

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

QWH

Support person present: No

1. My name is QWH is my maiden name. My married name, during the time when my children were at Fettes, was QWH My date of birth is 1951. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Family history with Fettes

2. My family has had a long history with Fettes that goes back to the early part of the last century. My father was called He was born in 1909. His father, my grandfather, lost the family fortune after investing it in the Russian railways prior to the revolution there. Sadly my father's mother, my grandmother, then died.
3. Sir William Fettes, 1750 to 1836, left his fortune "...to form an endowment for the maintenance, education and outfit of young people whose parents have either died... or who, from innocent misfortune during their lives are unable to give suitable education to their children." The people who set up the school interpreted the scholarship in two ways. The first was for a "foundationer" and the other was for a "foundation scholar." Foundation scholarships were for boys who would normally have attended state schools. Until 1939 between 20% and 25% of the school were either foundationers or foundation scholars.
4. My father first went to Fettes when he was thirteen years old. He went there under a foundation scholarship. That would have been in approximately 1922. Later on my

paternal uncle, [REDACTED] attended Fettes as a boarder. That would have been during the 1930s.

5. After completing his exams and leaving Fettes in the late 1920s my father wasn't able to attend university full time, as he would have liked, due to a lack of family funds. He had to work to pay for himself to go to University. In 1940 my father was invited to go back to Fettes as a staff member by his former Headmaster. He accepted the offer and taught [REDACTED] at the school.
6. Since teaching was a reserved occupation, when war broke out my father didn't need to join the forces but he chose to do so. He was in a special unit that, after the war, helped reintegrate German teachers back into work. By 1947 my father had finished his work with the army and returned to Fettes. Upon returning to Fettes he discovered that another teacher had been employed to teach [REDACTED] and they needed a [REDACTED] teacher. Accordingly he enrolled in an intensive [REDACTED] course in Lausanne University in Switzerland to brush up on his [REDACTED]. It should be noted that he had studied [REDACTED] as part of his degree from the University of London. He met my mother while in Switzerland. She was already studying [REDACTED] in Lausanne while teaching Swiss ladies palantyping.
7. My father initially lived in what Fettes called "a bachelor house." It only had rooms to house a bachelor rather than a family. The house was located in the main Fettes building. Whilst he lived there he was a Housemaster to that house.
8. My mother's name was [REDACTED]. She was fifteen years younger than him. They got married in England and returned to Edinburgh. I was then born in 1951. When I was born my father had been appointed [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. I think my mother was already pregnant with me when they moved in. [REDACTED] is, and was, one of the four original major boarding houses that are on the grounds of Fettes. [REDACTED] Wilfred Hoare who had taken the post of Headmaster of Strathallan in Perthshire.
9. My mother went on to have a further three children. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 1953, [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 1954 and

██████████ was born in ██████████ 1956. Our family shared the house with about eighty boys between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. I spent the first eleven years of my life in ██████████ House.

10. In 1962 my father was appointed SNR ██████████ which in those days was what Fettes called the SNR ██████████. At that point we moved just down the road to a house in ██████████. I remember that from my bedroom window was a perfect view of the spire of Fettes. My father later went on to be appointed ██████████ ██████████ in 1977. Amongst the pupils he taught during his time at the school was Tony Blair who attended the school in the late sixties and early seventies. My father adored the school. When I was growing up Fettes was central to all of our lives. Everything revolved, from every angle, around Fettes.
11. A few years after we moved to ██████████ both my brothers started at Fettes. They were boarders even though we only lived ten minutes down the road. ██████████ was there between 1967 and 1972 and ██████████ was there between 1969 and 1964. My brothers weren't the only relatives who attended Fettes at that time. My cousin, ██████████ attended Fettes between 1971 and 1976.
12. My sister and I could not attend Fettes because it was boys only. Because of that, at the age of five, I went to St. George's School for Girls as a day pupil. There wasn't an official relationship between Fettes and St. George's but I do remember that St. George's would often do concerts, dances and certain events jointly with them.
13. After I finished my O Levels at St. George's I was sent to a finishing school in Worcester. My mother had plans for me to do a course to become a trilingual secretary. I, however, wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and become a teacher. Off my own bat I studied for my Highers and an A level ██████████ whilst working in Geneva, Switzerland as an au pair. I would send all my work home to my father for comments and correction. I then flew home from Geneva and sat all my exams at Fettes. After passing them I was accepted into one of only five A listed teacher training colleges in England which was part of the University of London. I have been a teacher ever since graduating from there.

14. My father continued to teach at Fettes under five Headmasters. He taught there for a total of [REDACTED]. He ultimately retired shortly after a Headmaster called Anthony Chenevix-Trench dropped dead on the job in June 1979. I believe at the time of his death Anthony Chenevix-Trench had already been told to announce his "retirement" from the school. My father was about seventy years old by that time. I still have the letter Chenevix-Trench wrote to my father begging him to stay on past the retirement age of 65. In the letter he writes that neither Fettes, nor Trench himself, could manage without his wisdom and example to younger staff. My father remained at the school for another year to support the new headmaster, Cameron Cochrane. My father retired in 1980 – the year [REDACTED] BPR was born.
15. Fettes was absolutely essential and core to my being but it was also core to my parents. To my father he viewed it as having been a lifeline. It was so central to my parents' lives that they chose their burial plots at the graveyard at Comely Bank so that after the coffins were lowered into their graves the mourners could look up and see Fettes standing there reassuringly.
16. During my father's last Founder's Day celebration at Fettes as a member of staff they recited a poem that had been written about him. The poem contained lines that went something like "Today we farewell [REDACTED] the longer we've known him the younger he's got" and so on. The poem ended up describing him as "...the very personification of Fettes." The poem basically said that he had been a pillar of Fettes and they wondered how they were going to survive without him.

Historical information concerning Fettes prior to my children starting there

17. Because of my connection to the school through my relatives and my interactions with the school throughout my childhood and teenage years I am aware of certain historical changes in the school over the years prior to my children starting there.

Changing facilities at the swimming pool

As a child in the fifties and early sixties I regularly used the Fettes swimming pool during "family time." Family time was a period in the afternoon when relatives of staff could use the facilities. There were no changing rooms and boys and masters would strip off by the side of the pool and all swam naked. On hot days the doors would be left open and I would peer in whilst waiting for them to hurry up and get out of the water so we could go inside. I thought nothing of the fact that they wore no swimming trunks understanding that it was only girls and ladies who had to "show modesty." During family time boys and men would undress at the edge of the pool and females would wrap towels around themselves while changing in the entrance area to the pool. By the time my children attended Fettes there were changing rooms for boys and girls. The girls' changing rooms had two showers and a toilet. I believe the boys had the same.

Fettes's shift to becoming co-educational

18. William Fettes never actually said that he wanted the school to be all boys. It was the governors at the time of the school being founded who wanted the school to be all boys. Their vision for the school was that it would be an exclusive public school based on the English public school system and curriculum. All that was totally against the wishes of William Fettes.
19. When Fettes realised that their money was running out in the early eighties they started considering turning the school co-educational. I recall at the time when that was being considered there were some parents who said that they would take their boys out of the school were that to happen. However, it became apparent to the school that there were more people who would send their daughters there than sons who would be taken out if the school became co-educational.
20. Around that time Fettes invited a man by the name of David Ogilvie to be their guest speaker at their annual Founder's Day celebration. Choosing a guest speaker at these events was always a carefully-planned PR exercise. This was especially obvious on this occasion as David Ogilvie, an Old Fettesian, was known as the

"Father of Advertising". As an advertising tycoon, he had founded the company "Ogilvy and Mather". I remember he gave his Founder's Day speech shortly before the school became co-educational in 1983. . He announced to the assembled audience that he had been reading William Fettes's will and that it quite clearly said it was for the benefit of "children" not just "boys." Then, addressing the Fettes boys, he told them they needed to stand up and revolt. He had the gift of the gab and all the boys were cheering and so on.

21. Fettes turning co-educational was all about money. That was the only reason that Fettes decided to allow girls to come to the school. Fettes wasn't the only school which did that around that time. A lot of independent schools had to do that to survive.

Use of corporal punishment to discipline children

22. Fettes continued to use corporal punishment after it became co-educational. Cameron Cochrane was Headmaster at the time it became co-educational. I recall that he produced a copy of the rules and regulations, which I still have a copy of, which stipulated that "girls are not eligible for corporal punishment."
23. I am aware that caning was ultimately banned in the public schools in Scotland. I believe that one of the main reasons that they had to do that was because public schools were benefitting financially from the assisted places scheme. That scheme essentially meant that pupils who would normally have attended state schools were in attendance. Because those pupils were state funded they weren't allowed to receive corporal punishment. That created a discrepancy in terms of how the school could respond to different children misbehaving. If parents were paying their sons could be caned but if the state was paying then caning was forbidden.

The role of "Matron" in the boarding houses

24. When my parents arrived in [REDACTED] they also inherited the house Matron, Miss Kay Warren. The role of Matron in the boarding house system was an extremely important one. When I was growing up at Fettes, Matron was seen as offering

continuity and stability for the boys in her care. Especially in the evenings boys knew where to find her and would gather round her fire to chat. One evening a week Matron would have a day off and my mother would "do Matron's duty" and I would often accompany her.

25. My father used to tell me that the role of Matron was to be someone the boys could always go to and was independent of him. [REDACTED] would often move on to new appointments after a few years, however matrons tended to remain in the boarding houses much longer.

Security at Fettes

26. Historically there was an almost total lack of security measures in place at Fettes. Former Fettes pupils, including Tony Blair, would brag about the well-established practice of sixth formers climbing out of windows and attending Edinburgh pubs. A blind eye was turned to this. I became aware of this through my brothers but also many other people connected to the school. Although there were rules against this practice nobody was around to enforce them because the governors would not pay for outside security. Sometimes a boy would be caught and expelled. It wasn't until the mid-nineties that Fettes upgraded the security arrangements at the school.

Deaths and accidents in the school

27. The term after Anthony Chenevix-Trench died in June 1979, Cameron Cochrane took over as Headmaster. He was unaware of the nightly escapades of pupils uptown which had not been stopped by the staff or governors. Sadly, he had to deal with the terrible tragedy of a boy being killed while climbing back in a window in the early hours of a Sunday morning. The boy's hood on his duffle coat caught on the window's latch bringing the window down on his neck. A younger boy in the same house discovered the body later that morning. He didn't recognise him as his own brother because his face was so bloated.
28. A teenage boy tragically died, from causes that were never explained, whilst with Fettes on a trip to a summer army training camp. He was under Fettes's care at the

time of the Combined Cadet Force trip. I can't remember the exact year but it was in the late sixties at some point before I was sixteen. I don't recall the boy's name but I remember other parents saying that he was a very bright boy. From what I heard, the boys had been travelling in an army type truck which had a thick canvas covering on it. When they arrived at the camp the boy was dead. It was all a bit of a mystery and it wasn't clarified what had happened.

29. I don't know whether that was due to any negligence but it was a horrible tragedy. I know that the standard of care wasn't particularly high on these Combined Cadet Forces trips. A lot of accidents occurred on those trips. I remember there were issues because their boats weren't sea worthy and children weren't provided with the necessary safety equipment such as life jackets that fitted. There was an occasion in the early nineties where a girl called [REDACTED] got hypothermia because [REDACTED] DZP ignored weather warnings and sent pupils out in boats that weren't sea worthy. The children all ended up in the sea and had to be rescued. Everybody at the school heard about that incident and it resulted in some parents writing in and complaining. Two of the parents who complained were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] mother. I heard through other parents that [REDACTED] DZP [REDACTED] DZP read out some of those letters of complaint in front of all of the children and staff present (including Andrew Alexander who also took CCF) mocking the children whose parents had written for being precious and saying that they couldn't join everyone else that day.

Abuse at Fettes prior to my children starting at the school

Anthony Chenevix-Trench

30. I came to know a lot about Anthony Chenevix-Trench's background, and the way that he acted in Fettes, through my family and my interactions with the school growing up. A lot of what I knew was later confirmed in a book written by Tim Card called "Eton Renewed." That book was published in 1994.

31. Prior to starting as Headmaster at Fettes, Anthony Chenevix-Trench had been sacked by Eton for many reasons including numerous reports of him beating boys with their trousers down and excessive drinking. The governors of Fettes wanted to take him on because it was seen as a coup to have the former Headmaster of Eton at the school. I know that the governors were divided as to whether to take him on or not. Everybody knew at that time of his tendency to beat boys too often, his over familiarity with boys and his drunken behaviour. I know that Roy Salveson, who was one of the governors, was not happy about Anthony Chenevix-Trench's appointment. My father also wrote to the governors concerning the potential appointment. He urged them to appoint a man called David Pighills as Headmaster instead. I know that ultimately David Pighills was employed as Headmaster at Strathallan.
32. Ultimately, Lord Mackenzie Stuart and a couple of other diehards overruled the other governors by going behind their backs and announcing his appointment in the Scotsman. They decided that the prestige of having a former Headmaster of Eton was such that they could overlook his past behaviour and manage him after appointment. Seemingly Eton were staggered that Fettes took Anthony Chenevix-Trench on. I became aware of the circumstances surrounding Anthony Chenevix-Trench's appointment through my father. They were widely known because there was such an outcry amongst people associated with the school at that time. I recall governors leaving because of the appointment.
33. My father knew Anthony Chenevix-Trench well during his time at Fettes. He, and many other people, knew perfectly well that he was an alcoholic. I remember my father remaining loyal to the school throughout but also expressing his concerns about Anthony Chenevix-Trench's appointment and the way he acted subsequently over the years he worked with him.
34. My brothers and cousin were boarders at the time that Anthony Chenevix-Trench was headmaster. One of my brothers told me that when Anthony Chenevix-Trench was Headmaster there was always a "lookout" person when boys went to pubs as Anthony Chenevix-Trench was himself a frequent visitor to pubs. My brother was equally sure that Anthony Chenevix-Trench knew they were there and enjoyed the "game" of staying in the pub, knowing that the Fettes boys were all hiding in the

gents. I learnt from my brothers that when Anthony Chenevix-Trench wanted to cane a boy, he might use the visit to the pub as an excuse to get the boy into his study. Anthony Chenevix-Trench also did other "deals" with boys. I know that in a book called "A Keen Wind Blows: The Story of Fettes College" by Robert Philp there is reference to Fettes boys, under Chenevix-Trench, being arrested and appearing in court for underage drinking.

35. My brother told me of a Combined Cadet Force trip his year had done in the Scottish Highlands. During the trip he and other boys uprooted all the "Pass" signs on the narrow mountainous roads and threw them down into the valley below. A few days later, Anthony Chenevix-Trench told the boys involved that the police had turned up at his front door but that he had sent them packing reprimanding them for having the audacity to suggest that his boys would ever even contemplate such an act. As always with Anthony Chenevix-Trench, this was done in his "chummy" spirit of "I won't tell on you, if you don't tell on me."
36. I don't think either of my brothers had any particular problems with Anthony Chenevix-Trench. I think that was partly because my older brother was an A grade student. I also think it was because they were connected to my father. Anthony Chenevix-Trench would never have laid a finger on either of them.
37. My cousin, [REDACTED] was at Fettes between 1971 and 1976. My aunt told me that she learnt that [REDACTED] had been beaten at school for reading a Christian pamphlet during prep. She said that [REDACTED] had finished all his prep, was a very well-behaved boy and had no idea that he was doing wrong let alone deserving of a beating. My uncle would never have allowed my aunt to complain about the school. I am unsure whether this beating was by Anthony Chenevix-Trench but it did occur under his Headmastership. It is possible that [REDACTED] was beaten by a prefect and not Anthony Chenevix-Trench. I doubt it would have been his Housemaster as I don't think any of the Housemasters would have beaten a [REDACTED] when my father was still teaching at the school.

Life in the lead up to my children attending Fettes

38. I have two sons and a daughter. My eldest son was born on [REDACTED] 1975, my youngest son was born [REDACTED] 1977 and BPR [REDACTED] was born on [REDACTED] 1980.
39. When the boys and BPR [REDACTED] were young we lived in Switzerland. I remember that we visited Fettes during the summer holidays and during Christmas time. I remember us using the swimming pool, tennis courts and so on. Fettes was an extension of home to my whole family, including my children. I loved the place and it meant everything to the family.
40. I came back to Edinburgh permanently with my children from Geneva in July 1987. At that time BPR [REDACTED] was seven and my sons were ten and twelve. I had returned to Edinburgh on my own earlier in the year to nurse my mother during a period when she was dying of cancer. She was only sixty two at that time. My father was going blind because of glaucoma and macular degeneration. Because of that he struggled looking after my mother and himself. We all moved into my father's house so I could be close to him and look after him. My mother had passed away three months after I came back and a memorial service was held for her in Fettes Chapel. At the service the school chaplain made reference to the enormous comfort it had given my mother to know that three of her grandchildren would be going to Fettes.

Experience of sons sitting entrance exam for Fettes

41. Before arriving back in Edinburgh my two sons had sat the Fettes entrance exams. That would have been in the early summer of 1987. Looking back those exams were a bit of a joke. I now know that Fettes needed to take in as many children as they could because they were in such a dire financial situation. Fettes was struggling, the numbers were down and they were desperate. I think because of all of that the quality of the students who were going there at that time wasn't particularly high.

42. My youngest son, whose schooling had been in French, was top of the year in all subjects for the three years that he was in Fettes junior school. I'm not saying that my son wasn't bright, however, I do know that the academic standard of pupils there can't have been particularly high given that he had attended a Swiss school where English wasn't taught.

BPR *academic career prior to attending Fettes*

43. **BPR** was too young to go to Fettes so I decided to take her along to an entrance test for St. George's in early summer of 1987. Part of the reason we picked St. George's was because I had gone there. However, it was also generally accepted within our social circles that St. George's was the best girls' school in Edinburgh. It was the school where many parents wanted their daughter to go to if they could get in. Another factor was that St. George's wasn't very far away from our home. It was a fairly short drive from where we lived.
44. I remember that at that time **BPR** didn't speak much English because she too had attended a Swiss school. However, she did still get in. I don't know what they were looking for but it certainly couldn't have been solely her grasp of the English language at that time.
45. **BPR** started at St. George's as a day pupil either in late **BPR** or early **BPR** 1987 when she was seven years old. She ended up attending St. George's for three school years until she was ten years old. She seemed happy there and had lots of friends. She learnt English very quickly and did very well academically.
46. **BPR** ultimately going to Fettes when she was old enough was always on the cards. **BPR** couldn't wait to go because we had all as a family visited there so much throughout her childhood. It was unthinkable that she would go anywhere else. Quite apart from the family history with Fettes it was pretty common at that time for girls at ten years old to move schools. **BPR** was the **BPR** from St. George's who moved at that age to Fettes. One friend was a girl by the name of

██████████ but there were others. On top of that her brothers were already there.

47. Another thing that was important to BPR ██████████ and myself was the fact that Fettes was co-educational. I know that she did not really want to be at an all-girls school. She had previously been to a co-educational school in Switzerland and thought that it was more fun. It seemed more normal for her. Looking back, BPR ██████████ never said that she didn't want to move schools. I recall her being particularly excited when we got her Fettes uniform and for me it was like a dream come true to have all my children at Fettes.
48. I don't remember whether BPR ██████████ sat an entrance exam to get into Fettes. I don't think that she did. Looking back, I think they were desperate to take anyone they could get. I think the reports she had from St. George's were deemed enough for her to get into Fettes. I think that, for Fettes, it was all about keeping up appearances. They had to be seen to make children sit exams, but in fact they would take anyone.

Fettes College, Edinburgh

My sons starting at Fettes and length of time there

49. My two sons went to the junior school at Fettes a short time after we came back from Switzerland. That would have been in late August or early September in 1987. I had been convinced by the school to let my two sons board when they started at Fettes. The argument was that they would get to know people better, that they would be more fully integrated into the school and so on.
50. In the end I took them out of boarding to become day pupils around about four weeks after they started the autumn term in 1987. That would have either been in September or October 1987. My youngest son remained at the school until ██████████ 1992. My oldest son stayed until ██████████ 1993, after completing his Highers.

BPR starting at Fettes and length of time there

51. **BPR** started as a day pupil at Fettes in late August or early September 1990 when she was ten years old. She remained a day pupil in the junior school at Fettes until she left in June 1993 at the age of thirteen. She never attended the senior school. **BPR** never boarded permanently at Fettes but did spend a week boarding under their care during a time when I was abroad in Greece. From recollection she was utterly traumatised by that experience.

Fees

52. I had a deal with my ex-husband (who lived in Geneva) that I wouldn't take any alimony or child support from him as long as he covered the school fees. I would also let him see the children during the holidays. I didn't try to mess around with every alternate Christmas etc. This was among the many sacrifices I made so that my children could go to Fettes but also enjoy a close relationship with their father. I can't recall what the school fees were at Fettes but I don't think they were significantly higher than at St. George's. I do know that the boarding fees were significantly higher. I really can't remember what the exact fees for day pupils or boarding pupils were.

Staff structure

53. The structure at [REDACTED] the school changed during the time that my children were at Fettes. Originally there was a separate **SNR** [REDACTED] for the junior school and the senior school. That changed when **CXL** [REDACTED] was appointed in 1988. He got rid of **SNR** [REDACTED] of the junior school and took over the role of **SNR** [REDACTED] **SNR** [REDACTED] of the school. He then [REDACTED] for the person in charge of the day-to-day running of the junior school.
54. I understand that one of the reasons why the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was because the new **SNR** [REDACTED], **CXL** [REDACTED] wanted total control. It also meant that children who attended the junior school would not have to

sit entrance exams (referred to as the Common Entrance) to obtain a place in the senior school. That change was part of the effort of the school to build up numbers at any cost. It was all about money and that was why the change was made.

Staff

55. I have known a number of staff members and individuals associated with the school over my involvement with the Fettes. Listed below are those persons relevant to the events and abuse I discuss within the body of this statement.
56. CKP [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] during the time when my children were at the school. [REDACTED] was a [REDACTED] during the time my children were at the school. He took over the role of [REDACTED] after CKP [REDACTED] left abruptly following the many rumours circulating about him. [REDACTED] governors that are of relevance include Ronald Gardiner and Alistair Fox.
57. CRS [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of the junior school at Fettes. He left the school in 1991 after CXL [REDACTED]. I believe he went on to be the SNR [REDACTED] of the junior school at [REDACTED].
58. CXL [REDACTED] was appointed SNR [REDACTED] of the senior school in 1988. He ultimately became SNR [REDACTED] of the school.
59. Andrew Alexander was called the Warden of the junior school. That was the title that CXL [REDACTED] after he became SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] at Fettes. Previously that role would have been titled [REDACTED] of the junior school. He was put in place after CXL [REDACTED] got rid of CRS [REDACTED]. Looking back on the way he was, I think Andrew Alexander was essentially a "yes man" to CXL [REDACTED].
60. Neil Henderson was Deputy Headmaster of the senior school. He had been appointed to this post in 1984 and many people believed that the governors should have made him SNR [REDACTED] instead of appointing CXL [REDACTED].

61. FGA [REDACTED], or Miss FGA [REDACTED], was the resident Housemistress who lived in the junior house. She was also a [REDACTED] teacher in the junior school. She was removed as Housemistress sometime after CXL [REDACTED] was appointed SNR [REDACTED] but remained a teacher in the school after that. Looking back, she would have been attached to the school for at least fifteen years if not more. Her two brothers had been pupils at Fettes.
62. There was a Matron in the junior school boarding house. I don't recall what the Matron's name was but I seem to recall she was young, and arrived after Miss FGA [REDACTED] was removed as Housemistress.
63. BKL [REDACTED] was the Housemaster of Glencorse and had been taught by my father at Fettes. His wife, Mrs [REDACTED] held a role similar to that of Matron in the boarding house.
64. DZP [REDACTED] was the Housemaster of Kimmerghame house. His wife, Mrs [REDACTED], held a role similar to that of Matron in the boarding house.
65. William Stein was Fettes's swimming coach. At some time in the past he had had a stroke. He was seriously overweight when I saw him in the nineties. Quite honestly I don't know why he was employed as a swimming coach. I would have serious doubts whether he would even be able to save anyone.
66. Other teachers I recall who are relevant to this statement are Brendan Butler, David Burns and David Kennedy. Other staff members I recall at the school include Mrs FGT [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] to the junior school and Mrs Weeks, who was Housemistress to Arniston House where she lived with the Reverend Weeks. Reverend Weeks was the school's Church of Scotland chaplain.
67. Mervyn Edgecombe was hired by Fettes as their PR man. His instructions were to save the reputation of the school. He dealt with all the adverse publicity they were receiving at that time. I have since learnt that he was employed primarily to deal with me. He referred to himself as "Merv the Swerve."

Children and parents associated with the school

68. There were a number of children at the school who are relevant to this statement. Friends and peers of my children at the school during their time there include [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There are two boys who are relevant whose full names I don't know. The first is a boy whose surname was [REDACTED] and had parents posted in the Middle East. The second is a Dutch boy, whose name I don't recall, but [REDACTED] raised concerns about him to me.
69. There are a number of parents of children at the school who are relevant to this statement at the time my children were at Fettes. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] mother. [REDACTED], or [REDACTED], had daughters who boarded at the school. Mrs [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] mother.

Routine at Fettes

Daily routine

70. They would always have assembly in the morning at around 9am. I guess they would attend that and sing a hymn or two. After assembly there were classes in the early part of the morning. After that they had break. I know that in the past all the children were given big sticky buns during that break time but I think that changed during the time [REDACTED] was there to having a couple of dry biscuits. I vaguely remember other parents complaining about that.
71. After break was another lesson before they all traipsed across to lunch. That was held in the glass walled dining hall which was a separate building to the main building. All the pupils from both sides of the school had all their meals there. After lunch they would traipse all the way back across the playing fields to the junior side of the school if they weren't yet in the senior school.

72. Games (such as rugby, cricket etc.) took place in the afternoon every week day except Wednesdays, when there was CCF. There was a big emphasis on sport and CCF. Sport would be for an hour or two, but CCF might take longer (for example if the pupils went sailing). After games the pupils got changed and showered. There were then more classes. I remember that the school had a staggered system for pupils learning musical instruments. They would miss a different class every week to attend their private music lessons.
73. When afternoon classes were over there was orchestra practice, choir, drama or other extra-curricular activities. One of the activities during that part of the day in the junior school was junior swimming. That was held between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. I don't think that was every day. I think during the summer term it was more frequent because they had competitions and were working towards them. After whatever activity they were doing in the evenings they had tea followed by prep.
74. On Saturdays the children would have inter-school matches. Sport was taken very seriously at the school.
75. There was a change to the daily routine for day pupils in the junior school in 1991. Previously the day pupils used to finish at either 3:30pm or 4pm. That was the old system that was in place under CRS [REDACTED]. When CXL [REDACTED] took over as [REDACTED] that was changed. He decided that the junior school's timetable had to be aligned with that of the senior school. The pupils in the junior school had to stay for prep and so on. It was also decided that senior staff should be teaching in the junior school. I recall other parents being outraged at that at the time. All hell broke loose. I personally wasn't inclined to make a fuss about the changes.

Inspections

76. I am aware that no inspectors went into Fettes for over thirty years. I learnt that after speaking to The Care Inspectorate, or whatever their predecessors were called, when I was looking to get them to inspect the school. Those years included the years when my children attended the school. I know that when inspectors ultimately

did go into Fettes that was primarily due to me making complaints to the school, the police and others.

Pastoral care

77. I remember that all the parents of the children who were starting boarding at the school in 1987 were told not to contact their children during their first four weeks. That was the policy at Fettes at the time that my two sons started boarding there. You were instructed not to phone them or send them any letters so as they could adjust. I believe I was informed of that policy via a newsletter that was sent out by the school. I believe that I still have the letter from Miss FGA saying that.
78. I can see there was a certain logic to it insomuch as the children had to settle in. If a parent was on the phone every five minutes it wouldn't help. However, children starting in the junior school might be as young as ten years old. I appreciate that it made life easier for the school but if there was a child crying themselves to sleep every night and they were homesick then that might not make sense.
79. CXL was on one of the committees set up by independent schools which oversaw pastoral care at boarding schools. He joined that after he became SNR of Fettes in 1988. I have heard from my children that the topic of Childline was raised during a number of assemblies after he arrived. I was told by my children that they were made to chant the number for Childline out loud during assembly in the Junior School sometimes and there might have been notices on the wall.
80. The availability of Childline was an absolute joke because I know that the only phone that boarders had access to at that time was in the office of Mrs FGT which was located opposite the Warden's office in the junior school. Pupils would have to ask permission to go into that office and use the phone. Even were children to go in there and use the phone Mrs FGT would be there to hear everything that the child would be saying.

81. My experience as a parent of children at the school was that there was absolutely nothing by way of pastoral care at the school. As far as I am aware, there were no one-to-ones, availability of Housemasters to speak to or allotted staff members to particular children. You would have been considered a wimp to seek out all that sort of thing. I found all of that shocking. It was all "stiff upper lip" and "just get on with it."

Security

82. Parents frequently wrote to the governors expressing concern at the lack of security at Fettes, with the father of one girl, [REDACTED], writing on at least two occasions in the early nineties, offering them an excellent deal for his security firm to ensure that the pupils were safe. His offers were rejected. Former Fettes master, Ronnie Guild, told me that he had often brought the matter up with the governors, but they didn't even give him the courtesy of a reply. I recall that Ronnie Guild was particularly concerned about the safety of the girls in Arniston House. The boarding house was very close to the road.
83. I remember much later on having a discussion via correspondence and in person with Mervyn Edgecombe about the appalling lack of security at the school. I have an email dated 9th November 2015 from Mervyn Edgecombe which talks more explicitly about his awareness of the issues surrounding security.
84. Mervyn Edgecombe told me that the school only agreed to heighten its security after they started admitting eastern European pupils to the boarding side of the school. Many of those pupils had been recruited by CXL [REDACTED] through a Bulgarian woman called Valia in the mid-nineties. Mervyn Edgecombe said that he was convinced that the money for the fees being paid to the school was laundered. He told me that the conditions set by the eastern European parents for their children attending was that super tight security would be put in place at Fettes. CCTV was installed and private detectives were hired by the parents. He further told me that another aspect of the ramping up of security was that he had to have regular meetings with the police. He said that he met with them to discuss what they would

do in the event of any of the children being kidnapped by a rival mafia group and where those individuals might look to get out of the country if they did that.

The changing role of "Matron" in the boarding houses

85. The role of the Matron changed following CXL appointment [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. That would have been in either 1991 or 1992. At least two Housemasters under him, DZP [REDACTED] of Kimmerghame and BKL [REDACTED] of Glencorse, chose to do away with the "independence" of the Matron. They instead appointed their own unqualified wives. The shift allowed those Housemasters to add to their family income.
86. Needless to say, it was the boarders who suffered as the wives could not, and would not, undertake a fraction of the duties which a qualified full-time residential Matron could provide. Those wives who took on the role had their own young children, husband and house to care for and, unlike the Matrons, did not sleep in the boys' part of the House. A further difficulty was that the boys in those Houses would not be able to confide in the wives who took on those roles as they knew that anything they might tell them would be reported straight back to the housemasters who were their husbands.

Monitoring of pupils in the boarding houses

87. When Fettes started taking girls there was no house allocated to them. Where girls did not have families to stay with in Edinburgh they would board with local families. I recall that a friend of mine, [REDACTED] whose maiden name was [REDACTED] and whose father had been a Housemaster in [REDACTED] before my father, became a "host family" with her husband to two girl boarders. [REDACTED] told me that she was encouraged in the 1980s by whom I believe was Mrs Weeks, who was the minister's wife and a staff member at Fettes, to search the girls' belongings when they were at school. [REDACTED] told me that she was asked to do this in case she could find anything incriminating. She told me that she refused to betray the girls' trust in this way.

Abuse at Fettes during the time that my children are there

FGA

88. FGA, or Miss FGA as she was known, was just awful. There was a general sense that the children underneath Miss FGA were regularly, physically, mentally and emotionally abused. You'd imagine her to be a sort of Cruella De Vil person to look at, but she wasn't. She was a round-faced, large bosomed, cuddly type. She didn't look as if she was someone who could be vicious. She was so deceptive. You would never have believed the way she acted from looking at her. She appeared all nice to the parents. It was quite easy to fall for it.
89. I'm not sure how initially I found out about the way Miss FGA acted. I do recall that at some stage during their first four weeks I had to take one of my sons to an optician's appointment. It could be that during that trip he told me the dreadful stories about how she had been treating the children in the boarding house. One of the things that I learnt was that night after night she would set off the smoke alarm in the boarding house. That meant that all the kids in the boarding house would be woken up. Miss FGA would make out that it was a mistake and as a result of her burning toast in the middle of the night. Those poor kids were being woken up night after night. Looking back, all of that was so that their defences would be broken down in the house. I could see in my own sons that they weren't getting the rest that they needed.
90. Another thing that one of my sons told me surrounded horse riding. Pupils were able to do horse riding during one of the afternoons in the week. He absolutely loved doing that. My son told me that one day they had to have a showers before horse riding and they were queuing up to get on the bus after they had done that. My son told me that Miss FGA suddenly turned on him and accused him of not having had a shower. She then made him go back and strip off and get back into the shower. That in turn made all the children late for horse riding because they were made to wait until he did that. That sort of thing made his life a misery.

91. Another incident I recall about the way in which Miss FGA treated my son surrounds an anti-allergen pillow I had provided for him. My son was allergic to the pillows that the school had provided. I brought in the anti-allergen pillow and gave it to Miss FGA, asking her to give it to my son. I later discovered that, although I had informed Miss FGA of his allergy, she never gave the pillow to my son.
92. Miss FGA subsequently took BPR for . I remember that she was vicious towards BPR. BPR told me that there was an incident where she had written an essay, a story or something like that. In front of the whole class Miss FGA read out her essay mockingly trying to get everybody to laugh before tearing it up.
93. A young member of staff by the name of Brendan Butler was in the room when Miss FGA did this. BPR told me that he was glaring and looked absolutely furious as Miss FGA did this. When Miss FGA finished Brendan Butler leant forward to BPR and whispered something along the lines of "don't worry I thought it was very good." Looking back, that seemed a nice thing to have done at the time but you have to question why he didn't speak up and stop Miss FGA. BPR has never got over that incident.
94. I remember that I didn't just hear stories from my children about Miss FGA. The way Miss FGA acted when around the children at Fettes was pretty widely known amongst parents. During my time as a parent associated with the school I heard of other things she did from several sources. For some reason people would always come to me and tell me things whether they be friends or other parents who had children at the school. I think some people thought that I may have had some sort of influence and would be able to do something when they told me these kind of things.
95. I heard from of ways that Miss FGA would discipline children in the boarding house. Those were set out in a letter of complaint that I believe sent to the governors. In the letter she described how Miss FGA made the children "prop up the walls." The practise consisted of children as young as ten standing facing the wall three or four feet away and leaning against

it on their fingertips. Miss FGA would sometimes leave children standing in this position for over an hour. This would be very painful for the child. If the child put their flat palm against the wall they had to start the time again. Another thing that discussed was what Miss FGA would do if she heard children talking throughout the night. Miss FGA would give the child who was caught two hundred lines to be handed to her by 8:15am. This meant that the child would get very little sleep that night.

96. Another thing I heard surrounded was in my eldest son's year at Fettes. Whilst she was in junior school, and eleven or twelve years at the most, Miss FGA made her stand naked in the shower and brush her teeth for an hour until her gums bled.

97. One of the parents I knew was also a friend of mine by the name of . Her married name is . She had been to school with me during my time at a finishing school in Worcester. Her father was . Her children were in the junior school at the same time as my children. They were boarders rather than day pupils. used to stay with me when she visited her children in Edinburgh. She told me dire reports of what her daughters were experiencing in the junior school. She was aware of Miss FGA waking up the children through the night. She also told me that she was aware of her children not being given letters that were sent from home by her. She told me that Miss FGA used that to say to her daughters and other children that they weren't loved by their parents.

CRS

98. CRS was SNR of the junior school before CXL got rid of him. One of the other big things I was told by my son during the first four weeks of his time at Fettes as a boarder was that on the first day they had games and were due to be playing rugby. I was told that it had been bucketing down with rain so they couldn't play rugby. Instead CRS made all the boys go outside, get on all fours and crawl through long grass. He said that after that they were made to run across the field doing leapfrog. After that they had to run one and a half times round

the rugby pitch. All this took about an hour. He said he couldn't feel his feet after that as there was a cold wind blowing. I was told that the girls had been allowed to stay inside.

99. When parents heard reports of this some complained to CRS [REDACTED]. At the time I didn't think anything of the incident. I felt that boys being made to do that sort of thing played into the whole ethos of Fettes insomuch as they wanted their pupils to be tough. I'd grown up understanding that was the type of place it was. To be honest I was surprised that the girls had been let off. It was just a different way of thinking at the school.

William Stein

100. BPR [REDACTED] had experience of using the swimming pool at Fettes prior to her starting at the school. As a family we used that facility all of the time. In the summer holidays we would go practically every day. We would go in the evenings and at the weekends. During term time there was a special time set aside at Fettes called "family time." That was between 5:30pm and 6:30pm. All the boarders and day pupils in the school would go to tea at that time and the staff and their families could use the facilities in their absence. Even though my father was retired we were still allowed to do that. He'd often come with us.
101. William Stein was sometimes around the swimming pool during family time. He was always there in his tiny little swimming trunks. I remember occasions where he would set up a table and sit with his wife at the side of the pool. I remember he and his wife sitting there with a thermos flask and their sandwiches watching us all in the pool while they had their tea. That was usually what he would do if he was there during family time. He didn't join us in the pool.
102. William Stein was hugely overweight. He was registered as disabled and had competed in disabled competitions. I assumed he had previously had a stroke which would explain why his face was hanging down on one side. I remember wondering why, given the way he was, he was the person selected to be Fettes's swimming coach. The swimming pool was his domain and he guarded it jealously, even when

he was sitting there drinking tea with his wife. Only CKP appeared to be able to come and go as he pleased.

103. William Stein would offer during family time, prior to BPR starting at Fettes, to take BPR and teach her to swim. This would have been when she was six or seven. I think he did that with other children during family time because I do recall parents sitting at the benches at the side when their children were in the pool. From recollection I think he took her down to the shallow end once during that time. I remember seeing them both together at the end of the pool. BPR said after that occasion that she didn't want to do that again. She didn't tell me that he had done anything but I do recall that she said that. I know that she has later said that he gave her the creeps then. I guess she wouldn't have been able to verbalise what happened, if anything, at that time.
104. After BPR became a day pupil at Fettes I continued to go to the swimming pool at family time which was usually 5.30pm. She attended junior swimming classes between 4:30pm and 5:30pm with the school. I would be in the changing rooms getting changed and would see her and her friends there after their swimming classes. Looking back at the times I saw her she always seemed happy. That was probably because she was around her friends. I don't remember there being any indication at that time that she wanted to be with me. She knew I would be picking her up from school later that day and bringing her home.
105. I remember an occasion during my time at the swimming pool when I saw William Stein tiptoeing into the girls' changing rooms. That would have been at some point in summer term time of either 1991 or 1992. I was sitting there fully dressed in the changing room because I was about to get changed for a swim. I heard him saying in a quietly menacing way "I'm com - ing. I'm com - ing". He was stepping through the small pool of water with disinfectant in it which was located between the main swimming pool and the changing room at the time. The way he said it reminded me of an adult telling a child the story of The Three Little Pigs, when the wolf threatens the little pigs "I'm going to huff, I'm going to puff, and BLOW your house down". When he walked into the changing rooms he saw me and froze. I remember that the girls were in the showers and getting changed around me. Some were dressed but

others were half naked or naked. They looked panic stricken as they quickly tried to cover themselves, some of them screaming. He looked horrified that I was there. William Stein then said something like "oh I have to hurry them up because they are always so slow." I didn't think at the time that he was an abuser. I thought that he was just hurrying up the girls because they were so slow. It seems crazy knowing what I know now that I didn't complain about it then. However, I didn't. His behaviour was so blatant and out in the open. I did think, however, that because he had had a fright seeing me there that he might not creep up on the girls again.

106. William Stein had a room near the changing rooms at the swimming pool. During my time visiting the pool I looked into that room. On that occasion I was probably looking for William Stein for some reason or another. There must have been a door on this room. If there was I don't ever remember it being closed. In the room he had all these charts and photographs of the children in their swimming costumes. The photographs were of all the children lined up as if they were in their swimming teams. The charts initially all looked innocuous to me.
107. I then learnt from [DFU] and [DFU] mother, [REDACTED] information surrounding the charts in William Stein's back room. That would have been whilst [BPR] was still at Fettes. [DFU] hated attending the lessons because she was a girl who was developing breasts and having her period. I discovered that the charts set out when all the girls had their periods. William Stein had the charts so that he could check up whether the girls were lying when they used that as an excuse for not going swimming. I learnt that William Stein made girls stand in his room in their swimsuit where he kept his chart of when all the girls had their periods. All of that was humiliating for those girls.
108. I heard that [DFU] experienced the repercussions of William Stein exchanging notes with Andrew Alexander on the topic of the timing of her periods and the accusation that she was lying. Seemingly Andrew Alexander spoke to [DFU] and told her to stop lying about her periods. I heard that, after this, [REDACTED] wrote to Andrew Alexander and asked that he and William Stein stop talking to her child about her periods because she found it so embarrassing.

109. Apparently the line that Andrew Alexander took in response to the letter was that he called [DFU] into his room, told her that she was being ridiculous and that he was a father too so he could talk to the girls about their periods. I believe that it was ultimately resolved when the Matron in the junior school spoke to Andrew Alexander and explained to him that young girls often had irregular periods to begin with. Looking back at all of that the whole thing was absolutely appalling.
110. Even though I was aware of William Stein at that time, there was never enough suspicion when [BPR] was in the junior school for me to speak about him to her. She might have told me that William Stein played tig with the children in the water and he'd grab them under the water but I don't exactly remember that. If she had told me what I later discovered from her in later life then I would have of course noticed her saying that.
111. It was only when [BPR] went to a sixth form college in Cambridge, when she was seventeen, that she started talking about the abuse she had suffered at the hands of William Stein. That was in 1997. I don't know what started her opening up about what she had experienced. I don't know whether she might have started talking about it with her friends at her college. Whatever way she started talking about it she started realising how terribly wrong the way he acted was.
112. I would often go down to Cambridge to see [BPR] and she would often come up to Edinburgh. It must have been during one of these visits when [BPR] told me what had happened with William Stein. That was the first time that she had discussed any of what happened with me.
113. [BPR] told me that it had all started with William Stein playing "tig" in the pool at Fettes. She said that he would grab her in the pool under the water. She said he would lift her up out of the water, pull her tight into him then shove his tongue into her ear. She said he would also dig her in the ribs whilst tickling her. She said that other times he would go under the water and touch her all over her body. She talked of one particular occasion where he was allegedly teaching them to dive. She said that he dived into the pool with her then put his hands all over her breasts whilst she was in the pool and under the water.

114. She said this all happened with other children during the swimming lessons also. Her experience was that he would do that more often with the girls than the boys. I think she told me that these things were happening practically every lesson over the course of her time at Fettes. I think some people saw it just like an uncle having fun. I think that is the role that he played.
115. Another incident I came to learn about from [BPR] involved a hosepipe. There was a hosepipe that William Stein had by the side of the pool. I knew the pool well and remembered the hosepipe. It was a massive big strong hosepipe that was used to hose down the length of the pool. It had a big metal nozzle on the end. Apparently William Stein would use that hosepipe to spray the children. That was his weapon. [BPR] told me that on one occasion she had been playing in the pool with a boy called [REDACTED]. She was sitting on his shoulders. That was the game that they and other boys and girls were playing. [BPR] told me that William Stein pulled out the back of her swimming costume and shoved the hosepipe down as she was sitting on this [REDACTED] shoulders. I recall that [BPR] told me that she was embarrassed by that incident because William Stein had seen her bottom. It strikes me that because of the way she was sitting Stein would have essentially placed that hosepipe between her buttocks. She then fell into the water. [BPR] told me that [REDACTED] then ripped the hosepipe out of William Stein's hand. After [REDACTED] did that William Stein went absolutely bananas and shouted at him. .
116. [BPR] also told me that David Burns, who was a teacher at the school, had overheard children on a school outing talking about the way William Stein acted. I believe that he spoke to the children who were exchanging accounts and asked them whether what they said was really happening. The children said it was true and then he in turn reported to Andrew Alexander what they had said. I understand that Andrew Alexander called in the boarders who had made the allegations and spoke to them. [BPR] wasn't there at the meeting because she was not a boarder. Apparently those children told Andrew Alexander again what they had seen William Stein doing and what they had experienced themselves.

117. I believe that after that meeting took place Andrew Alexander spoke with William Stein and told him that he was not allowed in the pool. As far as I am aware neither David Burns nor Andrew Alexander reported what they heard to the police. BPR recalls what happened after that because she was at the pool. William Stein lost it with all the children. He yelled at them all when they were standing in their swimming costumes by the pool. He said something along the lines of "how dare you, I am not allowed in my own pool." Apparently he went on and on shouting at them and they all felt guilty, scared and vulnerable, as though they were the ones who had done something wrong.
118. I think that was all she told me at that time and that formed the basis of my complaint to the governors in November 1997. However, I have learnt more from BPR her friends and subsequent police investigations over the years. BPR told me William Stein was only interested in touching and "playing with" the girls who did not yet have breasts and that she and ██████████ had been two of his favourites. The ones he most often molested. Although there were other girls she mentioned I don't remember their names.
119. I discovered from BPR that the girls would talk about how William Stein acted amongst themselves and with the older girls in the senior school. They would ask the senior girls whether he did the same thing that they did with them. They would of course say no. What the girls in the junior school didn't realise at that time that William Stein was not interested in the older girls.

CKP

120. Around about the time period that I saw William Stein entering the girls' changing room I saw CKP outside of the swimming pool. I remember that he looked very shifty. I didn't know why he was looking like that. I fully expected to later see him in the swimming pool but he didn't appear from the boys' changing rooms. The next time I was there I saw CKP again. I saw him outside the swimming pool without his car then go into the boys' changing rooms. I again thought that I would see him inside the swimming pool but he didn't come out of the boys' changing room. At the time I thought that it was odd that CKP would be going into the boys' changing

rooms but not going swimming. The third occasion when I saw CKP I was already in my swimming suit in the pool. I saw CKP coming out of William Stein's room with William Stein. He then went back out through the boys' changing room.

121. I thought at the time that it was all really weird. I didn't know what he was doing at the swimming pool. It perhaps speaks to my naivety that there was another part of me which thought that it was nice that the [REDACTED] was coming to see the children. The [REDACTED] were never around the children at the school.
122. I am aware that there were a number of other complaints regarding CKP and his actions around children at Fettes. I heard that CKP would invite boys and girls on boat trips on his boat and invite boys to pee over the side of the boat with him. I also heard of an incident where CKP walked in on [REDACTED] who was a pupil at the school, while she was sitting on the toilet on his boat on a boat trip and not backing off. Eventually he mumbled something to her about thinking that it had been his wife (who was also on the boat) sitting on the toilet. I heard that immediately after that he peered through the window at [REDACTED] while she was still sitting on the toilet. [REDACTED] father was a Church of Scotland Minister
123. I further heard of an incident where CKP was reported to have peered through the window at another Church of Scotland minister's child, [REDACTED] as he sat on the toilet. [REDACTED] mother told me, during a family time at the Fettes swimming pool, that when her son told her that, she replied something along the lines of "well probably you were taking too long." [REDACTED] then described how CKP had told him to get down on his hands and knees and scrub the deck while CKP sat back in a deck chair and watched him. He found this humiliating. He also told his mother how CKP was always coming into the boys' changing room at the swimming pool as they were getting dressed and he was really upset by this.
124. Since [REDACTED] was the eldest of several children, all the parents did was to decide that they wouldn't allow any of their other children to go on CKP boat.

It should be noted that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were on assisted places and had siblings at the school. CKP [REDACTED] would have known they would not complain as they would have lost the free education for all their children.

CXL [REDACTED]

125. CXL [REDACTED] loved to tell the story in chapel about the boy who was killed climbing back into Fettes through a window. He used it "as a warning." The pleasure he got from recounting the gruesome details was apparent to all.

126. There was a boy at the school whose surname was [REDACTED]. He was accused of some misdemeanour by CXL [REDACTED] and interrogated by him. I heard that CXL [REDACTED] locked the boy up in the sanatorium at the school. Subsequent to locking the boy in the sanatorium he placed him on a flight back to the Middle East where his parents were posted without telling them that he was doing that. The parents had, at that time, flown back to Edinburgh to attend their children's grandfather's funeral. They weren't informed that their son had been expelled nor were they aware that he had been accused of doing something wrong. I remember the boy's father telling me this had happened. They had three children at Fettes and his wife and he had wanted to tell their children in person that their grandfather had died. Instead they arrived at the school to find their daughters distraught (the youngest girl was in BPR [REDACTED] year) and their son on his way back to the Middle East where there would be nobody to greet him. CXL [REDACTED] had forbidden the boy's sisters from saying goodbye to him and I was told that the two girls had been standing outside the room in which he was confined, weeping and clawing at the door. I couldn't believe that something like that could have happened.

127. The boy called [REDACTED] was one of the first children to experience the way that CXL [REDACTED] responded to situations such as these. His use of interrogations, forced confessions and isolating children was commonly used on a number of other children over a number of years. I am aware he used the same techniques on a boy called [REDACTED]. I was told this by his mother, [REDACTED]. His techniques were well known amongst children at the school at that time and the governors also knew about them.

128. Another thing that CXL would do surrounded references. He made the general threat that he would not let any children who had been expelled from Fettes get into other schools. I recall that he wrote horrible letters of reference for a number of children to a number of schools in the public school system. Those letters meant that they couldn't get into those schools. Whether he provided a positive or a negative reference hinged on whether the pupils who were expelled wrote letters of apology to him following their interrogations.

Violence perpetrated by gangs on pupils at Fettes

129. Fettes pupils were frequently beaten up by outside gangs who had open access to the school grounds. One such boy, was badly beaten up twice. This included having his head rammed against the railings and having a knife drawn on him.
130. When Mrs suggested to her son's Housemaster, DZP that the police should be informed, she was told it was not necessary, and warned that it could result in bad publicity for the school which would affect position there. In other words "deliberately damaging the good name of the school" would result in one's child being expelled. Furthermore, DZP told Mrs that had been "too slow" as his friend had managed to run away. Parents and pupils alike understood that blame was always turned onto the victim and to the best of my knowledge, the never reported the incidents to the police.

Reporting of abuse whilst my children were at Fettes

Reporting of sons' treatment by Miss FGA during the time they were boarding in the junior house

131. Subsequent to hearing the way in which my sons had been treated by staff over the first four weeks of their time as boarders there I decided that I had to do something. What I heard was just awful. The treatment in particular by Miss FGA got to me.

I could tell my sons were deeply unhappy in the boarding house because of the way that she was acting.

132. In either late September or October 1987 I decided to go and speak with CRS [REDACTED] CRS [REDACTED] I told him during the meeting that I would be taking both my sons out of boarding. I remember that he tried to convince me to make my sons weekly boarders but I was insistent and said that they would be going back as day pupils. Looking back, I think the only reason that CRS [REDACTED] wanted my sons to remain as boarders was because of the extra money that that would bring in.
133. I subsequently had a conversation with Miss FGA [REDACTED] to inform her that I was taking both my sons out of boarding the following Friday and asked her to ensure that they had all their belongings packed to bring home. The subsequent Friday I went to collect my sons from the junior house. I remember that my sons came out of Inverleith House (the Junior School) to greet me, only carrying their school satchels. Miss FGA [REDACTED] had not spoken to them about packing their belongings as they would no longer be boarding. I saw Miss FGA [REDACTED] and CRS [REDACTED] standing together in front of the building and approached them. Miss FGA [REDACTED] blatantly denied that we had ever had a conversation. She further denied that I had ever given her the anti-allergen pillow to pass on to my son. I remember that I was staggered that someone could lie so openly.
134. I recounted the incident and the way my sons were treated by Miss FGA [REDACTED] to another teacher called David Kennedy whom I knew at the school very well. I remember that he said that he was aware of what Miss FGA [REDACTED] was like. I asked him why he didn't say anything about it to someone in the school. He basically said that he couldn't do that because she was a colleague and he wouldn't be able to speak up against her.
135. I remember later on speaking to one of my brothers about Miss FGA [REDACTED] and what my sons had experienced. He said that I shouldn't speak out about it because it would end up in me getting a reputation for being someone who made a fuss. I ultimately didn't take further what happened regarding Miss FGA [REDACTED] on the advice of my brother.

136. I wasn't the only one who complained to the school about the way that Miss FGA treated the children there. I remember that [REDACTED] told me that she was so worried about the way that Miss FGA behaved towards her daughters that she wrote a furious letter to CRS. In the letter she told CRS that not only would she be pulling her daughters out of Fettes but, furthermore, she would not be sending her other three children there.
137. Following both our experiences of the way Miss FGA treated our children nothing happened. As far as I am aware CRS didn't do anything and Miss FGA got to stay on. The only good thing about CXL being appointed SNR in 1988 was that he took the decision to remove Miss FGA from the boarding house and limit her to teaching only.
138. To be fair to CXL he did remove Miss FGA from her role as Housemistress after I mentioned to him, during a conversation, that I was unhappy about her behaviour. Unfortunately, I think that that action, and Miss FGA awareness of me making that complaint to CXL may have resulted in her behaviour towards BPR later on.

Circumstances surrounding my children leaving Fettes

My youngest son

139. My youngest son expressed a desire to leave the school. I then told CXL and his Housemaster that he was going to leave. The plan was that he was to go somewhere else after he finished his O Grades at Fettes. On 16th September 1992, a date I recall because it was Black Wednesday, my son and I took the train to London to attend an Open Day at Westminster School with an intention of setting up an interview following his housemaster, DZP having written him a reference. Shortly after this I made an appointment to see CXL to inform him when my son would be leaving. He replied dismissively "There are plenty more where he comes from". This was a favourite expression of his, although I could tell

he was rattled because it would cause quite a stir that with such a long family history at the school I was actually removing my son, especially an A grade student, from Fettes.

My eldest son and BPR

140. There was a lot of unrest in and around the time that I withdrew my youngest son from the school. There were a lot of other parents, apart from myself, who were unhappy. BPR time at Fettes after her younger brother left and prior to her ultimately leaving was horrible. It all went seriously downhill. She was aware of the hysterical interrogations that CXL and other senior staff members had subjected other children to. CXL in particular was known to put on quite a display in front of his colleagues – banging tables, rushing out the room and slamming the door, then leaping back in again trying to scare the child under interrogation. He even bragged to a startled new parent “I have just done another of my Oscar-winning performances.” I recall BPR was terrified that she was going to be taken into a room with adults and treated in that way. It was all pretty vile. Everything was just awful.
141. The day after a group of senior pupils had been expelled Andrew Alexander said in assembly which BPR was at something along the lines of “I hope that none of you will end up like them.” One of the girls in that assembly was a friend of BPR and the sister of one of the boys who had been expelled. Seemingly she broke down in tears in the assembly. Another thing that BPR told me was that CXL used to attend assemblies in the junior school during this period. She told me that she would walk over to hand CXL a hymnbook and that he would turn around and ignore her.
142. In the January of 1993 I attended a Burns night at the school where some governors were in attendance. I remember that at that event CKP actively tried to avoid me. He was extremely apprehensive about communicating with me in any way. By that stage I had made a number of complaints to the school, and indirectly to the police, via my MP Malcolm Chisholm, on a variety of topics concerning things I was aware of and had witnessed at the school. After that Burns night the governors

wrote to me and said that since I no longer had faith in the Headmaster I would have to remove my other two children from the school at the end of that school year. That would have been in about the first week of February 1993. I found the communication from the governors particularly gratuitous because my oldest son was already in his last year at the school and would be leaving anyway. I also viewed it clearly as a warning to any other parents who felt that they might want to report abuse that wasn't being addressed by the school.

143. BPR had always thought that after finishing the junior school at Fettes she would be moving up to Arniston where my brothers and cousin had boarded but which was now one of the girls' houses in the senior school. She had hoped that things might be different when she moved there because she was going to be able to get away from Andrew Alexander, Miss FGA and move on with her friends. I remember that BPR was devastated that she was being told to leave. She had never been in any trouble. She'd actually been made a prefect in the junior school. In the end I had to find somewhere else for BPR to go. We initially considered a number of schools including Gordonstoun. Ultimately, it was decided that BPR would go to St. George's.
144. As an aside, I recall that also took the decision to take her daughter out of Fettes some time before a meeting with Mrs FGT and Andrew Alexander. I recall that BPR said that because it was known amongst her peers that both DFU and herself were going to St. George's, which was an all-girls school, both DFU and her were bullied by them and accused of being lesbians. It was very traumatic for the girls and the staff did nothing to stop it.
145. One assembly, on BPR last day at the school, Andrew Alexander announced that he wanted to see her in his office. That would have been in June 1993. She didn't want to go to the office because she didn't know why she was going there. She was also terrified of being alone in a room with adults because of what she had heard concerning the way pupils had been treated by CXL and other staff members.

146. On a previous occasion Andrew Alexander had called BPR into his office because he wanted to tell her that she would be going to Gordonstoun. I recall that I had specifically told Andrew Alexander that she wasn't leaving to go to Gordonstoun and he wasn't to mention to her that she was leaving to go there. Gordonstoun had been considered but at that time it had been disregarded because BPR made it clear that she didn't want to board and that she wanted to go back to St. George's.
147. In fact the reason why Andrew Alexander had called BPR into his office on that second occasion was because she had, in his absence, written to CXL to report the bullying she had been suffering at that time. CXL would often remind pupils in the Junior School that he was SNR and if they had any issues with the school they needed to write to him. Andrew Alexander had been away from the school for at least a week and BPR had thought she was doing the right thing to write to CXL. However, he had simply given her letter to Andrew Alexander when he returned.
148. Because BPR was so scared of going to the meeting she asked her friends DFU and to go with her. When they got to Andrew Alexander's door they found that Mrs FGT was there. Mrs FGT stopped BPR friends from entering Andrew Alexander's office then dragged BPR in. BPR told me that when she went into the room Andrew Alexander was sitting in his chair, leaning back with one foot on his desk dunking biscuits into his tea. I imagine he was trying to appear to behave in exactly the opposite way to CXL when confronting a child. However, BPR was not deceived by his apparently relaxed image and tried to back out of the room. Mrs FGT then pushed BPR into a chair. BPR didn't want to look up so Mrs FGT grabbed BPR head and made her look up at Andrew Alexander. Andrew Alexander then said that he was furious that BPR had written to CXL and that she was "airing his dirty laundry in public." He basically was saying that she was trying to get him into trouble with CXL.
149. BPR told me that she was crying and terrified. DFU was outside the door hearing all of this and was trying to get into the room. Mrs FGT in response to DFU trying to get into the room, yelled at her and called her a bitch. DFU

then managed to get into the room. At that point Mrs FGT gave BPR a half full glass of water. BPR said that she was trembling so much that she spilt it. Mrs FGT tried to force BPR on more than one occasion to take an aspirin but BPR repeatedly refused. When BPR got out of the room she ran to the toilets and sobbed. DFU and found her then walked her back to our home. After I spoke with BPR and she gave a statement to the police I took her straight to see a lawyer. About a week later we put her on a plane to visit family in Switzerland. I think it was near the end of term anyway. It was just a week or two before then.

Reporting of abuse after my children left Fettes

Correspondence and communication with the school after I withdrew my youngest son from Fettes

150. I was so incensed by the way that CXL was that I wrote again to the board of governors. I thought at that time that if I didn't do something CXL would continue to do what he was doing to more children at the school. I wanted to make Fettes a safer place and be able to look my children in the eye and say that I had done everything I could.
151. I recall that in amongst my communication with the school I made them aware of CKP accessing the boys changing rooms at the swimming pool and all this business about the boat trip. I don't believe that I put that in writing at that stage. I think I verbally informed Ronald Gardiner, who was one of the governors at the school, of those particular allegations. I had two long meetings with him, at his instigation. He told me that he wanted to hear what I had to say and that he would report back to the governors.
152. I decided not to go to the police at that stage because I was aware that Malcolm Chisolm MP had already done that on my behalf and several others who had raised complaints with him about the school.

153. My initial correspondence with the board of governors was in the form of a letter addressed to CKP in which I detailed the disturbing disciplinary actions of CXL. I got quite a bland response in which CKP replied that he was "not inclined" to take the matter up with SNR. I went to meet with CXL. He yelled at me during that meeting. He said that he didn't have to meet with me because I was "just a parent" and that he was [REDACTED]. He made those comments in front of my seventeen year old son.

Correspondence with Malcolm Chisolm MP and Tony Blair MP

154. One of the people I talked to around about the time of withdrawing my youngest son from the school was Malcolm Chisolm MP. He was my MP at that time. After I informed him of a number of things that I was concerned about he reported what I had told him to the police. He further raised the complaints that I and several other Fettes parents had made in The House of Commons.
155. Another person that I got in touch with was Tony Blair MP. He was one of the first people, amongst many others, that I wrote to. He was pretty unheard of at that time and not yet leader of the Labour Party. I knew that he had attended Fettes at the same time as my brothers. He had been in the same house as my brothers. I wrote to him because I knew that he had hated his time at Fettes and run away from it during his time there. I felt that because he was connected to the school he might have some influence and be able to make things change. I wanted, in a way, to keep it all within the Fettes family.
156. I got a very nice reply from Tony Blair. He said in his letter that he remembered my brothers and my father well and asked me whether I would like him to write to the school about my concerns. I said to him that it was probably better that he shouldn't write as that would likely backfire on me. He then came up to Fettes and met with CXL. I do know that when he came up to Fettes he raised the concerns I had set out in my letter.

Reporting to the police and a lawyer subsequent to [BPR] meeting with Mrs FGT [] and Andrew Alexander in 1993

157. [BPR] and her friends came directly to my home after the meeting with Mrs FGT [] and Andrew Alexander in June 1993. When they came home I was there. After hearing what happened I phoned Sandra Brown, who was a friend and ran the Moira Anderson Foundation, which supports victims of child abuse, because I didn't know what to do. Her advice was that I should call the police. At that point it wasn't something that I was in the habit of doing. I then called the police and they came straight round. They then took statements from DFU [], [] and [BPR] before leaving.
158. The same day as that happened I took [BPR] to see a lawyer in Edinburgh. The lawyer was called John Mackenzie. His firm was called Stuart and Stuart. He was wonderful. [BPR] went in to see him on her own and told him everything that had happened. He noted down everything she said. He said to me afterwards that it was just as well that [BPR] was made of "pretty tough stuff" because what she had been through at Fettes would have destroyed an average girl of her age. I remember he said that he had heard multiple things about Fettes and was keeping all of the statements he had taken in case one day they may need to be used. I have been in contact with him since but unfortunately he no longer has a record of the meeting or the statement he took from [BPR]. I think [BPR] felt better after meeting with John Mackenzie because she had then spoken both to the police and a lawyer. Being listened to and believed, and having what she said recorded by John Mackenzie helped a lot.
159. The two police officers who interviewed the three girls were extremely sympathetic and remarked that had abuse taken place in a state school "all the authorities would have come flying in". However, in the end the police investigation came to nothing. This was to become the pattern with all complaints regarding Fettes.

██████████'s complaint to the school in 1993

160. After DFU ██████████ spoke to the police ██████████, DFU ██████████'s mother, called Mrs FGT ██████████ and said that she had heard that she called her daughter a bitch. She told me that Mrs. FGT ██████████ didn't attempt to deny it. Earlier, when DFU ██████████ had asked Mrs FGT ██████████ why she had called her a bitch, Mrs FGT ██████████ replied "because you are.

Fettes's apology to BPR ██████████ concerning her treatment by Mrs FGT ██████████ and Andrew Alexander in 1996

161. In September 1996 the Fettes governors finally responded to BPR ██████████ claims surrounding the events that took place immediately before she left the school. In their response they put all the blame on Mrs FGT ██████████ writing "The Governors support the apology which has already been given by an employee to you for the language used when referring to another girl". They basically let Andrew Alexander totally off the hook even though he had sat there watching the whole thing with a smirk on his face drinking his tea. As Warden of the Junior School, he was responsible for the behaviour of his staff, and Mrs FGT ██████████ was merely his ██████████. It was agreed that Fettes and my family would publically announce that issues between us had been resolved between parties. Compensation was paid to BPR ██████████. Part of the deal was that we would not disclose how much that was. Looking back, to get an apology of any sort back from Fettes was pretty remarkable.

Contacting the governors regarding William Stein in 1997

162. I was appalled after hearing what BPR ██████████ had told me in 1997 concerning William Stein. After BPR ██████████ told me what he did I wrote down what she had said. I told BPR ██████████ that I would be writing to the school and she agreed that I should do that. BPR ██████████ just wanted to make sure that William Stein wasn't able to carry on doing what he had been doing to her and other children at the school.
163. I wrote to the board of governors at Fettes on 13th November 1997. I still have a copy of that letter. In my letter I told them what BPR ██████████ had told me. I asked whether William Stein was still working at the school. I also raised the topic of the plaques to

Anthony Chenevix-Trench that were up at the school. I said that I thought that they had to come down. I said that Fettes knew that Anthony Chenevix-Trench was a paedophile and that it was inexcusable to still have those plaques in the chapel. At no stage in my letter did I suggest that I would be going to the police. However, I did say that I wanted William Stein to go.

164. I think I didn't go to the police because all I wanted at that time was to make sure that William Stein was removed. I was aware that my name was dirt with the school by that point. I was as low as I could possibly be in terms of their estimation. All I wanted was William Stein removed and those plaques brought down.

165. Fettes essentially ignored my letter. I am not aware whether they did anything at all after that. They gave me a rather bland acknowledgement in reply to my letter of 13th November 1997. I received that about a week later. I still have a copy of that acknowledgement. The acknowledgement was from the legal adviser and Secretary to the Board of Governors, an Old Fettesian called Alistair Fox. He said that he had received the letter, passed it on to the chairman and that it would be discussed at the next governors' meeting. There were no assurances that they were investigating matters or doing anything. Their whole strategy appeared to be to ignore me. That is what I had experienced in the past and was aware of other parents experiencing. That was part of their belittling strategy.

The police investigation in 1998

166. At some juncture the school must have contacted the police. I think that one of the only reasons that the school contacted the police after I sent my letters was because they thought what I was reporting might come out in public. My experience of the school involving the police in the past had been that they only contacted the police to show they had done the right thing and in situations where they knew they would come out clean. I do wonder whether that was also why they approached the police then.

167. In late February or early March 1998 the doorbell of my home in Edinburgh rang one evening. It was dark when I opened the door to two men in plain clothes whom I was

then shocked to discover were detectives. My first thoughts were fears for the safety of my children. Then one of them produced a copy of the letter I had sent to the governors in November the previous year. I later discovered that the detectives were not from the local police station. They told me that they wanted to take a statement from [BPR] I told them that she was in Cambridge and then contacted [BPR] to tell her that the police would be in contact. The police in Scotland then arranged for a statement to be taken from [BPR] by local police down in Cambridge.

168. After [BPR] provided the police with a statement down in Cambridge the statement was sent up to the police in Scotland. Because [BPR] was under the age of eighteen the detectives then came back to my house with the statement so that I could read it.

169. I don't recall whether I then gave a statement to the police or had done prior to that. I really don't remember whether I even gave a statement. Everything was such a shock that it was hard to keep track. My father's health had also declined and he had suffered a few minor strokes. I know that [DFU], [BPR] friend, also gave a statement about Stein to the police.

170. The investigation at that time didn't go anywhere. I think that was because there was a lack of corroboration. Because William Stein had touched [BPR] breasts under the water there was insufficient evidence to support that that happened. No further action was taken.

171. Looking back on the investigation in 1998 I think that the school only instigated things, and reported what I had told them to the police, because they were pally with the police they were reporting them to. I remember that the detective who came round to the house was someone who had worked with Lord MacLean on Lockerbie. I was highly suspicious that this particular detective was speaking to me. My impression was that he had been hand-picked.

Speaking to my father's lawyer and his interest in Fettes

172. Around about the time of me writing to the governors following hearing what BPR had told me about William Stein in late 1997 my father was approaching his nineties and looking to put his affairs in order. Things had to happen like selling the house and so on. Because of all of that I was speaking to his lawyer, FTD of [REDACTED]
173. FTD was a senior partner and cost a fortune. I was well aware in my interactions with him to keep things short. I remember that he would always ask me "how are the legal eagles at Fettes?" whenever we met or talked and encouraged me to speak at length. At the time I thought that he was just showing a friendly interest in my concerns as he never charged me for his time.
174. In 2002 I was in Australia to find my uncle because it was my father's dying wish that I did that. While I was there I received an email which I took to be an email regarding the winding up of my father's estate. It was sent from FTD's [REDACTED] email address. When I opened the email it infected my whole laptop and it crashed. I then had to find a computer person to fix my laptop in the middle of the bush where my blind uncle lived. I discovered that the reason that my laptop crashed was because there was a link to a child pornography site attached to the email that FTD had sent me. The email was entitled something like "look at my lovely girlfriend." I ultimately took screenshots of the email.
175. I then wrote to FTD alerting him that I had received a strange email from him. If it had been spam or a scam or something he could have just said sorry I've been scammed or whatever. However, he replied curtly that he didn't know what I was talking about. I informed the police of that incident in the information I provided to the police later on in 2015. I still have some evidence surrounding that.
176. Looking back at my interactions with FTD in and around the time of contacting the school in 1997 I think that he was in with the school. I think that was why he was asking me all the questions surrounding my complaint about CKP and the boat trip.

The police investigation in 2015

177. I was contacted by the police again in June 2015 in connection with an investigation called Operation Coriaday. I believe that the operation had initially surrounded an investigation into allegations made by a lady called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED]. He was a man whose name was associated with [REDACTED] which involved a number of [REDACTED] who were allegedly gay, including CKP [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was said to have been a man who had "a lot on other people." [REDACTED] was alleged to have sexually abused [REDACTED] from the age of four onwards and giving her out for sex to people like Sir Nicholas Fairbairn and [REDACTED].
178. [REDACTED] had started giving evidence to the police surrounding her allegations in either 2014 or 2015. During the police investigation into [REDACTED] [REDACTED] allegations it was revealed that her brother had been in attendance at Fettes and there was question mark as to whether he had been abused by Anthony Chenevix-Trench during his time there. Apparently [REDACTED] had had a run in with the governors and refused to pay fees. A young policeman by the name of Craig had been given my name and contact details by people who knew [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] My name had been given to the police because I was someone who was thought to know a lot about Fettes.
179. I initially spoke to Craig on the phone and told him what I knew. I then went on to tell him about my own experiences at Fettes and BPR [REDACTED] experiences. The next thing I knew there was a whole new line of inquiry into specifically what I had told them in relation to Anthony Chenevix-Trench, CKP [REDACTED] William Stein and others. A new operation was then created. All my information had been passed on to the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit for enquiry. The S.I.O was Detective Inspector Sarah Taylor and deputy was Detective Sergeant Kevin Houliston. It was then that Kevin Houliston got in touch with me. I then gave a statement to the police regarding what BPR [REDACTED] had experienced. BPR [REDACTED] then gave another statement to the police. I remember that Kevin Houliston told me that he was staggered that the statement she gave in 2015 was almost identical to the one that she had previously given in 1998.

180. Subsequent to providing my statement I made multiple submissions to the police concerning anything I could think of regarding Fettes that I felt might be useful to them. I don't think the police requested all those separate reports that I gave them concerning various things that happened at Fettes. I just kept sending them and Kevin Houlston kept following them up. I think the last report I sent to the police was in December 2015.
181. I know that in and around this time the police gathered a number of other statements from other people. Kevin Houlston told me that the interviews and witnesses just snowballed and one interview led to another. I know that [REDACTED] provided a statement to the police. I was the one we gave [REDACTED] name to them alongside details of what she had told me concerning Miss FGA [REDACTED] and her daughters.
182. I know that the interviews the police undertook encompassed all sorts of different incidents and allegations at Fettes and connected to Fettes. They weren't just to do with BPR [REDACTED] experiences and William Stein. It covered things like Anthony Chenevix-Trench's behaviour, the broom handle initiation ceremonies amongst the boys in Kimmerghame House and so on.
183. In amongst the interviews William Stein was apparently interviewed. I couldn't believe that he was still alive in 2015. He looked half dead when I saw him working at Fettes in the nineties. He was not a well looking man even then. I was told by the police that when he turned up he exercised his right to silence. He basically gave a no comment interview. The only thing he said was to ask for the names of the girls who had made the complaints. The police gave him those names.
184. Throughout the whole investigation I only ever met Sarah Taylor and Kevin Houlston once in person. I was over in Edinburgh from Australia in July or August 2016 and I met with them at Fettes police headquarters. I think by that stage I had handed over all the reports I had made. I remember Kevin Houlston saying that he was quite surprised that everything in terms of the files from the investigation in 1998 had been kept by the police.

185. Looking back at Kevin Houlston's investigation I felt that he was being pretty thorough. However, what he did say to me was that throughout his investigations his hands were somewhat tied as to what would happen next. He made it clear to me that the police would need permission from the Procurator Fiscal before they could proceed any further.
186. I know that BPR [REDACTED] was very frustrated because so much time had passed. There were names and details which she has forgotten since her first engagement with the police in 1998. She knows that there are some crucial points that she has just cleared out of her head.
187. I remember that throughout the investigation in 2015 Fettes was publically stating that they were co-operating fully with the police. In the end nothing happened at the end of those investigations in 2015. I was informed by the police that the Procurator Fiscal had decided that the case wouldn't be taken forward. It all came to nothing. Both BPR [REDACTED] and DFU [REDACTED], who are still good friends, felt gutted that nothing happened. DFU [REDACTED] in particular had kept information that had bothered her all these years.

Media involvement and interactions with Fettes's PR representative

Media interactions / Mervyn Edgecombe's awareness of other complaints

188. Part of Mervyn Edgecombe's remit on behalf of Fettes was to get positive publicity out there in the media. I remember that at that time he was employed by Fettes they were constantly singing their own praises about the school and tried to turn themselves into the victim of a cruel vendetta. Every time the police investigated something the school would turn it into a PR opportunity, turning the focus away from the abuse allegations and bragging about their exam results. It was well-known throughout the school that CXL [REDACTED] would [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

189. I remember that I was told by BPR [REDACTED] that she heard from friends at St. George's in the summer of 1988, when she was in Cambridge sitting her A levels, that Lord MacLean had spoken about her on Radio [REDACTED] following the decision of the Procurator Fiscal not to proceed with the complaints against William Stein. I heard that Lord MacLean said that we as a family had caused the school many problems and that "the daughter" had caused problems as well. He said that now we had all gone, everything had been resolved and that the school was continuing to go from strength to strength.
190. Following the decision of the Procurator Fiscal in 1998 not to pursue any action against William Stein there were numerous occasions where I was informed through press releases to the media by the school, and others connected to Fettes, that it was the school's intention to raise a legal action against me. Quotes attributed to Lord MacLean were also provided to the press on this topic. Some of the news reports around that time were via [REDACTED] a paper which was edited at that time by an Old Fettesian by the name of [REDACTED]. He had a daughter at the school. Looking back on that period of time and the school's communication I believe that this threat was made in an effort to deter other parents coming forward with further allegations about William Stein or others.
191. I later came to learn that in fact Mervyn Edgecombe was playing a very clever double game with Fettes and the media. He would give information to friendly journalists (including the fact that there had been numerous complaints about William Stein), which then led to more articles being written about the school, which would then pay him to deal with the bad publicity. Ultimately, I heard that Fettes became aware of his double dealings. By that stage he knew too much about Fettes so the school had to keep him on.
192. Many years later, in 2015, I contacted Mervyn Edgecome. I'd found him on LinkedIn and made contact. The reason I had made contact with him wasn't to do with Fettes. I was writing a book about my grandmother and I knew he had contacts who might be able to help me. I got to know him quite well. He was really into the story of my grandmother and thought that he knew people who might want to take it on and turn it into a film and so on. We corresponded quite a lot.

193. I ultimately met Mervyn Edgecombe in person in a hotel in London. During that meeting he told me that one of his number one remits whilst employed by Fettes was to get rid of me. I don't think we talked about BPR experiences in particular but we did talk about William Stein. He told me that he was aware that there had been numerous complaints about William Stein to the school over the years. He said that he had seen those complaints. Looking back, even with those other complaints the school always made out that it was just BPR and I who were complaining. As far as I am aware none of those complaints would have gone to the police and will have disappeared by now. I suspect the governors are hardly going to hold onto them and show them.

Life after leaving Fettes

194. My (Swiss) ex-husband was so appalled about the abuses going on at Fettes and the threats and actions of the governors that he decided that he didn't want to pay school fees any more. He concluded that all Scottish boarding schools would have similar practices. He decided that BPR and her brother could just go to state schools. I initially visited some of the state schools in the area which I really liked. I then told BPR that her father wasn't going to continue to pay fees and she was very upset. The snobbery between Fettes and the local state school, Broughton, at that time was just dreadful. Fettes pupils would shout "Schemie" and other derisory terms when they passed pupils from Broughton. The term "Schemie" referred to the state housing scheme at Pilton, which was close to Fettes and in the catchment area for Broughton. BPR then persuaded her father to send her back to St. George's.
195. BPR stayed at St. George's until she finished her Highers. She did well there. She then went to a sixth form college in Cambridge to do her A Levels. I felt it was an opportunity for her to be free from the finger pointing and bitchiness from some people associated with Fettes. I think I also took her away from St. George's in much in the same way as my parents had with me when I was sixteen. BPR was 17 and I thought she was ready to broaden her horizons. I also feel the experience of living away from home helped to prepare her for when she spent 18 months alone in

Naples as part of her degree at Glasgow University. I could sense that she wanted more from life and she had sort of grown out of Edinburgh in a way.

196. I had to stay in Edinburgh to care for my father after my children left Fettes. My father then passed away in 2002. Immediately after his memorial service held in the Fettes chapel I left the country permanently for Australia. BPR initially came out to visit me on a young person's visa just after finishing her degree at Glasgow University. She ultimately found love in Australia and emigrated there permanently. My sons came across too but one now lives in Canada.

Impact

Impact on me

197. It is hard to separate what happened at Fettes with other life events. My experiences with Fettes after my children started there were horrendous. My children's childhoods were largely destroyed because none of them can look back happily, or with pride, on their time at Fettes. My own memories are so inextricably linked to Fettes that I can no longer reflect back on them without feeling an overwhelming pain and grief after the vilification directed towards me by members of the Fettes community whom I had previously counted among my friends. I also had to watch my father's distress at seeing his life's work and standards destroyed.
198. Before my own experiences as a parent at Fettes I had found it hard to believe other parents' allegations about the extreme discipline and abuse taking place there. Then when I began to realise that what they had told me was not only true, but a regime encouraged by the governors, I felt as if the trusting person I had been had died and I had to become someone else to deal with the enormity of the situation. I remember that when I would tell other people who had children at the school of my experiences they would get this glazed look in their eyes as if to say that I had just "lost it." I then realised that that was probably how I had looked when parents such as Mr [REDACTED] had told me of their son's experience of being interrogated by CXL [REDACTED]

CXL [REDACTED] locked up in the sanatorium then put on a plane home to the Middle East without his parents being notified.

199. BPR [REDACTED] has always been right behind me. However, my sons were uncomfortable with me battling with the school after they left. They didn't like me constantly going on about it as it brought back bad memories for them. I know from them that some of their friends were happy that I have taken a stand against the school. I think that was because in some cases their own parents had just bowed down to the school and written grovelling letters and so on.
200. I would never have emigrated to Australia but for what happened with Fettes. As soon as I got here I knew that I wasn't going back to Scotland to live. It's tough being in Edinburgh and seeing Fettes.

Impact on BPR [REDACTED]

201. I definitely think that the abuse that BPR [REDACTED] suffered has had an impact on her. It destroyed her trust in adults. I think it robbed her of her innocence. Because of William Stein's habit of sticking his tongue in her ear, she has told me that she still can't even bear to have her children whisper in her ear. BPR [REDACTED] hasn't been back to Scotland once since she emigrated to Australia. I think that's partly because when she goes to Europe she visits family in Switzerland but also because of all the bad memories she has from her time at Fettes.
202. I don't think that what happened at Fettes had an effect on BPR [REDACTED] academically. BPR [REDACTED] has always been bright and capable. She might have got a B when she should have got an A but I think that could happen to anyone anywhere.

Impact on my father

203. Fettes had not only been my life but my father's too. There was an enormous impact on my father around the time of my reporting what BPR [REDACTED] had experienced at the school. When my father had been guest speaker at Founder's Day the year after my mother died, he had quoted from a business guru who had recently predicted that

"only the caring companies will survive". My father definitely included this message in his speech as a kind of warning to the assembled governors and staff. My father had already received some disturbing accounts of CXL from former Fettes staff, including Colin Niven, now a headmaster who had written the reference for a friend of his who had applied for the post of SNR Fettes at the same time as CXL applied for the post. Colin Niven had then written to CXL congratulating him on his appointment, adding that CXL would find very loyal if he treated them well. CXL wrote back saying that this was "not his style". Alarm bells were already ringing in my father's head and tragically his fears came true: a brutal regime was now in place at Fettes. I remember that members of Fettes staff would call up my father, who was blind and increasingly deaf, and, in a loud voice tell him that I was making the family name dirt. I expect they did this because they thought that my father would tell me to stop openly speaking about what was happening at Fettes. However, he never did. I was his only carer at that time and he told me he just wanted to be left alone with his memories and didn't want to talk about it at all. It was all just terrible.

204. After my father died in 2002 one of my brothers received a condolence letter from a governor at the school. My brother passed that letter on to me. The letter began by talking about all the wonderful things that my father had done for the school. However, at the end of the letter it said something like "what a tragedy that his last years were marred by QWH's antics."

Treatment and support

For myself

205. I made contact with Sandra Brown of The Moira Anderson Foundation after everything started to happen at Fettes. The Moira Anderson Foundation specialises in supporting victims of childhood sexual abuse and their families. Sandra is also a best-selling author of the book "Where there is evil". I really related to this biblical command, which in full reads "Where there is evil cast it out". This is what I felt I was

trying to do at Fettes. I found Sandra a wonderful support throughout all of this. I never formally went for counselling but Sandra became a friend because we had a lot in common. I have to say that she was a pillar of strength for me and that in turn meant that I could be strong for BPR

For BPR

206. I don't think BPR has had any treatment in relation to her experiences at Fettes. I was always a strong support for BPR. Looking back, I think that if she had seen me go to pieces then that might have been devastating for her. However, that never happened. She has always seen me fighting and battling on behalf of my own children as well as those at Fettes.
207. BPR and I have a strong Christian faith. We go to church together and her children attend Sunday school. That is a source of strength. BPR also does a lot of meditation which is in a way sort of similar. I think BPR hasn't overtly sought any help because she goes within herself with God.

Records

208. None of my children have kept their school records. I suspect that if their files, and my own, were ever recovered from Fettes everything within would constitute records that could be used to Fettes's advantage. I doubt any records concerning serious complaints of abuse from me, or anyone, would be around. I suspect that they made sure things like that disappeared very quickly.
209. I do have my children's school reports. I have kept records concerning my exchanges with the school over the years. Those records include copies of my own letters and emails to the governors and other individuals, their acknowledgments and replies, documentation provided by the school and multiple media clippings. I also have a copy of what was agreed with Lord MacLean by way of the press release following our meeting where financial compensation for BPR was agreed with the school.

Contact with Jamie Erskine and his comments on records at Fettes

210. I approached Jamie Erskine, the Earl of Mar and Kellie, when I was pushing for the Children (Scotland) Bill to be put in place, and to ensure that it included protection for children in private schools. I still have all of the correspondence surrounding those exchanges. He, and other peers, spoke about Fettes in the House of Lords. After that happened Fettes invited him to the school. He told me after that during the visit he was taken into a room which had a table covered in thick files. He said that he saw an extremely thick file sitting in the middle which had my name on it. On the basis of that, I presume that they have kept all their records on us.
211. Interestingly, Jamie Erskine told me that when he left the room Lord MacLean said to him something along the lines of "well of course you and I know it doesn't matter what the law is, we'll carry on doing exactly what we want." Sandra Brown also spoke frequently with Jamie Erskine and she recalls being shocked when she heard that Lord MacLean had said this. I do know that Kevin Houlston interviewed Jamie Erskine during the 2015 police investigation and asked him about the meeting that he had had with Lord MacLean and CXL at Fettes. Unfortunately, Jamie Erskine said that he didn't remember that meeting taking place. I can understand that he probably put it out of his mind many years ago, but I still have all the correspondence between Jamie Erskine and myself written around this time, and in one letter he makes reference to this meeting.

Final thoughts

The governors' attitude towards parents and abuse victims

212. What has been going on with the governors has been going on for generations. Their mind set has always been that they were above the law. People like Lord MacLean deliberately instructed Mervyn Edgecombe to give my name to the press after it became public that BPR was claiming to have been sexually abused by William Stein. He knew that this would identify BPR and argued that "she is nearly

18". He was a High Court judge at the time but I just don't think he should get away with that. My big concern is that his actions won't ever be inquired into because of the position he holds.

Last communication with CXL

213. Looking back, it was always the governors of the school that I held primarily accountable for not putting a stop to CXL so-called "disciplinary procedures." CXL was just a vicious little bully whom the governors allowed to get out of control. After I knew that CXL was leaving, I noticed a fire near the science block of the school as I was driving past on my way to give my dogs an evening walk. I immediately called the fire brigade and once they had arrived I drove on to walk the dogs. On my way home, I stopped at the school to see that quite a crowd had gathered to watch as the fire was put out. I saw CXL in the distance. There was a policeman who was also in the grounds. I called the policeman over and asked him to go over to CXL and ask him to come and speak to me. The policeman asked me who I was and I said that if I told him then CXL wouldn't come. The policeman said "oh ok" then went over to CXL. CXL then came over to me.
214. I had pulled the hood of my jacket up over my head, and CXL didn't recognise who I was at first so I introduced myself. We then got talking. I remember that CXL said "you know what, we are just destroying each other." I remember that he looked a shadow of his former, bullying self and I thought that without the backing of the governors he was just a nobody. I said that I knew what the governors were like and that they were now using him as a scapegoat for their own failure to do their jobs properly. That was the last time I spoke to him.
215. CXL then lost his job. As far as I know he never worked in teaching again. He was only 55 when he left Fettes and that was his career over. I remember just a year or two before he had been so full of himself, announcing to all and sundry that he was going to be the next Headmaster of Eton, but that never happened.

BPR and **DFU**'s feelings toward the police investigations and the school's response

216. I think **BPR** and **DFU** are slightly torn by it all because their intention when they were children was never to get William Stein into any trouble but just that the school would stop him "playing his games". They always felt that it was more the school's fault for not doing anything. The governor's perspective was always that if these things did happen then they couldn't be held accountable. It was either the fault of the headmaster or the individual. That perspective has always seemed wrong to all of us because the school knew how William Stein was acting. Of course William Stein was wrong but the school did not act when they found out what he was doing.

Parents' willingness to report abuse

217. Parents invest so much into sending their child to Fettes. They hope for their children to climb the social ladder, be accepted where they want them to be and so on. Parents, especially those whose children are first generation, are desperate to keep in with the school. They don't want to worry about the way the school is looking after their children. All they worry about is being accepted by the establishment. I think it is against that background why statements taken from parents and children connected to the school during the investigation into allegations of abuse by William Stein in 1998 were the way they were. I suspect that is why a lot of them will have said back then that that was "just Stein" and "it was a bit of fun."
218. Kevin Houlston told me that when he went back in 2015 to some of the witnesses who had been pupils at the school at the same time as **BPR**, and were interviewed during the police investigation in 1998, their views had changed because they themselves were now mothers and fathers. They seemingly then understood how wrong William Stein's behaviour was. They said that at the time they were children they were homesick and viewed William Stein as just being something like a friendly uncle playing around. Some of those children had spent their whole school career at

Fettes and the last thing they would want would be to give the school a bad name in 1998. However, by 2015 their views had changed.

Fettes's "Scheme"

219. Fettes is governed by something called "The Fettes Scheme." I discovered the existence of this document through my lawyers. It is a legally-binding document which sets out the obligations of the governors and staff, and also the rights of parents and pupils to appeal decisions made by the governors or headmaster. The Scheme was never distributed amongst the parents or the pupils who attended there. I am aware from my experiences with my own children that the headmaster and governors at Fettes were in default of their own Scheme on multiple occasions.
220. The school rules were separate from the Scheme and I remember that CXL would frequently change the school rules, often without explanation or notification. I recall one change in particular that he made. There had previously been a separate set of rules for boarders and day pupils. CXL suddenly decided during his time at the school that day pupils should be called "day boarders." I believe that the title was changed so that he could do things to the day pupils under his rules that he wouldn't previously have been able to do.

Hopes for the Inquiry

221. Now Fettes appears to be bending over backwards to show that what they were like then is not what they are like now. They want to present this image of being the most caring and pastoral school imaginable. I'm sure that on the surface Fettes has learnt lessons and changed, however, they still have to acknowledge the atrocities which have taken place in the past and the lengths to which the governors went to try and cover them up. Some of the people who suffered abuse at Fettes are still alive today. There was just a brutal regime that was in place at the school. It was run on fear. They allowed paedophilia to continue. I hope that the school isn't like that now. However, that doesn't excuse their past. Many of the enablers of the

abuse, if not the abusers themselves, are still alive. I hope that the Inquiry will hold them to account.

222. 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..... QWH

Dated..... 27 November 2020