

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

### Witness Statement of

KPY

Support person present: No

1. My full name is KPY. My name at birth and whilst at school was KPY. My date of birth is 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life at home

2. I was born in Northern Ireland. I lived with my mum, and my dad, I had an older half brother and sister, and. Then my younger brother, came along, who was two years younger than me.
3. My parents had a mixed marriage. My mum was Catholic and my dad was Protestant, and there were a lot of troubles in Northern Ireland when I was younger. My dad was a policeman and then became an engineer. We moved abroad to live in Kuwait when I was seven years old to get away from the troubles.
4. I had a stroke at birth and had cerebral palsy. I had treatment and was in hospital a lot as a child in Northern Ireland. I would be in plaster casts for periods of time. My treatment stopped when we went to Kuwait.
5. I went to primary school in Kuwait, and also the first two years of secondary school, which were happy.

6. There was a western community there, who all sent their children to boarding schools, so my parents decided to do the same. His company helped to pay the fees.
7. My older half brother and sister were sent to Lomond Boarding School in Helensburgh quite quickly after moving there. I don't think they had a particularly good time there. My brother had dyslexia, which wasn't recognised then, and he was expelled. My sister had issues too.
8. I was sent to Wellington Boarding School in Ayr for my third and fourth year of school. My parents had bought a house in Ayr so would come over for the summer holidays.
9. I then got sent to Fettes Boarding school in Edinburgh, where my younger brother, [REDACTED] joined me.
10. None of us had a good time in our schools and I think the four of us are really messed up in different ways because of boarding school.

### **Wellington Boarding School, Ayr**

11. I was sent to Wellington Boarding School for girls, just before I turned fourteen years old. I was there from 1983 until 1985, for third and fourth year of high school.
12. My mum took me there. She dropped me off with my trunk and then she went away and I was just there. I was shown my bed, and just left to my own devices so it was very hard.
13. The school was completely foreign to me and I had never been on my own, without my family before. We were from a very working class Irish family and I was not accustomed to the culture and the type of people at boarding schools.
14. There was a big boarding house called Wellington House Boarding House, which was across the road from the senior school, and they also had a smaller boarding house

called Heathfield around the corner and up the street, which was on top of the junior school. There were only a few senior girls in there.

15. I was in Heathfield for my first year, which was a ten minute walk from the school and main boarding house, and then I moved into the main one in my second year there.
16. Wellington also had local girls who came in as day girls.

### **Routine at Wellington School**

17. I shared a room with eight girls in it, on four bunk beds. There were only a few girls from the senior school in Heathfield with me.
18. I didn't know what to do when I first arrived because nobody showed me. Even just getting up in the morning to get to the bathroom was difficult. There was one central bathroom for us to use, but I had to try and fight to get into the bathroom. If other girls got in there first and shut the door then I couldn't get washed in the morning.
19. After getting washed, if I was able to, I would get dressed into my uniform. It was all grey and green, woollen, and quite formal. I would then walk from Heathfield to Wellington House for breakfast. All meals for senior girls were in Wellington House.
20. We would all go across the road to the school for classes, and back across the road at lunch time, before going back to classes in the afternoon.
21. We went back over to Wellington House for the evening meal. Bells were rung at mealtimes but nobody was there to see whether you ate or didn't eat, or how much you ate.
22. After dinner, at night, the few of us girls from Heathfield House were taken back there in a bus. Once we got back, we just got ready for bed and went to sleep.

23. At weekends, when I didn't have classes, I still had to go to Wellington House for my meals and just spend the whole day from breakfast to tea time, there. I didn't have my own room there in first year, so I had to sit about in the common room. I got bullied by other girls so I would hide in the laundry room for most of the weekends.
24. After I had been at Wellington School for only a couple of days, I was walking to the big boarding house in the morning for breakfast, and I fainted on the way. I must have fallen forward because I smashed my front four teeth.
25. I was helped up by girls who were walking with me, and was taken to the boarding house. The head matron looked at me and said I would be fine and they would sort it out later, and just go to school. I don't remember the matron's name.
26. I sat in class with blood coming out of my mouth and all over my clothes, and it was my teacher who said I couldn't be in class and I needed to be medically checked. I was then sent to a dentist.
27. I did eventually make some friends and settle in a bit.
28. I moved into the big boarding house after a year and it was better. The matron's room was downstairs from the bedrooms and so they could be shouted on if you needed them.
29. In my second year, I made friends with a day girl from Ayr who was lovely. Her family took me under their wing and I used to go out with them at weekends, sometimes. They were lovely.

#### *Schooling*

30. I did third and fourth year of secondary school at Wellington, during which time I did my "O" grades.

### *Healthcare*

31. When I fainted and smashed my teeth after being at the school for only a few days, the matron had just sent me to class even though I was bleeding from the mouth, all over my clothes and my teeth were smashed.
32. When I was taken to the dentist, on my teacher's insistence, it was the local dentist who was the father of one of the day girls. He drilled holes in all of my teeth so I had to keep going back to get fillings in them.
33. He also made me crowns for my front teeth, and one of them had his finger print on it because it was so badly done.

### *Family contact and holidays*

34. We had to write a letter to our parents every week, but we weren't allowed to seal them. We assumed this was because we handed them to the matrons, who read them. I assume they just tore it up if anybody wrote anything against the school. We all knew not to say anything against the school, though, because we knew they were being read, so I never told my parents anything.
35. You got home for the holidays. I went to Kuwait for Easter and Christmas holidays, and my parents would come back over for summer so I would spend summer with them in Ayr.

### **Abuse at Wellington School**

36. I was bullied by the other girls as soon as I started. They wouldn't let me get washed in the mornings when I was at Heathfield House. I used to have to try and fight to get into the bathroom to wash my hair, but couldn't. My hair would be greasy and the other girls would laugh at me.

37. There were matrons there but they didn't really care. They didn't do anything to make sure you were ok. Nobody looked after your welfare.
38. In my first year, I used to hide in the laundry room in Wellington house, at the weekends. I didn't have my own room in the main boarding house and didn't want to hang around the common room because I was bullied, so I used to hide.
39. There was a bit of a class system and I would be made fun of by the other girls because I didn't have the right clothes with the right labels.
40. There were a lot of army kids and kids like me there, whose parents were abroad. The day girls who had money and who were from around Ayr were treated better by the teachers and staff. The boarders were an afterthought.
41. During my first year, I was at Wellington House in the evening, waiting outside with a bunch of girls, for the bus to take us back to Heathfield House. We were in the tarmac car park just area outside the boarding house, within the grounds, and I was sat on a bench. These two guys came in through the open gates, into the grounds, and ran at us.
42. The girls all got hysterical and went to run inside. One of the boys got a hold of me, and the other boy got hold of another girl. I think she managed to wriggle away and run inside.
43. The guy that had a hold of me, got me down on the ground, and was on top of me. He had his hands all over me and was laughing, horrible boy. Eventually, after what felt like ages, the matron came out and jostled about with him a bit and got him off me. He ran away and as he left, he shouted that he wasn't finished and he would be back. He must have been about seventeen or eighteen years old, and I was fourteen.
44. I was put on the bus and taken back to Heathfield House, where one of the matron's gave me brandy and put me to bed. She didn't really talk to me about it. She just

played it down as if he hadn't done anything bad and that I was alright. I don't remember the name of any of the matrons.

45. That was a horrible experience for me and I had been terrified. I was always quite a shy, quiet little girl. Nobody had ever laid their hands on me before then.
46. The next day, I was taken to see Mr Greig, the head teacher. I was made to go into his office on my own. He was standing there, and when he saw me, he said: "All these girls here and I hear you got yourself a boy last night. Aren't you the lucky one?"
47. I was standing there awkwardly, not knowing what to say, but I had the wherewithal to know that what he said was awful. I didn't say anything though because I was completely on my own, powerless, and completely intimidated. Then he just said: "Oh well, these things happen. Off you go."
48. That was the extent of the entire discussion about what had happened to me. They didn't notify my parents or the police, but just made a joke that I was lucky to have got a boy.
49. I was terrified from that moment onwards, walking from Heathfield House to Wellington House, in case the boy came back.
50. There were no precautions taken afterwards to lock the gates, or talk to me or any of the girls about. It was just treated like it was no big deal. I felt squashed and scared and had no trust in anybody.
51. That incident impacted me and how I reacted in later situations, and the trust I had in adults and how they would deal with situations.
52. My sister phoned me one day and I broke down on the phone and told her what happened. She was horrified and raging. She told my parents, but they didn't contact the school or do anything, because they were having a ball in Kuwait. My parents were a whole other story.

53. There was one nice, young, female English teacher who tried to help the girls. She heard stories from the girls about how we weren't looked after, and she tried to help. She ended up leaving quite soon. I liked her, but I can't remember her name.

### **Leaving Wellington School**

54. After I had been at Wellington for two years, my parents decided that it was time for my younger brother, [REDACTED] to go to boarding school as well.
55. By this time, my parents had a higher social standing so wanted to send [REDACTED] to a posher boarding school and chose Fettes College in Edinburgh. They decided that I would move there with him.

### **Fettes College, Edinburgh**

56. I went to Fettes in 1985, just before I turned sixteen years old. [REDACTED] had just turned fourteen. He went into third year and I went into lower sixth form.
57. The main school building was the big building in the grounds. The boarding houses for the boys and the girls were separate, but were all in the grounds too.
58. The girl's boarding house was called Arniston. That must have been full, because I was put in a house called Dalmeny, which was mainly a house for the day girls and a few boarding girls that were housed with either teachers who worked at Fettes, or with outside families.
59. Being part of Dalmeny House meant that we had a room in the school that was for us, which had our study desk in it and a common room to hang out in. It was just for day girls or girls who didn't belong to the big boarding house. The Dalmeny House mistress was an English teacher called Pippa Donaldson.



### *Living arrangements*

60. I don't know what the selection process was for the kids that got to stay in the main boarding house. Maybe it was for rich kids whose parents gave money to the school.
61. Me and another girl called [REDACTED] who had been at Wellington with me, were taken to this house [REDACTED] near the school. We met this couple who had young kids. It was their family home and we were shown two rooms in their house, which was where we were going to stay. I think they were called the Hendersons, but I can't be sure.
62. The couple had nothing to do with Fettes, but had obviously just agreed to take on paid lodgers. I don't know if my parents knew that I wouldn't be getting the boarding experience.
63. I was quite self-sufficient there. I had my room and [REDACTED] had hers, and we shared a bathroom. It wasn't a very welcoming home. I just unpacked and did what I had to.
64. The guy was nice and the woman was horrible. It was very clear to us that we were just there for them to get the money. Our rooms were cold. They were supposed to feed us on a Sunday, which they did, but we weren't part of the family. The woman would always be shouting at us to be quiet when we spoke. We just stayed in our rooms and kept out of the way.
65. In the second year, I was given the option to either move in to Pippa Donaldson's house or move in with <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] of the junior school, Mr <sup>CRS</sup> [REDACTED] who lived with his wife, three young children and dog. I would have had my own room with The <sup>CRS-SPO</sup> [REDACTED] whereas I would have had to share at Pippa's house, so I moved in with Mr and Mrs <sup>CRS-SPC</sup> [REDACTED]. They were just lovely and they lived in the school grounds.

66. There was a girl called [REDACTED] who was a first year, who also stayed there. Her dad was considered to be "new money" so she didn't fit in just like I didn't, so we became friends in second year.
67. We got proper, nice food on a Sunday there. Mrs [REDACTED] would also encourage me to have something to eat when I got in from school every day, which she didn't have to do. They were like a proper family.
68. [REDACTED] was placed in a big boarding house called [REDACTED]. He hadn't a clue when he arrived. He had been brought up in the heat in Kuwait from the age of five, and was landed in this cold place full of big rugby guys. He was tiny and had a growth deficiency.

#### **Daily routine at Fettes**

69. I just got myself ready in the morning at the Hendersons. The uniform was a kilt and a jumper, tights, and black shoes. The blazer was brown and magenta.
70. Then I walked to school, which was about a ten minute walk. I got breakfast at the school. I think it was cereal, toast and fruit. All the meals were in the dining room at school.
71. The food at the school dining hall was cheap, nasty and awful. We had meat fritters with tubes in it. I have been a vegetarian since because it put me off meat for life.
72. I went to classes and just followed my timetable. There were three full days of school, and then half days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On full days, we did sports in the afternoon, after lunch, and then went back for two hours of schooling from 4 pm to 6pm. On the half days, we just finished after sports at 4 pm.
73. We had school on a Saturday morning and then the rest of the weekend was our own.

74. At weekends, some of the kids would go out into the town, but I never went. I looked really young and wouldn't have gotten in anywhere. I also didn't have a great social circle because of things that happened to me in my first year there.
75. I would just spend Saturdays in my room, and then see my brother on a Sunday for an hour or two.

### *Schooling*

76. I had done 'O' grades at Wellington so I should have really done Highers next. Fettes, however, operated an English system and put me straight into "A" levels, so I effectively missed out on fifth year studies. I went into lower sixth and then higher sixth at Fettes.
77. It was quite disruptive to my studies to move schools at that time. The curriculum was so different.
78. I did English, [REDACTED] and biology at 'A' level. I was thrown out of biology and was made to do history "A" level in in upper sixth. My final exams were in "A" level English, [REDACTED] and history.
79. <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED] was my [REDACTED] teacher. I spoke out about him being abusive towards me, following a number of incidents where his conduct towards me was unwanted and inappropriate. My speaking out against him affected how I was treated by staff and pupils in the school. I also had to carry on going to his classes and he humiliated me every opportunity he got.
80. I got thrown out of the biology course because they said I wasn't managing. William Marshall was my biology teacher. He was also the headmaster of [REDACTED], which was the same [REDACTED] that <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED] was in.
81. At the time, I just thought it was because I was stupid, but looking back, I think I was put out of his class because I had spoken out about <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED]

82. I was taken out of biology 'A' level and put into history. I had never done history before and had to do it in less than a year in upper sixth.
83. My "A" level results were a C for English, D for history and an E in [REDACTED] I think my grades were affected by what <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED] had done, having to sit in his class despite it all, and because I spoke out about it.

#### *Sporting activities*

84. It was a very different environment for me. The place was massively sports orientated and we had to do sports every single weekday.
85. Quite soon after I was there, I was sent for a swimming test, which I failed. I then had to go back and have swimming lessons with a man called Mr Stein. He was creepy and the lessons were horrific. I stopped going after a while.
86. I had mild cerebral palsy from birth so doing sports was hell on earth. I spent a lot of time actively avoiding hockey and lacrosse, and got into trouble for it.
87. No allowances were made for my condition. I don't know if my parents had told the school about it. They may have told them I had a stroke at birth, because they talked about that, but I don't know.
88. I told the teachers that I couldn't run and I wasn't supposed to do high impact sports, like hockey, but I was just expected to do it. I skived a lot of stuff and stayed out of the way. I got into shooting eventually, which I could do and was good at.

#### *Family contact*

89. [REDACTED] and I didn't see each other much because we were in different houses. He used to be allowed to come and see me on a Sunday for a couple of hours. He would come



and sit in my room, sit in a corner and cry under his jacket because he hated the school so much.

90. I was his big sister and it broke my heart.
91. We just had a holiday relationship with our parents. They had no idea what was going on with me or what I studied. We went to them at Easter and Christmas in Kuwait, and then in the summer, we would stay with them in Scotland.

#### *Tutor meetings*

92. In Fettes, you were assigned a tutor who was like a guidance teacher who you went to if anything was wrong. You were supposed to go to tutor meetings in your tutor's flat, within the grounds, and usually with other kids present too.
93. It was quite a nice idea, if it was done right, because you were invited into someone's home and it would be made cosy.
94. My tutor was my [REDACTED] teacher, called <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED], and he was quite youngish. His flat was in [REDACTED] and he invited his tutor group along to his flat for the meetings. He arranged for some of those meetings to be just me and him and was inappropriate and abusive during them, which led to my tutor being changed.
95. Towards the end of my first year, my tutor changed to Pippa Donaldson who was the head of Dalmeny House, and she had tutor meetings with me at Dalmeny House. It was more a one to one in her office and I had to give her a written report of how my week had been so she had a written record that I could discuss with her. She was nice with me but I wasn't transferred to an alternative, cosy tutor group.

#### *Inspections*

96. There were never any inspections. Nobody from outside came in to see what was going on in the school.

## **Abuse at Fettes**

*Bill Stein – swimming teacher*

97. I had two swimming lessons with Mr Stein after failing a swimming test soon after I arrived at Fettes. It was in the swimming pool within the school grounds and Mr Stein was employed by Fettes.
98. The lessons were horrific. I was on my own and he was in the water with me. He lifted me up and tickled me. He got behind me when I was swimming and moved my legs about from behind.
99. While he was behind me and moving my legs about, he was laughing and saying:  
"If you don't swim, I'm going to get you. I'm going to bite your feet."  
Then he put my feet in his mouth and bit them. It was horrible. I had just turned sixteen years old at the time.
100. When I went into the changing rooms to get dressed afterwards, he came in after me while I was in the shower. There was another girl in the changing room at the time and I think her being there saved me because he turned around and left.
101. I had to go back for another lesson after that and he did the same things again, with his hands all over me as he tickled me. I refused to go back to any more lessons with him after that. Mr Stein complained that I wasn't turning up for lessons and I got pulled up and told off by a teacher for it, but I still didn't go back.
102. I didn't tell any adult about it, because I had been in in a similar position before at Wellington House and nobody had done or said anything helpful. I did tell my brother, [REDACTED], about it when I saw him at the weekend, and he said that he had heard about Mr Stein and what he was like, so he was a known creep.

103. [REDACTED] said that he too had swimming lessons with him, together with other other children, including girls, and the girls had been visibly uncomfortable with Mr Stein. They had later said that Mr Stein was really handsy. These were girls who were the same age as [REDACTED] which was thirteen or fourteen years old at the time.
104. His name was Bill Stein and he was older, maybe in his fifties. I remember he had a drooping mouth, like he had had a stroke or something.
105. One day when I was walking home, Mr Stein drove past in his car and he slowed down and crawled alongside me as I walked. I was trying to avoid him and look the other way, and he called over telling me to get in the car and he'd give me a lift. I said no because I was almost home and it was a short walk. I kept walking and started walking faster. He then demanded more sternly that I get in the car, and I said no again. He kept insisting and saying he was keeping me safe and I kept saying no. Eventually, he got annoyed and shouted, "Stupid Girl" and drove away.

KPB [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] *teacher and tutor*

106. KPB [REDACTED] was my [REDACTED] teacher and tutor who stayed in [REDACTED]. There were about eight to ten of us, mixed girls and boys at the first tutor meeting. He had the fire on, we had hot chocolate and toast, and he asked everyone how they were getting on. It was really cosy and I thought it was quite nice.
107. I was quite quiet and I remember on the first meeting he asked me if I had a boyfriend, and I said no. I remember thinking the question made me uncomfortable. I remember another girl looking at me so maybe she felt the same.
108. I went back a second time, and it was the same kind of set up and I remember thinking it was quite nice.
109. I then got notice that there was another tutor meeting, but when I went along, nobody else was there. I remember Mr KPB [REDACTED] acting surprised that nobody else was there. I

said I would just go but he said I may as well stay, as the fire was on and offered me a drink.

110. I sat down and he slowly moved closer to me. I remember feeling uncomfortable and wanted to get up and walk out, but I was being polite and didn't know what to do.
111. He was talking away, asking if I had a boyfriend yet and he couldn't see why not because he could see how attractive I was. He came and sat next to me and was telling me he found me very attractive. I didn't know what to say, but I did eventually manage to make excuses and get out.
112. There were a lot of glamorous, self-assured girls at Fettes but I was not one of them. I was a little, mousy, shy girl. I came across as a little girl, and I couldn't have been less flattered by this. I thought he was horrible and greasy and he made me feel uncomfortable. He was round, had a pot marked, spotty face, had dark, black hair and was not an attractive man. It doesn't make a difference that he was unattractive, but that is what he looked like.
113. I had another tutor meeting with a group of people after that, which was fine.
114. The one after that, was just me and him again. He did the same thing as he had last time. Insisted I stay, came and sat next to me and kept telling me how attractive he found me. This time he put his hand on my shoulder, then on my leg and knee.
115. After that, I didn't go to the next tutor meeting. I remember staying in my room at the Hendersons with the light off when it was time for the meeting. I'd decided I wasn't going because I was terrified.
116. The doorbell rang and it was one of the [REDACTED] sixth form boys who Mr <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED] had sent to get me and escort me safely to the tutor meeting. I didn't know how to say no so I just went with the boy. He was nice enough and chatted away as he walked with me. He was just doing as he was told.



117. When I got there, there was nobody else at the meeting, and <sup>KPB</sup> just smirked at me as if to say he had got me. He did the same thing again. He sat next to me telling me how attractive I was and this time put his arm around me. He didn't kiss me, but he was slobbering over me with his mouth on my neck. I was screaming inside and trying to move away from him.
118. I eventually made my excuses and got out. That time I did tell somebody and that changed everything for me.
119. I asked to speak to Pippa Donaldson, who was my house mistress at Dalmeny House, and was invited to a meeting with her. I told her what had happened with <sup>KPB</sup> and she was genuinely horrified and raging.
120. She was angry for me and said we would sort this. I thought thank god. Then, I can only imagine she was quietened.
121. The next thing I knew, I was being told by <sup>KPB</sup> who was still my teacher, that I was being taken out of his tutor group. He told me this angrily after class.
122. Then Pippa Donaldson confirmed that I was being taken out of his tutor group and that she was now going to be my go to person. When she spoke to me about it, I remember the change in her. She seemed sad as if she had been squashed.
123. I did <sup>KPB</sup> at A Level so I had to keep going into his class. At first, he would be red, almost with embarrassment when he saw me. Then that turned into anger, and he would humiliate me in class whenever he could. He would demand answers from me and make me look stupid, and all the other kids would snigger.
124. Up until then, I had an ok start and had some friends but this changed the way people treated me. The word had got out about what I said about <sup>KPB</sup> and the kids seemed to know what Fettes wanted them to know. They thought I was a liar and a fantasist and had tried to ruin a man's career.

125. I didn't have any friends in my own year after that. The change in everyone was immediate. I was totally left out by my year group whereas I had been a part of it before that. The kids would snigger when they would see me and shoulder barge me. I would have to have lunch by myself.
126. Even the teachers started treating me badly. I was thrown out of biology class and told I wasn't clever enough for it. The biology teacher, William Marshall, was the head of [REDACTED], which was <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED].
127. I made friends with two girls in the year below me towards the end of my time there. [REDACTED] who lived with me at Mr and Mrs <sup>CRS-SPC</sup> [REDACTED]'s house, and a girl called [REDACTED] who I am still friends with now.
128. I didn't fit in at Fettes and I think these men knew that. I had just arrived, my family weren't around and I didn't have many friends. I was shy and like a fish out of water, and I think that is why these men picked me out.
129. I don't know if other teachers would have known that <sup>KPB</sup> [REDACTED] was inviting girls around to his flat, but he had the freedom to do it. He had an upper sixth boy come and collect me and walk me into a fully operative, busy, boys' boarding house without a care in the world. He didn't even try to disguise it as a group meeting where nobody else had turned up. That is how confident he was about what he was doing. He knew he was safe.

#### *Culture at Fettes*

130. I remember being told in Fettes, that I didn't know how the system worked. Basically, they were saying that you just had to shut up and put up. I am sure a staff member had said something along the lines of how boarding school toughened you up and I didn't get it because I didn't come from a boarding school family. I can't remember who said it though.

131. My friend [REDACTED] apologised to me later in life, as adults. She was the year below me and stayed on for another year after I left. A girl in her year had claimed she was having an affair with a young teacher, and the other girls, including [REDACTED] had treated her as I had been treated. They had been encouraged by the culture to exclude her, and make her feel like she was a fantasist.
132. Three months later, his wife had turned up. He had been married and the girl hadn't known and she had been so devastated. [REDACTED] realised she must have been telling the truth about the affair.
133. The teachers all knew what was going on and they all protected each other.
134. It was a world that you were completely locked into. The teachers who were there had all been there for years so they were part of the culture. They stayed because they liked it, and if anybody didn't like it, they would have to leave.

- [REDACTED]
135. I get more upset thinking about my brother, [REDACTED]
136. It was horrible in Fettes for [REDACTED]. He begged and pleaded with my parents to get him out of there if they loved him. They didn't. They have a lot to answer for.
137. You became aware very early on that you were trapped there, alone and had no leg to stand on, especially if you were one of the lower class people there. The people whose parents were wealthy, were around and paid into the school, were treated better because the teachers knew they weren't alone.
138. My brother, [REDACTED] was and is a good person. He was someone who really believed in justice. He and his friends saw a boy in their house getting bullied by a couple of older boys, so they went to report it to the teachers.

139. The boy that was doing the bullying was from a well to do family. [REDACTED] was told by Mr Henderson, the deputy head teacher, that there was no evidence that this was true, and that he didn't know how things worked. He was told that there was evidence that [REDACTED] and his friends had been the ones doing the bullying.
140. [REDACTED] and his friends were put on a punishment for months and had to report to Mr Henderson at 8:00 am every morning. [REDACTED] had detention every single day for months. This was all because they had tried to do the right thing and report bullying.
141. [REDACTED] eventually settled, but that is just because he had to be there and he had to make the most of it. He got into rugby and cricket and got by.

#### **Reporting of Abuse at Fettes**

142. I didn't tell anybody about Bill Stein, except for my brother, [REDACTED]
143. I told Pippa Donaldson, the house mistress at Fettes, about [REDACTED] <sup>KPB</sup>. She reacted by removing me from his tutor group and I had to have one to one meetings with her instead, which felt like a punishment. I still had to go to his [REDACTED] classes after that though, where he never missed an opportunity to humiliate me.
144. I don't think anything happened to [REDACTED] <sup>KPB</sup> If he even got his knuckles rapped, I didn't hear about it. He continued to teach there for quite a while after I left.
145. My brother, [REDACTED] reported bullying and was told by the teachers that he didn't know how things worked. As a result of trying to do the right thing, he and his friends ended up being put on punishment for months for speaking out.
146. I don't remember who the headmaster of Fettes was at the time. We never saw or dealt with him. I don't know what his involvement in dealing with any allegations of abuse and bullying, was.

147. [REDACTED] did beg and cry to my parents to get him out of Fettes, but they ignored him. I knew not to bother telling them anything because they wouldn't have done anything. They didn't care.

### **Life as an adult**

148. I didn't get any of my university places with my results. I went back to Ireland and got into university there through clearing. I did psychology. I wanted to understand myself, people and why they do what they do.
149. It was a small, lovely university. I found my people, felt safe, secure, loved and had fun. I got to be me. It was amazing.
150. I lived with a house full of guys because I had enough of girls at boarding school. They were great guys who looked after me, and I learned that guys could be nice, which was great.
151. I met my husband at university. I started having panic attacks towards the end of my time at university and I was still on medication for that when I got married at the end of 1999. I was really bad with it. My husband stuck by me. I eventually got diagnosed, got medication, and got my life back.
152. I worked as a classroom assistant in a special needs school in Belfast for a while. Then we moved to Scotland and I did teacher training, and have been progressively building up from there. I have always worked with children and families with issues. I worked in a women's refuge for a while.
153. I got into primary teaching, and I loved it. I have done lots of different courses, including CUSTTAD, which is combined use of sand trays, and talk and draw therapy. It is about creating conditions which are conducive to children sharing their concerns.

154. I now work as a nurture teacher, which I have done for seven years. I work with children who have emotional issues and I draw on my psychology and the courses that I have done, and my own personal experiences. I love my job.
155. I had seven miscarriages over many years, so that was another blip in my life. Then I had a son. He is now thirteen years old and has Asperger's. He is amazing and a total gift.
156. I now have arthritis and back problems, which is because of the cerebral palsy.
157. I had some counselling when I had my miscarriages. I was off for six months. Although it was about my miscarriages, I talked about my family and my school experiences.
158. I have never reported my abuse to the police.

### **Impact**

159. I have always had trouble with my teeth after my fall while at Wellington Boarding School, because they were done so badly. The dentist had drilled holes in every one of my teeth because he got money for it. I have had to spend thousands on them and they still cause me problems.
160. What happened to me in Fettes has affected my whole life and who I am. It affected my results at the time and my prospects. They did it deliberately.
161. I have always trivialised what happened to me by saying to myself it wasn't a big deal, and it is not like I was raped, and things like that happened all the time. That was what I was made to believe as a child, that it was nothing and I was making a fuss out of nothing. When I think back to what <sup>KPB</sup> did, I am annoyed at myself for sitting there and not running out, and for going back to those meetings.



162. I have had years of conditioning of me by not being believed, being told that I was from a different class who just couldn't cope with the ways of boarding school, and that I was in the wrong. I was ridiculed and mocked whilst at school and after, and that resulted in me doubting myself.
163. You start to believe that maybe you are a fantasist or an attention seeker who brought it on yourself, or that maybe you exaggerated. This made me lose my confidence, and I kept my head down as I moved through life.
164. It has affected my confidence and relationships. The choices I have made and the situations I have put myself in. I have ended up in situations when a guy has come onto me and I have frozen, like I did in Fettes, and let things happen when I shouldn't have. That became the pattern because that was what happened when I was a child.
165. Then I would come away from that situation blaming myself again, thinking I must have encouraged it and made it happen, just as I did at school. So I would end up in uncomfortable situations I shouldn't have been in, and was compliant when I shouldn't have been. You let people control you because you feel powerless, like you did as a child.
166. I have had ten years of panic attacks, which started in my twenties. I think going to university had made me realise how life should be and then I had to face settling down outside of university. I think what had happened to me at school hit me then.
167. I lost myself for ten years completely. I was agoraphobic and couldn't go to work. I was crawling on my hands and knees on the floor of my own home. I became insular and lost all connection with my extended family and friends over that time. Then I moved to Scotland so didn't reconnect with them for over twenty years.
168. I had tests for epilepsy and brain scans because nobody knew what it was for a long time. It got worse and worse, and my life was very limited. I was in a constant state of panic, thinking I was going to throw up or die. It took a long time to figure out what was

happening to me and that it was panic attacks. I then eventually got medication and it worked.

169. My husband stuck by me, but I think there was a lot of control in my relationship. I had nobody but him for the ten years that I was suffering from panic attacks, and also the time I was suffering from the miscarriages. I think that is because of things I put up with, because I was conditioned to just put up with things. I have a realisation now that I have given too much of myself and changed myself to avoid awkward situations.
170. Being a nurture teacher these last seven years has made me really need to look deeply at myself. It has given me a lot of insight into myself. I have done a lot of work on me, and I thought I was ok, but I am not. I am really angry now about what happened to me.
171. I am good at my job and working with kids because I have been through what I have been through. I fight for them and give them a voice.
172. Boarding school put all of those doubts in me when I was a developing child and they did really well. They did a really good job because those feelings stayed. It has affected every relationship I have had and every conversation I have had. That self-doubt is always there, and I am a self-aware person who has done a lot of work on myself, and I still feel like this. It still breaks me every day.
173. I have been a bad friend over the years because when I move away from somewhere, which I have done a lot, I lose touch with my friends. Loving people hurts too much so I just let them go and run away when I get too close. I know that came from boarding school because I just don't trust anybody and expect them to let me down. I test relationships, sabotage them and run away, as a way of self-protection. I try to keep things superficial.
174. What happened at school also had a massive impact on my relationship with my parents because I felt that they weren't there for us when these bad things happened.



175. Having my son made me see things through his eyes so he is a massive trigger. I have had to be very careful not to be an over protective, hysterical parent. It breaks my heart to think how much I love him and how much I would do anything to protect him, to then compare that with what I went through and how young and alone I was. I didn't get the nurture and love that I give now to him and the kids I work with.
176. Despite now having a psychology degree and doing all the work that I have on myself, those feelings of shame and being disbelieved are still there, even though I can objectively see it wasn't my fault, Fettes did a really good job on me to put all the blame on me, and that feeling has stayed. It is a lot to unlearn and it scares me how much those feelings are still there.
177. That feeling of powerlessness I had as a child didn't go away. I still revert to that scared child who will comply to make it all go away. That then makes me angry because I know I am strong and independent person.
178. [REDACTED] is a messed up boy from his experiences in Fettes. Seeing what it did to him broke my heart. He was only two years younger than me but he has never settled. He put a wall up to survive and it never came down. He can't let anyone in.
179. We went back as adults to visit [REDACTED] and he sat outside and cried for ages, and I just sat with him. He and I are the only ones that understand what that place did to us, and that is with me having spoken out about what happened to me and him not having done that. I suffered for him and he suffered for me.

### **Final thoughts**

180. My motivation was to be heard because I have a voice now and I didn't as a child. I also want to help other people, if my story could back up anyone else's who had a similar experience.

181. In all boarding schools, you were just expected to put up and shut up with the bullying and abuse. If you didn't, then you were deemed to be from a lower class who didn't understand how it worked. Fettes was horrendous for having that attitude.
182. I also want the institution to take responsibility. All the lawyers, judges and top media guys are old public school boys. They are all connected and will protect each other to the hilt. They will all say the same things about me as they did at the time, that I have a chip on my shoulder, that I didn't fit in, that I want money. I don't want any of those things, but they will say all of those things to protect themselves.
183. They are all people in high places and they protect each other, and I want them to answer for this. It worries me still that they will get away with things because of the old boys network that exists.
184. 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... KPY .....

Dated... 22nd October 2020 .....