun by giving you the challenges they did on a daily basis, helped greatly and prepared us more for university and other careers. We seemed better prepared than anything I have seen in the modern teaching methods my children were exposed to. You were taught a lot of independence and could make your own decisions. They taught you resilience to overcome problems.

### **Leaving Gordonstoun School**

92. I spent the first year out of school teaching English and sport at a sister school to Gordonstoun in Australia. I was still in touch with Gordonstoun on a regular basis. I came back to the United Kingdom and re-sat my Highers to improve my grades. I then went to Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh where I obtained my degree. Thereafter I entered the world of finance and have worked in the City ever since.
93. When I left school I changed my name from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was my mother's maiden name and my parents had split up. I was the last of the [REDACTED] family on my mother's side and wanted to continue the name.

### **Contact with Gordonstoun School since leaving**

94. I have kept in touch with the school. My house Round Square has the odd reunion and so does my year group. I occasionally attend a yearly golf outing organised by the Gordonstoun Association. I still keep in touch with some of my friends from Gordonstoun through social media.

95. In the early years after leaving school I kept in touch with some staff members but this involved writing letters and was difficult. If I was in Aberdeen I would call in to Gordonstoun in person and speak to the staff.

### **Impact**

96. Gordonstoun provided me with collegiate friendships that have been preserved through my life. I always feel that the education I received at Aberlour and Gordonstoun makes me feel that there is more in me. Being faced with adversity I feel I can deal try to with anything and face up to difficult tasks. There are very few things that are insurmountable. It has made me enjoy a challenge and have the strength to take it on.
97. I am proud of what former pupils of Gordonstoun have achieved in all fields. There are many examples of the success including Olympians and leaders in academic fields. My own daughter went to Gordonstoun between the ages of thirteen and seventeen and also had a very positive experience.

### **Records**

98. I do not know what records were kept at either Aberlour or Gordonstoun but I do know that there was a report card sent out every term which told the parents all they needed to know. I do not think that there would be a ledger listing different punishments.

### **Reasons for contacting the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.**

99. I am not sure how I learned about the Inquiry, I think I may have seen it in the press. I have never discussed my intention to give evidence to the Inquiry with any staff from Gordonstoun. I have mentioned to my peer group and my siblings that I intended to give evidence. Gordonstoun provides an education that other schools pretend to provide. They have an ethos which they maintain. Other schools and companies should listen to what is done at Gordonstoun and learn from the school's motto 'Plus est en vous' which translated means "more is in you".
100. I am bored reading the adverse publicity Gordonstoun receives. There are always the references to the time Prince Charles and other royal family members spent there. Headlines like "Colditz in kilts" upsets me and I want to give you a different slant. The allegation that Prince Charles hated his time at Gordonstoun is only partly true. Whilst he found the life hard going, he enjoyed many aspects of the school, has maintained school friendships with pupils and staff alike. He was also a big fan of Kurt Hahn and his educational philosophy

### **Other information**

101. I have a lot of experience of different schools through my own children being placed at schools in the South East, but also my eldest daughter attending Gordonstoun. I felt that the staff at Gordonstoun and Aberlour were so passionate about their subjects. Many of the staff were long serving and enjoyed the subject they taught. They also liked the children and were passionate about all round education. They had a full time vocation teaching the children which unfortunately I don't see replicated these days.
102. The school continues to provide excellent pastoral care. It may be slightly different from my time in the seventies and eighties. The teachers you were in class with one day, could the next day be climbing a mountain, running in a cross country race or sailing with you. There are not many schools where this would have been possible. My experience at Gordonstoun was very positive.

103. 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.....PRL.....

Dated.....06 October 2020.....