

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

IUE

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is IUE. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Life before going into Boarding Schools**

2. I was born and raised in Irvine, Ayrshire. I stayed in the family home along with my mother, father, and my older sister.
3. My father owned a in Kilwinning, and my mother was a teacher at different schools in Ayrshire but mainly at Academy. To begin with I attended Prestwick Primary School. There were no issues while in was at that school and I think I was doing quite well there. In 1964 my parents decided that I should move to a boarding school. I think most of the parents at Cambusdoon were employed in the military or diplomatic service.

### **Cambusdoon Preparatory School, Alloway, Ayr**

4. I started at Cambusdoon Prep School in the Easter term of 1964 when I was seven years old. At that time, I was a day pupil. When I returned in September after the summer holidays I was then boarding at the school.
5. The school was an ancient country house and along with the grounds was situated on the banks of the river Doon. The house was probably a couple of hundred years old and very rickety. The corridors were concrete, and it was always dark and cold. The lights were on almost on a permanent basis.

6. The Headmaster at the school was Major Wallace. He was a kind and fair man. I think after I began boarding, there was probably only six others who remained as day pupils. I am not sure why I had to board at the school as I only stayed twenty minutes away. I think being a day pupil first helped me settle in at the school when I started boarding.

#### **Routine at Cambusdoon Preparatory School, Alloway, Ayr**

7. I think there may have been as many as sixty-five to seventy pupils at the school, The ages of the pupils ranged from about seven up to thirteen. We had around seven or eight staff working there. There was one female member of staff, Mrs Smith whose responsibility was looking after the youngest group of children, including myself. Other than the headmaster and Mrs Smith I can't recall the names of the other staff at the school.
8. Most of the dormitories slept about fifteen boys. There were smaller rooms which had three or four beds in them. I spent most of my time in the larger dorms.

#### *School/Leisure*

9. As far as the education was concerned, I think I was making good progress. I did learn to play the piano and would be asked to play the hymns for the morning service. I was quite good at Maths, English, and History. The class size was much smaller than I had at Prestwick Primary. In Prestwick it was maybe twenty-five where at Cambusdoon it would have been seven, and all boys.
10. In the school we were taught a lot about self-reliance when it came to leisure time. On Saturdays we would play hunting games. I used to climb the variety of trees in the wooded area, some of which I managed to fall from.

### *Visits/Inspections*

11. There was an inspection carried out at the school. The school had explained to us what would be happening during the inspection, but we were not aware of the reasons for the inspection. When the inspectors came into the school, they spoke to some of the children, but I was not one of them. They did come into our class and sat at the back for about half an hour. I do remember two adults there, one carrying a clipboard.
12. As a result of that inspection there were many areas in which the school needed to be upgraded and there was not enough money to carry out those. With no money the school was forced to close in 1967. The council took over the building but just let it deteriorate.

### *Discipline*

13. The strap was still being used at that time in the school as one form of punishment. I did receive that on one occasion, but I felt it was usually for something I did wrong. There was no abuse by anyone at that school.

### **Abuse at Cambusdoon Preparatory School, Alloway, Ayr**

14. There was no abuse at Cambusdoon Prep School.

### **Leaving Cambusdoon Preparatory School, Alloway, Ayr**

15. I was sad when we were told the school was closing and I felt sorry for Major Wallace. When he spoke with us at the assembly about the closure he was terribly upset.
16. My parents did look at other schools, one of which was in Crieff. We did go there for an interview, but I think my parents decided it was too far away. They decided that Duncan House was better for me as it was just over the other side of the A74.



### **Duncan House Preparatory School, Moffat**

17. Along with my parents I did have to attend at Duncan House in Moffat for a pre-attendance interview. SNR [REDACTED], CBN [REDACTED], who taught [REDACTED] had a big booming round face and liked to dress like an old country gentleman, wearing his tweed jacket, plus fours, socks, brogues and often wore a deerstalker when he went outside. He spoke with my parents after the interview and he told them that as far as my education was concerned, he believed that I was a year behind the others at the school. He told them he was recommending I be put back a year at the school. My parents objected and said that I would be able to make up any differences.
18. The school was smaller in size than Cambusdoon and was situated in the middle of town surrounded by houses. The main school building was a Victorian style villa. To the side of that building was a red bricked structured building, Dundanion House. There was a wooden bridge which linked the two buildings. It was completely opposite from the rural environment at Cambusdoon.
19. When Cambusdoon closed down Mr CBN [REDACTED] was one of the people who attended an auction selling off everything from the old school. He then purchased some of the furnishings and equipment.
20. I think there were probably around eighty pupils at the school, with the ages being fairly evenly split. The main aim of the school was to prepare everyone for public school and the required common entrance exam.
21. Other than Mr CBN [REDACTED] and Mr IUF [REDACTED] who taught [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I can remember there was Mr Arnott, who taught Geography, Mr CBV [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Captain McRae, but I am not sure what he taught. He suffered badly from his war experiences which affected his mental health. There was Mr De Salis who also taught science along with sports such as rugby and cricket. Also at the school was SNR [REDACTED]'s wife who taught the seven and eight year olds.
22. After speaking with Mr CBN [REDACTED], it was IUF [REDACTED] who took me to my rooms.

## **Routine at Duncan House Preparatory School, Moffat**

### *First day*

23. In front of my parents, Mr CBN, was very gracious, but away from outsiders he was completely different. After being sociable with mum and dad during the day, at teatime he made a speech. He was now speaking in an aggressive and loud manner. Part of the speech he was talking about Cambusdoon being a rough school. He said that we would have been knocked into shape by the time we left this school.
24. The five or six of us who had transferred from Cambusdoon were all kept apart and divided into separate Houses. Mr CBN had decided that we had come from a lesser school and were troublemakers. The boys in the school had been told that they were to be wary of us when we arrived. Together we agreed to keep ourselves as a small collective. I was sent to Dowding House. I can remember there was Fraser House and I can't recall the name of the other House.
25. Each of the Houses had a mix of sleeping arrangements. There were some larger rooms and some smaller. The first term I was there I was in a room with just five beds. The next term and for most of my time in the school I spent in a larger room with around twenty beds in it.
26. The beds in the school were all metal framed beds with thick straw mattresses. If there were any bed wetters, they would be given a rubber mat. I brought my own tartan rug to go over the other sheets and blankets, which were provided by the school. We had to keep our pyjamas under our pillows. something I do to this day. Our underwear and shirts were taken away and laundered. We all had our names on each item of clothing. Although we had our own pegs in the cloakroom, there was a chair but no separate storage space for our clothes.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

27. Mr CBN provided us all with a pre-printed card which showed all the times we were to get up, showered, breakfast and attend chapel. There was another card which showed the timetable for lessons.
28. The daily routine was very similar to Cambusdoon. At Duncan House there was a very loud electric bell to waken us up, about 7:00 am. We then went for our shower and got dressed for the day. We had a half hour of prep before we went for breakfast about 8:15 am. It was then into chapel about 9:00 am. for morning service. During this service Mr CBN would list any activities or points of interest we had that day.
29. About 9:30 a.m. we had classwork, with a twenty-minute break 11:15 a.m. It was then classwork until lunchtime. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays we had lessons in the afternoon. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we had games in the afternoon. After school we had some time for prep before tea and then we had to get ready for bed. Our playing fields were not in the school grounds and were situated about a ten-minute walk on the other side of the town.
30. On Saturday mornings we had lessons and in the afternoon we always had a match. Depending on what time of the year it was that would be hockey, cricket, or rugby. If you were not in the particular team, you were on the side cheering them on.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

31. When we ate our meals, we all sat in our relevant house groups at long tables. The food was awful, just slop on a plate. There was another meal I can recall which was veal and ham pie, but it had a mouldy crust. Another meal was overcooked ham with pineapple on top.
32. During mealtimes there were staff on duty to supervise and if you were slow, they would stand over you shouting at you to make you finish the meal. When it was Mr CBN or Mr IUF on duty, they would hit you over the head to make you finish the



food. We had napkin holders at the table, and we had to fold our napkins in a set manner. I could not fold it correctly and again Mr CBN or Mr IUF would hit me over the head until I did it correctly.

33. The teachers ate different and much better food. They were having the school equivalent of silver service.

#### *Washing/bathing*

34. There were showers in an open room. There would have been three or four along one wall. The showering would be supervised by different staff. There were times some of the staff who were supervising would make us have cold showers. They said it was because we would waken up quicker. When it came to the cold showers, we had to run from one end of the four showers to the other end. They were freezing. I saw that if you ran along behind the showers, almost touching the wall you might not get wet at all.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

35. The school did supply us with a list of items of clothing we needed as part of the school uniform. The uniform was grey shorts, shirt, and socks, with a V-necked jumper for the winter. We also had a red blazer and cap, which we would wear if going to church and visiting other schools. You were not allowed to wear any of your own clothes, it was always our uniform.
36. The school tie was red in colour. Prefects tie was red and white striped tie, and the monitors tie had a single white stripe.

#### *Leisure time*

37. Being involved in extra curricula activity was encouraged at the school. On Sunday afternoons we had different clubs. There was the stamp club and the chess club, which I was a member of Captain McRae ran a signals club. He used an old short-wave radio

he had from his time in the army. He just searched for a signal, and we could be listening to a station from anywhere in the world. One of the stations we listened to was sending out propaganda against the western world.

38. There wasn't any time you could be doing your own thing as you were always supervised. I found that part of my time at Duncan House as being difficult.
39. When it came to games such as the cross country, hockey, cricket, or rugby we trained in our house groups and would sometimes play against each other. When it came to [REDACTED] it was usually held outside unless it was teeming with rain. If it was with Mr De Salis taking the class then it was fun, if it was Mr [REDACTED] CBN it was the opposite, and he was extremely strict. If we were playing against other schools then Duncan House wanted you to train better and harder so you would be able to beat them.
40. Once a month on Friday afternoons we would go to Dumfries swimming pool. The school had a double decker bus, and it took about forty minutes to get there. The lessons were conducted by the local instructor at the pool, as opposed to any of the school teachers. I always looked forward to that.
41. There was no integration between ourselves and the local school. Sometimes if we were walking to the playing fields there were problems with pupils from those schools.

#### *Trips and holidays*

42. Other than the trips to the swimming pool, each year we went to St Ninian's cave which was near to Port Patrick. You accessed the cave from a stoney beach. The staff would then conduct a service inside the cave. When we were finished, we were told to gather a stone from the beach which we took back to Duncan House where we placed them onto a cairn at the school.
43. We also visited some of the ruined Abbey's in the Border area. On another outing we went to see Hadrian's Wall. I can also remember that we were taken to Murrayfield to watch the rugby internationals.



### *School*

44. When I was in the class, I still had the thoughts of what SNR [REDACTED] had said to us at my interview. It turned out the work we were doing in the class I had already completed most of that at Cambusdoon. I was much further ahead than what Mr CBN [REDACTED] thought.
45. During the lessons, the teachers at Duncan House were much more strict than when I was at Cambusdoon. There was lots of prep work in the evening and again in the morning and all the work had to be submitted on time. Both Mr CBN [REDACTED] and Mr IUF [REDACTED] were very disciplined in how they treated us during lessons. Mr CBN [REDACTED] was subject to many different mood swings. It got so bad that when there was a swap over of pupils in his [REDACTED] class. We would be asking the pupils coming out what kind of mood he was in. we then knew what to expect from him. There were other times when he was the complete opposite and he would be extremely helpful and provide you with appropriate advice on the subject you were struggling with.
46. I recall I had finished some [REDACTED] exercises in Mr CBV [REDACTED]'s class at the end of the lesson he asked if I would stay back. I thought I was in some sort of trouble, but he wanted to know if I was okay as he did not think I was looking right. He thought I might be under pressure from my parents with the upcoming Common Entrance Exam. He tried to reassure me that all would be okay, and I would pass it with no issues. He was just being nice and that was so different from the likes of Mr CBN [REDACTED] and Mr IUF [REDACTED]. I never told Mr CBV [REDACTED] the real reason for me feeling down, but I suspected he was aware of the cause. I was not the only boy who he spoke to about not being right, he also spoke to many other boys in my year. That attempt at kindness caught me by surprise and still makes me emotional to this day.
47. The whole ethos of Duncan House was that you not only passed exams, but you passed them well.

### *Healthcare*

48. I don't recall seeing a doctor at the school and any dental treatment was arranged when I was back home with my parents. There was a matron at the school, who was there for any minor issues. Although I did not have to see her very often, when I did, she was not a nice woman, she always had a sour outlook.

### *Religious instruction*

49. We did go to the local church on Sunday mornings for service with the town congregation. There were arrangements that allowed the Catholic boys to go the local chapel. I am not sure what happened with the boys from other religions.
50. I was part of the school choir. When it came to Mr IUF speaking to any of us the Cambusdoon boys were all called by their surname. The other boys were all called by their forenames. Mr IUF asked a question which he directed at us. He was using the name IUE. When I answered, he asked why I would do that when my name was IUE. To be fair to the other boy, he along with the others were extremely embarrassed by Mr IUF.

### *Work*

51. We did do some chores while we were at Duncan House. They could include sweeping floors, weeding the garden borders, washing windows. Most of those tasks were allocated by Monitors or Prefects as punishments. Other than keeping yourself and your bed area tidy there were no chores allocated by the school.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

52. Birthdays were not celebrated by the school. When it came to Christmas there was a service at the school where some parents would also attend. We would then head home for the holiday period.

### *Visits/Inspections*

53. There were no inspections carried out at Duncan House during the time I was at the school.

### *Family contact*

54. The school terms were twelve weeks long. There was a half term holiday where we could have a long weekend at home with our families. There were two other weekends your parents could come to the school and take you out for the day and bring you back to the school at night. The other option was 'exeat' where you could go home for an overnight stay. I preferred being able to go home.
55. After one day out, an 'Exeat,' my parents were taking me back to the school. As soon as the car started crunching on the gravel drive, I started crying. My father got incredibly angry and told me it was high-time I grew up, I was eleven at the time. Later that week I got a letter from my mother saying how disappointed they were in me, and did I realise how much boarding school cost? They said we would talk about it when I came home for the school holidays, but we never did.
56. We did get school reports at the end of each school year. I am not sure what other direct contact the school had with my parents. We were allowed to write home, but all those letters were vetted for grammar and anything that would bring the school into disrepute. You could not put into the letters any abuse that was happening. If you did the teachers made you re-write the letter. The letter could be re-written several times until the teachers were happy with the content. My parents did write to me, but the letters were not censored before I received them.
57. There was a time when we were made to go for a cross country run over the hills at Moffat in the middle of winter. We only had gym shoes and a track suit top, and it was blowing a blizzard. One boy got lost in the conditions and it ended up with the police and mountain rescue being contacted. They followed his footsteps in the snow and eventually found him. I tried to put that into a letter to my parents and was told to re-



write it and remove any mention of the incident. This incident was counted as running away and this boy ran away again a couple of weeks later, knowing he would be expelled and able to get away from the school.

### *Discipline*

58. There was a Prefect system in place at Duncan House. In the school the three houses at the school had head of house, prefects, and monitors. There was a Head Boy who was selected from the three heads of house. There were maybe six Prefects who were all selected by the Headmaster. Later in my time there I was chosen to be a house monitor and in my last year I was selected as a Prefect.
59. The Prefects/Monitors had no powers to administer physical discipline, they were more as a surveillance system looking for problems. They were able to allocate menial tasks such as sweeping floors, if they found someone doing something wrong. I am not sure if any of that was every recorded anywhere.
60. The teachers would sometimes punish us by making us copy lines. If it was bad enough, they might impose some detention time. Any physical punishment then that would be carried out by the Headmaster, or Mr IUF [REDACTED].

### *Bed Wetting*

61. There was one boy who had an issue with bed wetting. Whichever member of staff was on duty, either Mr CBN [REDACTED] or Matron, he would be shouting at the boy, but that never helped or stopped the problem. He eventually grew out of the problem.

### **Abuse at Duncan House Preparatory School, Moffat**

62. There were regular nights when Mr IUF [REDACTED] was on duty at night and he would come into the rooms. You could hear him coming along the corridor with his long stride and his heavy boots. Mr IUF [REDACTED] would then take a random boy out of his bed. He would

bend him over his knee and smack the boy on the bottom. He then placed the boy back into his bed. There was no reason for it, and he would do this a couple of times each week he was on duty. There were also times he did not stop at one boy and would grab another boy and do the same to him.

63. During some [REDACTED] lessons, if you mispronounced some of the sentences Mr [REDACTED] would slap you on the head. There were other times he would grab you by the neck and drag you up to the front of the class where he would again be hitting you repeatedly over the head. There were other times he might hit you over the bare legs, hit you with a ruler and even pulled a boy's hair on one occasion. He threw his heart and soul into it and would be breathing heavily from the exertion.
64. Through fear there was one boy who was so scared of Mr [REDACTED] that he jumped out of the first-floor window, with a drop of about twelve feet onto a gravel drive. He then ran out of the school and reported it to the local police station. When he returned, he was informed by Mr [REDACTED] that if he ran away again he would have no future at the school and be expelled. The next day he again ran out of the school and was subsequently expelled. He was not the only boy who took advantage of running out of the school for a second occasion, all with a view to being expelled and being able to escape Mr [REDACTED]. I wanted to but could not summon up the courage.
65. When Mr [REDACTED] was taking rugby practice, he liked to concentrate on tackling practice, using the boys from Cambusdoon. With his big build he would stand facing us and make us tackle him. We were just small young boys and when we did this we just bounced off him.
66. One of the times I was told to tackle him I felt a huge pain in my shoulder which I found was dislocated. I collapsed to the ground and was crying with the pain. His only response to me was calling me "Babbie." He then picked me up by one leg and my arm, swung me around like a hammer thrower, then threw me to the ground. I landed again on my shoulder, he made me carry on with the rugby practice, even though my arm was just dangling and being in pain. It was only later after a couple of days before it popped back in place. I never saw matron or any other medic.

67. Mrs CBW had a similar nature as her husband. She would often slap some of the children if they had done something wrong in her eyes. There was one boy in particular who had a habit of biting his nails. Mrs CBW slapped that boy so hard in the face that he suffered a nose bleed.
68. There were many times when Mr IUF called myself or the other boys from Cambusdoon "Troggs", that was his term for stupid or working class people. He said we did not deserve to be at the school.
69. Sometimes we were walking down the corridor. Mr IUF would then shout for the others in the corridor to be aware and for the "Troggs" to move aside. If we did not move enough out of his way then we were punished with the cane.
70. There were times when we were in his class and if I or my friends had completed a particular task he'd tell us he did not think "Troggs" were capable of the task. Because he said that I had not even spelt the word "adjective" correctly, I was given six of the cane.
71. One of the days we were going to another school to play against them, Mr IUF got lost. During the journey I was sat at the rear of the minibus and for some reason I was blamed by him for getting us lost.
72. One of the boys was so upset with his life at Duncan House that he flooded the shower room. We were all gathered together in the shower room and told to identify the boy responsible. At that time, we did not actually know which boy it was. There were so many it could have been. Mr IUF grabbed me out of the crowd at random, and he blamed me. He was shouting and bawling at me. Again, I was given the cane for this.
73. All the caning was carried out in Mr IUF room, and it was on our backside over our shorts. Mr IUF was always walking around being permanently angry. I am not sure if there were any motives other than causing us pain.



74. Other staff must have been aware of what was happening, but they did not intervene in anyway.
75. Some of the incidents that involved the teachers hitting children outdoors, maybe on the playing fields, would have been in full view of any members of the public who happened to be walking past. I would be surprised that there were no reports from any of those people.
76. There was one occasion during rugby practice when a woman who was passing at the time walked onto the pitch and told CBN to "stop shouting at the children." He was very charming towards her, and I do remember him explaining that we were not children but young men, I was ten at the time.
77. Duncan House was the worst two years of my entire life. We lived in a state of constant fear throughout our time at the school. Mr CBN and Mr IUF were the main reason for all those fears.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Duncan House Preparatory School, Moffat**

78. I did report some of what was happening to me to my mother, but she did not believe me and did not believe teachers would do those things. The boy who jumped out of the class reported it to the police, but nothing happened.

#### **Leaving Duncan House Preparatory School, Moffat**

79. When I was old enough, about eleven, and I had passed the Common Entrance Exam my parents looked around for which school I should be going to. They had also looked at Merchiston, Glenalmond and Strathallan. Most of my peers went to Strathallan. Fettes was chosen because of its high reputation. Only two of us went to Fettes. I had no say on which school I was going to.

### **Fettes College, Edinburgh**

80. Fettes College was still routine based but it was not regimented like Duncan House and more of the atmosphere of Cambusdoon. At Fettes you had more freedom of thought. When I was at Fettes, I never felt that I was part of the core. Fettes was meant for people who were high achievers or people with connections to get somewhere in life. That did not apply to me.
81. Mr Chevenix-Trent was the headmaster for most of my time at the school. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] was Dr FNP [REDACTED]. He was SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] when the school had a visit from the Queen Mother who was there to open the new Science block. He retired [REDACTED] those celebrations.

### **Routine at Fettes College, Edinburgh**

82. When I started at Fettes, I was allocated to Kimmerghane House. During my time at Fettes, I felt more affiliation to the people in that House than I did to the school itself. I found the rivalry between the Houses was really strong, rugby in particular which was extremely hard and competitive.
83. In Kimmerghane House there may have been between 100 – 120 boys, with maybe as much as eight hundred boys in total at the school. Girls started coming into the school in 1973. There were two girls who came in for the last year of their education. The next year around thirty girls enrolled and by the time I left there were about 50 to 60 girls at the school. Around 1976 they all lived in their own House within the school grounds.
84. My Housemaster was RHC [REDACTED]. He was a modern style of teacher, and his teaching methods were much more up to date and not like most of the other Houses at Fettes.
85. RHC [REDACTED] and his deputy, Mr Barr, worked well together and were firm but fair. It was a good atmosphere while I was there. You could go to them if you were having

any problems and they would try their best to help you. The great thing was they listened to you, which to me was really important.

#### *School*

86. Academically, Fettes was good. I had to be pushed and that worked for me. If someone wanted to do the bare minimum then the school would not be happy with it, but they would not cause any issues. The debating society and drama group at the school were excellent. I wish I had taken more advantage of what was on offer.

#### *Healthcare*

87. There was a matron who looked after our basic health needs at the school. Like my Housemaster and his deputy, she was really good with us. She was always happy to help you if you went to her with any issues.

#### *Discipline*

88. There may have been corporal punishment, including caning, but I never came anywhere near receiving any.

#### **Abuse at Fettes College, Edinburgh**

89. There was a teacher at Fettes, FGP who was a racist. He blatantly racially abused a boy who was a Hong Kong Chinese descendant, who was born and raised in Scotland. Mr FGP would openly mimic him by pulling up his own eyebrows and speak in a stereotypical Chinese mocking language.
90. There was also one night when Mr FGP was on night duty, and he was walking around the grounds with a shotgun. At some point during his patrol of the school grounds he saw a male climbing in through a window of the school. Mr FGP set off the shotgun into the air. It turned out this male was a teacher who had been out for the night and was returning in a drunken state.



91. There was a boy named [REDACTED] at the school. He was having problems and the school were trying to help him get past the issues. He was taken out of the school for a time. When he came back some of the older boys and Prefects continued to bully him. They just saw him as a target. After leaving the school [REDACTED] went on to commit suicide because of the bullying he received.
92. Prefects were usually boys who were either eighteen years of age or approaching it. House Prefects had influence over pupils in their own Houses but little influence over boys in other Houses. It was common in my early days at the school for Prefects to beat younger boys. We always lived in fear of them.
93. When I became a Prefect, I went out of my way to make sure no one was being beaten or bullied and no one had any cause to be fearful of me. In my five years there the whole school went through many changes and the old-style Prefects were phased out. I put a lot of that down to RHC [REDACTED] and teachers and staff like him.

#### **Leaving Fettes College, Edinburgh**

94. The school exams were both A-Levels and Highers. I managed to get enough passes to allow me to go further education.
95. I left the school in 1974 and there was a cocktail party where parents were also in attendance. We had a one-to-one conversation with the Deputy Head. He gave an explanation that I was in a privileged position for having been a pupil at Fettes and that would open many doors to me. That was completely against everything I believed in, and I definitely did not agree with him.

#### **Life after Boarding Schools**

96. When I was considering further education, I applied for many different colleges and decided on Glasgow College of Technology. I studied and got my HND in Business Studies. It was at Glasgow Tech that I started making real friends. I also went to work

in my dad's business for a couple of years. Through different other major businesses closing it impacted on his business and he ended up selling the land.

97. I went on to work in High Wycombe for a [REDACTED] company, [REDACTED] where I worked for ten years. I then moved onto to work for a company [REDACTED] in Fife, for around seven or eight years. I went back to work with [REDACTED] for the remainder of my working life, and am due to retire from there in the next few days. I am looking to volunteer with [REDACTED] who run [REDACTED].
98. I met my wife [REDACTED] when I stayed in the Midlands, and we have two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We have been married for thirty-eight years and I have a very good relationship with her and both our children.
99. In 1996/1997 we were staying in Cupar and one night I was out having dinner with a friend. Duncan House came up in the conversation. My friend told me that Mr [REDACTED] was working as a teacher in his school in [REDACTED]. I was so shocked that he was still teaching. My friend saw the reaction I was having to Mr [REDACTED] name. I told him about some of my experiences at the school with Mr [REDACTED].

### **Impact**

100. I have read one of the other statements on the Inquiry website, by someone who was also at Duncan House. I can see what an impact it had on his life. That was my main reason for contacting the Inquiry. I wanted to corroborate everything that was said in that statement about Duncan House. I did not suffer the same abuse at Fettes and even though there was abuse at Duncan House I was confident enough in my own character that I did not let it affect me.
101. I feel desperately sorry for those whose life has been adversely affected by their boarding school life and paradoxically that makes me feel lucky to have got through it relatively unscathed. I didn't feel lucky at the time.

102. I do not tend to react well to criticism that does come from my school days. I do have a lot of self-confidence and write and communicate well. I did think that any terrible things that happened to me were a result of being at Duncan House. Throughout my life I have never used my time at Fettes to gain any advantage.
103. Being in an all-boys environment may have affected how I related to girls. I was seventeen before I had my first girlfriend and realise other boys may have been different.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

104. Other than family, the Inquiry is the first time I have disclosed the abuse to anyone, including the police. If I had told the police and they had spoken with Mr CBN then there would be repercussions. When I did tell my parents they did not take it seriously. They thought it would be character forming for me.

### **Records**

105. I have not applied to get any of my school records.

### **Lessons to be learned**


106. We never sent our children to a boarding school. They both attended state schools and managed to go on to Higher Education and have made a success of their lives. There was no prospect of me sending them to that type of environment. We did not want any of our children to experience what I went through.
107. Being aware of what went wrong in the past is something we must learn from and stop it happening to anyone in the future. I would like to see tools developed to recognise people who were abusing children, to identify them and stop it happening today.



### Other information

108. I was so sceptical of the Common Entrance Exam as being a waste of time. The schools needed them to enrol as they needed the money coming in to survive.
109. In my later life I have read and watched many articles on Fettes, including the BBC podcast from Alex Renton and other items from Nicky Campbell. Alex Renton describes things about Mr Chevenix-Trent. I never saw or experienced any of things that he and others described happening to them. There was another teacher at Fettes, I can't remember his name, who I am aware of was involved in incidents in the showers. Again, I had no issues with him while I was at the school.
110. I hoped by coming forward to the Inquiry that it would be cathartic, and it has been.
111. 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.....

IUE  


Dated.....

5th July 2023