

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

KPC

1. My name is KPC. I was born on 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Background**

2. I was awarded a Cert.Ed and Qualified Teacher Status in 1975 and completed a B.Ed degree from the University of Southampton in 1976. I taught at the School, Chichester, Sussex from 1976 to 1983. I taught at School, Harrow, Middlesex from 1983 to 1989. I taught at Keil School, Dumbarton, from 1989 to 1991. I taught at School, Chichester, from 1991 to 1992. From 1992 to 1994 I taught at School, Middlesex. I taught at School, Chichester, from 1994 to 2000.
3. In 2000 I returned to Kent for family reasons. I worked in marketing and editorial for Newspapers and Radio from 2001 to 2012. From 2012 to 2013 I worked at the Hospital as Deputy Governor.

### **Employment with Keil School**

4. I was employed from 1989 to 1991 as an Assistant Teacher of and  
My work involved teaching pupils from S1 to S5, encouraging interest in events in the Glasgow City of Culture 1990 and . I was also in charge of  
and providing background for work in all subjects across the curriculum. I was not involved in Games, however, once a week I would be required

to lead a small group doing outdoor work in lieu of Sports in the grounds mowing and pruning.

5. I discovered the role at Keil School in an advertisement in the TES, and applied with a CV and covering letter with the names of professional and personal referees. I do not recall any probationary period or other prerequisites being involved. There was no formal Induction or other Training provided.
6. My line manager was the Principal Teacher of [REDACTED], Mr A. Ramage. As a [REDACTED] department liaison was informal and on a day-to-day basis. Because it was my first experience of teaching the Scottish syllabus, Mr Ramage gave me regular guidance about syllabus structures. There was no formal process of monitoring and appraisal. My work with the [REDACTED] arts development and in the grounds was supervised by [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], CGC [REDACTED].

#### **Policy / strategic planning**

7. I was not involved in any policy-making. I was not involved in any strategic planning. If there were any strategic approaches to the school's future they were not communicated to me.

#### **Other staff / recruitment of staff / training of other staff**

8. I did not have any managerial responsibilities. I was not involved in the recruitment of staff at the school. I was not involved in the training or personal development of staff. There did not seem to be any policy regarding training or personal development. I was not offered any training during my two years at Keil.

### **Supervision / staff appraisal / staff evaluation**

9. I had no involvement in any form of supervision, appraisal or evaluation of staff. There did not seem to be any policy in this regard. The first time I encountered formal appraisal or evaluation as a school policy during my teaching career was when I went to [REDACTED], Northwood in 1992.

### **Living arrangements**

10. In my first year in term time I lived in a flat in the tower of the main building. Staying there allowed me to work during the evenings in the Library or on the little computer in the resources room. In another wing of the building was a girls' dormitory. They were supervised by the Matron who lived in that wing. The Director of Studies, Mr Baker, had oversight of the girls' academic progress in my first year. A resident teaching girls' housemistress, Mrs Clenahan, was appointed in August 1990.
11. In my second year a staff resignation necessitated me being moved to the Tutor's 'cottage' on the west end of Mackinnon House. The 'cottage' had a small sitting room and kitchen downstairs and a bedroom and bathroom upstairs. The 'cottage' has its own front door. Boys in S3-S6 lived in the rest of the House. I would check with the Chiefs that everyone was up and that he was doing his Job in the morning. Some evenings I would check with them that everybody was present and that lights were put out in the dormitories.
12. In the rare event of noise in the evening I would walk round to the main door to the House. That was the only way I could easily access that part of the building other than a locked door between my front lobby and the boys' common room. I had a key for that door for emergencies.
13. The Housemaster of Mackinnon House, Mr [REDACTED] OPR, and his family lived in a bungalow [REDACTED] of the House. Mr [REDACTED] OPR had a study in the House which he would use to speak with the boys. We did not have a house matron.

14. There were two other boys' boarding houses. The Junior House for boys in S1 and S2 was on the main site closer to the main building with the classrooms, library, dining room and so on. The Housemaster, Mr <sup>OCQ</sup> [REDACTED], and his wife had a house attached to the Junior House. The other senior boys' house, Islay Kerr, was off the main side. The Housemaster, Mr T Smith, and his wife and family had a flat attached within the House, and the Tutor, Mr Bain, had rooms within the House. There were other cottages and bungalows on the site. They were occupied by the Caretaker, the Catering Manager, the Headmaster, the History Master and their respective families. Other teaching and catering staff lived off site.
15. There was a day-boys' "house" known as School House but it was without any allocated premises. The Housemaster was Mr <sup>OLZ</sup> [REDACTED].
16. It was a very open site and most of the buildings seemed to be open all day. Anyone with reasonable cause could access any area. House Chiefs and Deputies would lock up at night.

### **Culture within Keil School**

17. In a lot of schools that I have been in there has been much more decoration on the walls of the classrooms, in the passageways and so on. The decoration at Keil was austere. I presume that the main building was listed in some sort of way. Apart from lots and lots of photographs of rugby teams dating back to the year dot and a Senior Chief's and a Dux academic name board there was nothing really else. There was nothing to do with the day to day life of the school community or anything else you would expect in a boarding school. There weren't things such as a current affairs noticeboard which would have allowed the children to learn what was going on in the world around them.
18. For me the facilities, environment and the culture of a school are one and the same thing. Speaking as a former teacher, I think that an educational establishment should be a stimulating environment. I wouldn't exactly say that the school was

Dickensian but the shared spaces and passageways did not reflect the academic curriculum or show off the pupils' work and learning.

19. The culture of the school seemed bleak, dominated by rugby and rather old-fashioned in many other ways beyond the wearing of the kilt on Sundays to attend the West Kirk. I came to Scotland just a few years after the use of the tawse ended but there did still seem to be a demoralising and punitive atmosphere around the school with Chiefs and Deputies, as well as teachers, issuing lots of punishment Jobs. Jobs consisted of daily chores issues as punishment.
20. Academically I think the teaching and learning were mixed. Some pupils prospered whilst others seemed to struggle. There were no mechanisms beyond streaming in place nor teaching assistants to help those who were in need of support because of dyslexia and so on. The teaching staff had full timetables and there were no curriculum support staff to deal with typing and photocopying. In the same way, apart from the Sanatorium Matron, there were no non-teaching house staff or housekeepers. The caretaker's wife did some of the laundry but there were no house matrons looking after the pupils' domestic and pastoral concerns. The pupils did Jobs in the main part of the school and in the boarding houses. This seemed to be a Keil tradition of self-sufficiency dating back to when the school was in Argyll. Housework Jobs were organised and supervised by the Chiefs and Deputies, reporting to their Housemasters.
21. In general places were not very clean. I usually cleaned my own classroom and dusted the [REDACTED]. The dining room and passageways to reach it were shabby, poorly decorated and not bright for most of the year. The boarders ate there three times a day and as the winter days got duller I begged a budget for some fine art posters and clip frames to brighten them up. There was some resentment from several of my longer-serving colleagues that I had made such a request.
22. I remember that several of the staff resented Mr CGC [REDACTED]'s efforts to modernise things. This was in part because he was not a Scot. It was not always a happy place to work because I too encountered some hostility for being "another



Englishman come to shake things up". My relationships with most colleagues were cordial but none of them became friends.

23. Keil was on a very "open" site and there were occasions when local 'neds' invaded and did damage to the estate or to the buildings. I do not recall them assaulting any pupils. However, that sometimes created an atmosphere of uneasiness among pupils and staff. I do not remember the matter being tackled in any structured way by the Headmaster or Bursar. It was not stamped out in my time there.
24. There was no fagging system.

### **Discipline and punishment**

25. Teachers could impose a detention hour for poor academic work or for homework not done. Chiefs and deputies, as well as teachers, could impose "NH" for misbehaviour around the school and boarding houses. NH consisted of outdoor work or indoor jobs. The use of those punishments was down to a teacher's discretion. There was no formal policy. There were detention and NH books in the Staff Room in which you would write a pupil's name and the reason for the punishment being issued. The Housemasters, not the Tutors, had oversight of the Chiefs' and Deputies' disciplinary roles.

### **Day to day running of the school**

26. I took my turn as Master on Duty roughly one day in a fortnight. That involved being in the main building except when teaching or patrolling outdoors during recreation times meant being elsewhere. The role also included saying Grace at meals, taking assembly, dealing with routine enquiries and requests from the pupils and supporting the Chiefs and Deputies when they supervised classrooms for prep.

27. We did not have 21<sup>st</sup> century awareness of abuse and bullying thirty years ago. Because of the absence of a form tutor system, and because the older pupils 'managed' the younger ones, there might have been undetected abuse.

#### **Concerns about the school / reporting of complaints and concerns**

28. I had no knowledge of any such concerns about the school. There was no complaints procedure in place in the two years I was at the school. If there were complaints they were not communicated to me. I was not aware of any recording of complaints.

#### **Trusted adult / confidante**

29. I do not recall anybody having such a role. It was supposed that pupils would communicate with their House Chief and Housemaster.

#### **Abuse**

30. There was no definition of "abuse" during my period of employment. I am not aware of the abuse of any pupils at Keil.

#### **Child protection arrangements**

31. There were no formal child protection arrangements in place. I cannot recall any such child-care guidance or instruction being issued. There was no such 'procedure' communicated to me. The Housemasters had autonomy, and possibly did not communicate concerns to the Headmaster.

### **External monitoring**

32. There was an Independent Schools' Joint Council inspection. I think this was in my first year but I cannot remember precisely. It was what in England I would have described as a Pre OFSTED visit. In my experience such inspections usually did look at the adequacy of provision in the boarding aspect of the school. However, I remember that inspection being mainly an academic appraisal. It involved sitting in lessons and examining a teacher's scheme of work and the pupil's learning and books. Heads of Subjects would also be interviewed about the syllabus.
33. The inspector in my classroom spoke to pupils about their work during the lesson. I was present at that time. My subject inspector spoke to me after the lessons he observed and gave feedback.

### **Record-keeping**

34. I was not aware of any non-academic record-keeping. I would record what I had taught and indicate how I had taught it and pass it to Mr Ramage at the end of a term. I was not formally asked to do so. He did not tell me what he had covered with his classes. There were no records kept about any pupils who might be dyslexic or about those for whom English was a second language.
35. I do not know what 'personal file' for each pupil was kept by the Housemasters. If in existence I would suppose it would contain any correspondence with parents, copies of a pupil's termly reports as well as the Housemaster's own notes. I never had sight of any such records not even the school reports. There was no record-keeping policy and no shared records or files that were available to me.

### **Investigations into abuse / reports of abuse and civil claims**

36. I was never involved in any investigations into allegations of abuse or ill-treatment at Keil. I had no involvement in any reports or civil claims surrounding historical abuse.



### **Police investigations / criminal proceedings / convicted abusers**

37. I was not aware of any investigations. I have had no contact with the school nor been in Scotland since spring 1992. That was when I was invited to run a one-day [REDACTED] workshop at Keil. I have not given statements or evidence at a trial related to Keil School. I am not aware of anyone who worked at the school having such convictions.

### **Leaving the school**

38. I was initially at Keil to overlap the year Glasgow was City of Culture in 1990. My role was intended to be to do art development work around that. Around that same time I had bought and started to pay for a flat in Sussex. My plan had been to use that in the holidays. Unfortunately, during the time I was at Keil two serious things happened financially. The first was the rapid rise in interest rates. The second was that my local authority in Sussex deemed my flat in Sussex to be a second home because I was spending less time there than I was in Scotland and that resulted in me being charged double poll tax. Additionally, the flat was on a leasehold which meant I had to pay ground rent. All that run together meant, financially, my staying at Keil for anything longer than the two years intended did not make sense. That was the reason, alongside not being happy about the environment I was working in, I decided to move back down to England at the end of my two years.

### **Specific alleged abusers**

#### *William Bain*

39. Bill Bain was at Keil roughly about the same time that I was. He was there when I arrived and stayed there after I left. I don't know how long in total he stayed at the school. I'm not really sure how old he was when I was his colleague. I would imagine he was much around the same age as me.

40. I believe he was a science teacher who taught Physics. He was a house tutor at Islay Kerr House. He coached a rugby team of some sort in the school. I can't remember which one he had. His role only crossed over with my responsibilities so far as we both had to take our turns, amongst other staff, of doing master on duty days, take assemblies and tasks like that.
41. My recollections of him are that we would maybe chat over staff supper in the evenings. Sometimes we would collaborate on a common room crossword that some staff members would do after supper. I don't recall interacting with him much more than that. I didn't know Bill Bain all that well other than that. We didn't socialise, it wasn't as if we all went off to the pub together or anything like that.
42. I obviously saw him talking to children from time to time. He seemed to get on well with the children quite well and they seemed to get on quite well with him. It's hard to remember anything more than that because it was over thirty years ago. I don't remember seeing him disciplining any children beyond possibly giving out a punishment job because of misbehaviour of some sort. I never saw him abusing any children.

### Specific Allegations

DKK

43. I have been informed by the Inquiry that DKK was a pupil at Keil between 1988 and 1992 approximately between the ages of eleven and fifteen and that he has made an allegation against me. That allegation has been put to me below so as I can provide a response. I remember a zDKK as being the name of a pupil at Keil but not DKK.
44. *The worst form of physical punishment was on a Monday morning. If it was considered we had disgraced the school by losing the rugby match on Saturday, we were all punished by the rugby coaches. One of them was Mr OLZ others were Mr*

OPR [REDACTED] Mr Bain and Mr KPC [REDACTED]. We would spend the first hour of rugby training running up and down the steep hill in front of the schoolhouse until we were sick.

45. I have no real knowledge of what happened during rugby training at all. I don't know what they did during rugby nor how they did it. I was not involved with games. I was not a rugby coach nor a games coach. In 1986 I had had a really bad fall from a bicycle and broke my right arm. By the time I went to Keil my arm was still healing. I'd never been a games player anyway. Apart from the day I went out to do gardening work, whenever anyone went out to games I was in the [REDACTED] dealing with [REDACTED]. I think that DKK [REDACTED] must therefore be mistaken in naming me as a rugby coach.

QYG [REDACTED]

46. I have been informed by the Inquiry that QYG [REDACTED] was a pupil at Keil between 1989 and 1990 aged between approximately fourteen and fifteen and that he has made an allegation against me. That allegation has been put to me below so as I can provide a response.
47. I understand that QYG [REDACTED] went to Strathallan after leaving Keil and was there approximately between the ages of fifteen and seventeen. I remember QYG [REDACTED]. He seemed to be a boy who had difficulty relating to others. I think he experienced a degree of bullying from the other boys. He was one of the boys who would come and help with the gardening work. I don't think I taught him for [REDACTED]. I think a teacher by the name of Mr Ramage taught him that. The only other part of school life where I interacted with him was probably in the [REDACTED] in my capacity as the [REDACTED].
48. *From what I can remember I believe that when I left Keil School it was a monumental day in the sense of relief of getting out of there.*
49. *After trying to run away at Keil School my parents said that they would try and move me and they did research on other schools for me. It was decided that I would go to*



*Strathallan School. Keil School were informed of this change in good time. I certainly informed Ian Bain and KPC [REDACTED].*

50. I don't know anything about QYG [REDACTED] running away from Keil. We chatted about all sorts of different things when he helped out with the gardening work. Because of that I knew that he was going before he left. However, I wasn't entirely sure why he was going apart from the fact that he wasn't happy there. Whether he went because he begged his parents to move him or whether SNR [REDACTED], Mr CGC [REDACTED], or someone else, had suggested it might be better for him to shift I don't know.
51. *When I told him I was leaving KPC [REDACTED] said to me, "I have never been north of Perth. Perhaps if I am at a loose end in the summer holidays I can come up and you can show me around?" In my naivety I never thought anything of that. I did probably leave Mr KPC [REDACTED] my parents' phone number and contact details for Strathallan School, which I believe after contacting the school office he obtained my house's phone number to contact me directly.*
52. It is hard for me to remember what exactly I said last week never mind thirty years ago. If I mentioned to QYG [REDACTED] that I had never been "north of Perth" it would have been a throwaway comment. I don't remember couching anything in the terms that QYG [REDACTED] suggests. I might have said something like that but I am not sure. I certainly wasn't fishing for invitations. What I do remember is that I was at some stage invited to lunch. I can't remember whether QYG [REDACTED] did or didn't leave me his parent's phone number. I don't remember obtaining his parent's phone number either from the school office or elsewhere either.
53. *From what I remember Mr KPC [REDACTED] made contact in the summer by phoning up and asking my parents if he could come up and visit.*
54. There must have been a conversation that lead to me be being invited by Mr QYG [REDACTED]'s parents to lunch. In that regard I must have spoken with Mr QYG [REDACTED]'s parents.
55. *I would say Mr KPC [REDACTED] was in his fifties but he may have been younger. Everyone looks old when you are fifteen. He came up and had lunch.*

56. I remember that I went to Mr QYG's parents' house and had lunch. I remember that during that lunch the atmosphere seemed fairly frosty. More than that I don't remember anything further about the lunch. I suppose I kept in contact with QYG because I had been a person who he came to talk to about Keil and I had been worried about him. I was worried about how he was coping with life because he seemed to have been a target for bullying. I just wanted to know that he was more settled. He wouldn't have been the only pupil I had kept in contact with down the years in teaching.
57. *Apparently my parents were uneasy during lunch but they didn't know why. They just felt there was something off or wrong about the way he was behaving. I can only go by what they told me at the time.*
58. That does to a certain extent marry up with my recollection of the parents being frosty during lunch. I don't know why they invited me if they didn't want me to go. I didn't ring them up and say "please can I come to lunch." I don't remember what it was they said during the conversation when they invited me to lunch. I don't remember anything further surrounding what happened during the lunch itself.
59. *After lunch which was in my parents' old house ... Mr KPC and I got into his car. His car was a small Ford Fiesta style and shape. It was light blue or grey. It might even have been silver. That's the type of coloration I remember.*
60. There was a drive after lunch at QYG's suggestion. I think I had suggested to him that we just had a walk to look at the animals that they had. He was the one who was keen to go somewhere in the car. My car at that time was a red Peugeot not a blue Ford Fiesta.
61. *I said to my parents that I planned on taking him to show him the Reekie Linn, a relatively small but quite spectacular waterfall. From there I suggested that we went up to the Backwater Reservoir in the neighbouring valley a couple of miles away. We crossed over the foot of the reservoir and parked in a lay-by on the right hand side of the single track road. He leant across in front of me and went into the glove*

*compartment which was in front of me. From there he drew out two adult magazines like Men Only or Fiesta, that sort of title. He informed me that I should read them or look at them whichever you want to call it.*

62. I don't know whose idea it was to go to Reekie Linn and the Backwater Reservoir but it would not have been mine because I had no knowledge of the area. I was simply the driver following the directions we went. I think we stopped at some sort of viewpoint. I don't recall leaning across QYG and drawing out two adult magazines from the glove compartment. That didn't happen with me. There were no magazines so I wouldn't have suggested that he read a magazine.
63. *He then grabbed my hand and whilst doing so said, "Have you got a hard-on yet? I have." He put my hand in his lap and went to put his hand in my lap. I don't know if he had an erection or not. His trousers were done up and so were mine. There was no contact with flesh.*
64. That didn't happen. I refute that this happened. My recollections of what happened whilst we were sitting in the car are very dim. My only recollection is that we were sitting looking at the landscape and chatting about the landscape.
65. *I can't remember exactly my initial response but I think I said, "I think it's time to go." Or something to that effect. He did oblige in turning the car round and heading home.*
66. I don't really have any recollection of him saying "I think it's time to go" and us heading home. I don't know whether he was uncomfortable in my company, bored of my company or whether the light was fading. I just can't remember.
67. *I did look at the possibilities of what I could do there but I was basically surrounded by a reservoir and there was a lack of opportunity of anywhere to go. West was quite boggy and I don't know how safe it would have been. North and south was the main road. East was up a hill into fields where there might have been sheep or cattle. The opportunity for escape was not brilliant.*



68. Reading this part of QYG's allegation it comes across to me as if QYG had some sort of panic attack in the car. Why he had a panic attack I do not know. On occasions in the past QYG had had panic attacks in front of me. When he had those panic attacks he would become really confused and unhappy. What triggered these things I do not know.
69. *He drove back to my parents' house where I tried to be hospitable by offering him tea or coffee before he disappeared. I believe he did have something to drink and some of the shortbread my mum made to my granny's recipe. My parents weren't there at that point in time. They had gone to Balmoral Garage in Blairgowrie to either take in or pick up a car for a service.*
70. I do remember going back to the house and having a cup of tea. Because QYG's parents weren't there I didn't stay hanging around any longer because I didn't think that would be right.
71. Mr KPC eventually finished his drink and shortbread and got back in the car. I think he left the magazines behind, I don't know if that's important or not.
72. There were no magazines so it wouldn't have been possible for me to have left them behind.
73. *He disappeared off and my parents then got back from the garage. They asked if I was OK. I said that I was fine. I can't remember any other discussion at that time but a couple of years later they told me that they thought there was something not right but decided not to try and get more information from me because they didn't know what the information they might get out was.*
74. If QYG was still in the agitated state he was in after that panicky thing out in the countryside when his parents came home that might have been how they found him. Obviously, I wasn't there to witness any of that so anything I do say would only be speculation. My reaction reading QYG's use of the word "disappeared" in this part of the allegation is that he almost is trying to make out that this was some sort of sinister encounter. I don't understand why. My recollection of that visit was that it

hadn't been as genial as I had hoped it would be having made the effort to go up and make a social call on a former pupil.

75. Visiting pupils at their parents' homes was a thing that happened culturally at schools at that time. I certainly remember that happening when I was at the [REDACTED] School where I had been responsible for the [REDACTED] programme alongside the [REDACTED]. During that time I was invited to lots of parents' houses for meals. That happened even after the [REDACTED] had left the [REDACTED]. QYG [REDACTED]'s invitation then was the sort of thing that I was used to.
76. *I am not entirely sure if Mr KPC [REDACTED] tried to contact me again that summer or whether it was other times throughout the next two years. He did telephone my parents' house on multiple occasions supposedly just to catch up.*
77. I can't recall telephoning the parents regularly whatsoever. I can't recall telephoning them at all.
78. *Mr KPC [REDACTED] phoned the office at Strathallan and told the school who he was and was just trying to find out how I was getting on. He asked for my contact number. The school gave out the information. Mr KPC [REDACTED] then phoned the house that I was in and we communicated through the phone at that house. I think he made contact with me fairly quickly after I got to Strathallan. I think it was the first term I got there. Nothing was hugely awkward or uncomfortable as such. I had tried to put what had happened to me during the summer holidays behind me, pretended it didn't happen.*
79. I know that QYG [REDACTED] went to Strathallan after he went to Keil. I don't recall contacting Strathallan for contact details for QYG [REDACTED]. I don't recall calling QYG [REDACTED] at his boarding house or his parents'. I don't recall having any conversations via phone with QYG [REDACTED].
80. *Thinking back it seems like Mr KPC [REDACTED] contacted me fairly frequently but it probably wasn't more than once a fortnight. He used to write letters frequently and I would sometimes write back but I was lazy so he would phone me.*

81. I possibly wrote to QYG once or twice a term at most. I wrote to him to send him news about Keil and to find out how he was getting on. They would have been fairly short chatty letters and nothing else.
82. *I remember getting phone calls during homework time when I was told that my father was on the phone. I don't know if Mr KPC said that he was my father or if that was an assumption by pupils and staff answering the phone.*
83. I don't remember telephoning QYG at all. The only communication there was was a few letters. I must have received letters from QYG otherwise I would not have written back.
84. *As well as sending me letters he was phoning me up saying that I was to stop making excuses for not going down to see him. He said he had organised a big party at his house in . There were going to be lots of girls and boys, and alcohol and lots of other bits and pieces. I would still have been under-age for drinking at this time but that didn't seem to matter to him.*
85. I helped to run the Chichester Festival in Chichester. I had a flat in at that time. I certainly was not phoning QYG up at all. I might have written to him and suggested that he might get a job at The Chichester Festival because, by that time, he would have been between sixteen and eighteen. I didn't have parties in my little flat. There was a stewards and stage managers party at the end of the festival in Chichester. If I mentioned a party then that would have been the party that I mentioned. For the sake of completeness, there would have been a meal and drinks with the meal. All the girls and boys who helped with the festival were all over the age of sixteen.
86. I didn't try to twist QYG's arm into coming or make him feel bad about not coming. It was just a Work Experience opportunity. The reason I made the offer was because we employed people from various parts of the country to come down and help with the festival. The reason I made the offer to QYG in particular was because he had been interested in doing a bit of stage management during his time



at Keil. He'd helped with a school play that [REDACTED] when I was new there. The offer just seemed a logical extension. I wasn't desperate to get him down, I was just offering him an opportunity. I hadn't frequently asked him to go and visit me. I had merely said "were he to be in the area" I might show him around.

87. *Before then he had frequently asked me to go and visit him. I had always made excuses. In the summer holidays I worked for my uncle rearing pheasants and ducks and the other holidays weren't really suitable either. I had weekends off but I didn't have any money so how was I going to get there? I don't think my parents would have been hugely supportive if I had said I was going to get on a train and go down to [REDACTED] for a weekend of God knows what.*
88. The way <sup>QYG</sup> [REDACTED] expresses this part of his allegation implies that I was placing some sort of pressure on him. I would refute that there was any sort of pressure placed by myself. I'm sorry he felt that. From my perspective it was merely and open handed offer.
89. *Mr <sup>KPC</sup> [REDACTED] was living in [REDACTED] by that time. From what I understand he had left Keil School a year after I left. He had gone to [REDACTED] school in [REDACTED] Middlesex which is a day school for girls between the ages of three and eighteen. I don't even know when Keil School closed its doors.*
90. This all sounds accurate to me. However, it is worth noting that between Keil and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I had a year back in a school in Chichester. I left Keil in 1991. Until 1992 I was back in Chichester. I then went to [REDACTED] where I was the [REDACTED]. I don't know when Keil closed its doors.
91. *I was at my Schoolhouse at Strathallan one morning during break time. You could walk back to Ruthven House, the house I stayed in at Strathallan, during break time and then still get back to classes. I went in and checked my mail. I power walked to class and read Mr <sup>KPC</sup> [REDACTED] latest letter as I went. It informed me to stop making excuses, that he wasn't taking no for an answer. He insisted that I book myself a train ticket to get down there and everything else was sorted. If you didn't know his character you might think it was an ok letter but I basically flipped out.*

92. I don't remember framing things in this way. It relates to what I have said earlier inasmuch as I wasn't trying to put any pressure on QYG [REDACTED] whatsoever. If QYG [REDACTED] is referring to the letter about helping with the festival, which I can only suppose he was, it was an open handed offer not an attempt to force him into feeling that he had to come south. Why he had another panic attack, hissy fit or whatever on that particular occasion I do not know.
93. *I held it together fairly well initially. I got into my class being taken by Mr Smith who was my Management Information Studies teacher. I sat in the front row of two rows of desks. One of the other pupils turned to me and asked if I was ok. I nodded but I was shaking and the other pupil again asked if I was ok. The teacher then came in to the room. He was informed that there was a problem. One of my classmates was then asked to take me back to Ruthven House and try and find my Housemaster or someone similar.*
94. I can't really comment on this part of QYG [REDACTED]'s allegation other than being sorry if I had said in something I had sent to him which caused that reaction.
95. *Following my distress in Mr Smith's classroom I went back to Ruthven House and sat on the sofa outside the Housemaster's office, Mr David Barnes, until he appeared to find out what was wrong. Mr Barnes also had two Deputy Housemasters, Mr Streatfield-James, and Mr Murray who was also my English teacher. He asked me what was going on. I explained to him that I had received this letter and I told him what had happened during the summer holidays two years before with KPC [REDACTED]. My Housemaster tried to make sure I was ok to the best of his abilities and he went to find the Headmaster, Mr Pighills.*
96. *Mr Pighills was an extremely nice Headmaster, I had no issues in any shape or form with him. He was old-school, he was understanding, and sympathetic. I told him that on no account were my parents to be told about what I was telling him. They were just about to leave on their annual holiday. The Headmaster said he should still contact them but I said I'd rather he didn't as it would put a downer on their trip. He*



*did contact but did it in such a way that it was like a casual request to discuss some minor details when they came back from holiday.*

97. *Within a day or two of my parents coming back they were at the school and were filled in on some of the basic information. I was called to the Headmaster's office and asked to explain what had happened and explain why I hadn't told them before. It was at this point in time that my parents said that the day Mr KPC came to lunch they felt that something wasn't right, that there was something suspicious about the way he was behaving.*
98. *As I have said earlier I felt the atmosphere at the lunch had been frosty. Perhaps I reacted to the frostiness.*
99. *I told them what he had done that day. As to why I hadn't told them before, I explained that I was the child who was not always a good boy, who had stolen from them, who was perhaps referred to as the black sheep of the family because of the way I had behaved. I asked them if I had told them what Mr KPC had done, would they believe me? They said that they would have believed me. I explained that it wasn't an easy thing to talk about back then.*
100. *There's not much I can really say here as this is all QYG's thoughts. This all seems to be a consequence of him getting himself wound up again.*
101. *The school then wrote to either KPC or his employer at the time and stated that on no account was he to make any further contact with me. We then had a change of Headmaster at Strathallan and I believe he followed it up with Mr KPC etc. We had a copy of the letter sent by the school to Mr KPC or his employer at the time. The letter advised Mr KPC to cease all communications with me at that time. I was not aware of any response from Mr KPC*
102. *I received a letter from Strathallan saying that I was not to contact QYG or the school. It was a very short letter and said something like "do not make further contact or we will be required to inform your employer." The letter didn't say why I*



wasn't to make any further contact. They obviously felt there was a reason to protect QYG from me. I was quite shocked when I received that letter. I'd made time to keep a pastoral eye on QYG and then I received correspondence such as that. There was no further correspondence from Strathallan. It was just that one letter. I didn't respond to the letter. I didn't make any further contact with QYG. I acquiesced in what the headmaster of Strathallan had requested.

103. I refute what QYG said happened in the car. If he felt so put upon by me writing my letters then why didn't he ever reply to say so? I'm baffled by the whole business. I've not seen QYG for the last thirty years so I do not know what has been going through his mind. He was volatile lad who often overreacted. He seemed to rub some of his peers up the wrong way in his boarding house from what he told me and from what others said about him.

### **Helping the Inquiry**

104. In 1975 I did a one-term teaching practice at [REDACTED] College in Hampshire. It, like [REDACTED] School, was a boarding school. In both schools there were several boarding matrons as well as the medical matron. There was certainly at least one matron in every boarding house. Additionally there were at least two resident Tutors as well as the resident Housemaster in each boarding house. The matrons did most of the work in dormitories assisted by housekeepers who came in each day. The Tutors did not go into the dormitories except when called in by a matron needing support with a behavioural matter. Such staffing ratios minimised the need for adults working alone and would both protect children and protect adults from vexatious complaints.
105. At my interview with Mr CGC, who had wide experience in English boarding schools, I was not made aware that the adult to pupil ratios at Keil were different from what I regarded as standard practice. For this reason I felt under supported in my role as a Tutor during my second year at the school. In the same way I would have welcomed occasional support in the classroom from a teaching assistant.

106. In the almost thirty years since I left Keil, and the twenty years since I left teaching, I know things have moved on. There now seems to be much stronger pastoral systems in all schools in England. Such systems have been based on principles of child protection from abuse, bullying, and radicalisation. The availability of a 'Trusted Adult' seems to me to be a good idea. In many boarding schools that role is undertaken by a Chaplain. That has drawbacks if he or she also has teaching and assessment responsibilities.
107. The practice of accommodating bachelor staff in bed-sits in the same building as the pupils needs reconsideration. All resident staff should have self-contained flats big enough to allow them to lead proper adult lives. When on duty they should work from a staff room on the ground floor of the boarding house. There should be no reason why a pupil would need to enter the Tutor's flat. That said, I accept there will be occasions when a pupil needs to ring the Tutor or Housemaster's doorbell.
108. In my opinion, the loneliness of bachelor staff as they get older is a threat to their emotional well-being and professional judgement. I make this statement not from the perspective of Keil but from my experience of working with other more elderly bachelor masters in boarding schools I had previously worked in.
109. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

KPC

Signed.....

Dated..... 20 January 2021 .....