

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KKI

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is KKI. My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before boarding school

2. I am an only child and was born in Falkirk to my mother, who was a housewife at that time and my father, who was a tool maker. I was a baby when we moved to live in South Africa as my father had taken a new job there. We stayed there until I was nearly five years old and returned to live in different areas in Falkirk.
3. I started my school life at Camelon Junior School and then we moved from Falkirk to Grangemouth. I don't know why, but when I was in Camelon, the school put me into a class with three or four other boys. When I was in that room I can't remember being given any education and we just sat there for most of the day. When I was in any of the normal class size I was always sat at the back of the classroom with the three or four other boys.
4. When I moved to Grangemouth I transferred to Bowhouse Primary. When I was there I was placed in some remedial classes as I was having difficulty with my reading and writing. I think I was in Bowhouse for about two years before moving to Fettes. My mother during this period believed there was something wrong with my learning and went to university to qualify as an English teacher. She identified the issue as a new thing at that time, dyslexia.

5. When I was at Bowhouse mum arranged for me to be assessed by Dr Catriona Collins and she diagnosed that I had dyslexia. I was given a half day extra tuition by Dr Collins at her house in Edinburgh one day a week, to help bring on my English and maths. When I was home at night, for about two hours, my mother would help me go over what we had studied that day and with that help I was able to participate in the class the following day. Even to this day I still have issues with my dyslexia.
6. It was around this time that my mother was attending university to qualify as an English teacher. I thought I had been receiving some funding for attending Fettes, but I found out later when she was teaching my mother used most of that money to pay for schooling.
7. My mother had always been disparaging of the local school and the education they offered. She always wanted me to have a better education and along with the research with Dr Collins, they chose Fettes. I was not involved in this selection process.

Fettes, Edinburgh

8. I was made aware that there was a unit being built at George Watson's. This was to be for pupils, like myself, with issues such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. The unit was not ready until I was due to be in Senior School. In the meantime, I was being sent to Fettes as a day pupil.
9. Prior to attending as a pupil, I had to sit the common entrance exam. My mother ensured that I had extra tuition to help me pass the exam. Before the start of the summer holidays, I was told I had passed and I then had to do a one-to-one interview with Mr FTG SNR of the junior school.
10. I did have a visit to the school before I started and I was shown things like the rifle range, woodwork classes and the art studio. I suspect I walked around the junior school, but I can't remember if that was the case.

11. I started the school in either 1970/1971, and was there until 1974. To begin with my time at Fettes was alright but it got worse. There was a class distinction, and I was from a lower background than the other pupils,

Routine at Fettes, Edinburgh

First day

12. From the first day I went to Fettes I travelled to Edinburgh on the train along with my mother. That first day my mother dropped me at the school gate and then went to the library, to study for her teaching degree, for the rest of the day. I can remember walking down a small drive to the school building. As I went into the school I learned we had to hang our coats on the hooks at the side of the front door.
13. The first year I spent at the school the classrooms were on the ground floor and the next year we moved to the upper floor. I was held back a year in an effort to bring my English standard up. I don't have a lot of memories of my time there and can only remember just following everyone around. I think I was introduced to the teachers, but I can't remember names.
14. I can remember it was my 2nd last year at Fettes that Ian Wares arrived at the school. I don't remember the exact date, but he was to become not only my maths but at one point my Latin teacher. He was also my form teacher and housemaster.
15. In our form room we had box shelves which were effectively our lockers. It was where we could keep the books we needed for our classwork. It was encouraged and became a regular occurrence for my books to be messed up by the other boys and sometimes they were destroyed. I was also made to feel like a fool in the class.

Mealtimes/Food

16. If you were caught with your elbows on the table, or using the wrong cutlery, then some teachers would send you away, without being allowed to eat your meal. You had to do without your food. There were some good teachers who would maybe speak to you and allow you to continue with your meal.
17. Although I don't remember much about the food when I was there I do remember we were given a small bread loaf cut into quarters. You then had to tear small pieces of the loaf to eat it, if not it was taken off you and given nothing else to eat. At the break times sometimes, we were given some milk along with some iced buns.

Schooling

18. I found that as I had difficulty with some subjects I was often asked, by different teachers, to go to the front of the class, where the teacher would belittle my attempts at having to read a passage from a book.
19. I had Ian Wares as my maths and Latin teacher but after having the issues with him, described later in my statement, I was taken out of some of the non-essential classes. I was now having extra tuition with Dr Collins, two or three times a week. This was to help me prepare me in my later move to George Watson's. I was no longer doing sports, home economics, woodwork, maths, Latin and French. At the remaining classes that I did attend I was being given one to one teaching, by some of the older and retired teachers.
20. A lot of the subjects were taught in the form class but for some we went to that class. The music was in a separate building, art was the old bakery cellars in the main school, woodwork and home economics were in a separate block. There was a separate room where you would get changed for sports.
21. There were occasions when I was in Ware's Latin class, and he would be tasking me with reading a passage. If it was not done properly then he would slap me over the

head with his open hand. It was a full hard slap. If he was in a particular bad mood he would pick up the chalk or the chalk board duster and throw it at someone who was annoying him.

22. I was aware even at that age that my education was important, and it would help me in my adult life. Despite all the issues happening to me I tried to make improvements all the time.

Discipline

23. Some of the things you may be disciplined for would be running in the corridor or having your elbows on the table when you were having your lunch. One trend by a lot of the teachers when running in the corridor was they would grab you by ears or by the hair and pushed up against the wall or they would throw you to the ground. This type of punishment was also passed from the teachers to the older pupils, who were due to leave that year.
24. I did see some other children being punished by teachers, some for minor discretions. Some of the teachers would hit you over the back of the hand with a wooden ruler, but the main physical punishment was being given the belt over the hand. I think I was given the belt once but can't remember what I had done wrong or who the teacher was.
25. I did see some other boys being taken out of the class to be given the cane and when they came back they were crying and had difficulty in sitting down.
26. One of the punishments would involve having to run around the grounds of the school and do so within a certain time. If you did not do it quick enough you were made to run it again, until you attained the right time. That was usually because you had done something silly during sports. Some other punishment would be for any pupil causing an issue may be told to stand in a corner of the room and face out of the window. They were not allowed to say or do anything while they were stood there.

27. In the first year I was punished on a regular basis but when I was in the second year I had learned not to annoy the teachers and thereby was punished less.

Abuse at Fettes, Edinburgh

28. In Mr Wares class he was fully aware that I had issues with my reading and writing. To compound the embarrassment, he would have me go to the front of the class and have me try and read my homework and some of the questions to the rest of the class. I can remember that the first time I was standing there it was behind the desk beside his table, so the rest of the class could not see what he was doing. As I stood there he put his hands up the inside of my shorts and fondled me. I was really scared and did not know what to do to stop it.
29. The next day I was so scared about being in his class that I deliberately soiled my underwear. When he told me to come back up to the front of the class he repeated the abuse, but this time he found I had dirtied myself and immediately pulled his hand back. As he did that he was shouting and yelling at me, his eyes bulging out, calling me a dirty boy. I realised that this seemed to be the only way to stop his abuse and as a result I soiled myself each day before going to his class. I was extremely embarrassed but had to try and protect myself. He also threw a book at me and most days he told me to read a passage to the class.
30. I was not the only boy he had up to the front and abuse. There were many boys, but it was always out of sight as he used the desk to hide what he was doing.
31. There was a boarder that I knew, who went to live abroad. He strongly warned me never to accept any offer to stay over when Wares was involved. He told me that Wares had abused him when he was a resident at the school. There was another boy I knew, who was also abused by Wares. He was abusing some boy or another in the class, if not each day, certainly a few times each week. I can't recall if it was just the maths or if it was also when he taught us Latin.

32. There was an occasion I bought a Space 1999 model for £5 from another pupil. During that day the money I had given him went missing and he was blaming me for stealing it. I had denied it strongly to the teachers. The teachers then decided that because no one had come forward, the whole year I was in, were to be searched to try and find the money. We were all taken into different rooms with different teachers, including Wares, being involved. Each of us were then strip searched. They even made sure that we all parted our bum cheeks to make sure we had not hidden the money.
33. There was a lot of bullying from some of the other boys. This would involve being called a scroat, messing up my clothes and hair to make me look generally untidy. This is the reason I am not in any school photographs as I was too scruffy. I still don't like having my photograph taken. Vulnerable people, like myself, were subjected to beatings from some of the other boys. On some of the occasions I was being beaten there were teachers watching what was taking place. Other boys would trip me up as I walked passed or started punching me. If they were not able to get hold of me in the class I would often be beaten as I walked away from the school.
34. The bullying from the children was condoned by the teachers. They were fully aware, but their attitude was it was a pupil issue, and it was up to the pupils to sort it out. A lot of the older pupils who were bullies, had themselves been bullied. I could never have graduated to this as I cannot even face up to people and am not a violent person in anyway. I cannot even impose my personality on others.

Reporting of abuse at Fettes, Edinburgh

35. I did try to tell Mr **FTG** about what Wares was doing to me. This was about a year before I left Fettes. After telling him, his response to me was that he was not believing me, and he said I had an over fertile imagination and what would my parents think of me saying those things about a teacher. He told me the school was trying to help me with my reading and writing and I was risking this by coming forward. He put a great guilt trip on me. Although he said this I still had Wares as my form teacher but that was only for about fifteen minutes each day. I was taken out of all his other classes. I knew

that when I was in the state school I was in a classroom doing nothing but here I was being educated and taking things in.

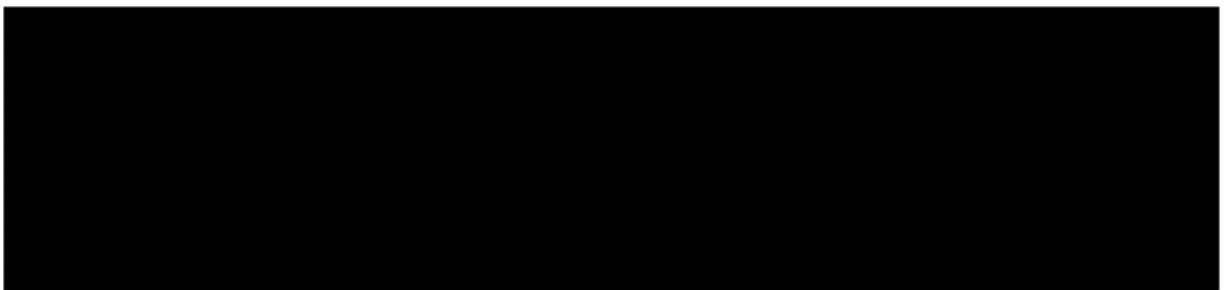
36. I think some of the teachers in the school knew what Wares was doing and they did nothing to stop it. I think they cared but they did not want to ruffle feathers with the school. I think one of the reasons for them not doing anything was they were too frightened in case they lost their jobs.
37. When it came to the issues of bullying we were always taught that anything that happened in the school, stayed within the school. It was frowned upon if you talked about it to anyone.

Leaving Fettes

38. When I was due to go into senior school I transferred from Fettes and went to George Watson's. In her role as an educational psychologist, Dr Collins, had succeeded in opening up the unit at Watson's to help with pupils with learning issues. Along with this my mother continued to arrange for additional private tuition for my English and maths.
39. I can remember that when I had left Fettes and still at Watson's we would be able to get tickets to watch the rugby at Murrayfield. One time I was sitting a few rows behind some Fettes boys, who were being supervised by Wares. I could see the wee boy who was sitting next to Wares and throughout the match the boy was terrified.

George Watson's School, Edinburgh

40.



41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

Life after school

46. I was seventeen when I left George Watson's, and I went on to study at Stevenson College. I got my Higher in Modern Studies, which was really good, as I did not study as much as I maybe should have.
47. I went on to work as a nurse. There was a bad incident where a patient passed away in a bad way, and it really affected me. I could no longer carry out my role and swapped over to working with computers and IT at the factory where my father worked and stayed there for a few years.
48. I then went down to work in Birmingham a large bank and I became a specialist in a Databases. They were taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland and I was made redundant. I took up contracting and various, helpdesk and IT programming. I worked for a company that was doing medical e-rostering software. I stayed there for around five years before once again being made redundant, after they were taken over. One of the hospitals I worked with offered me a year long contract doing e-rostering pay role. After that year I was taken on with them on a permanent basis. I then transferred to a hospital in Birmingham being responsible for e-rostering of all the nursing staff.
49. My mother was becoming ill, and I came back to Scotland and worked for [REDACTED] Health Board where I worked on the e-rostering system. I now carry out the programming for the e-rostering of nursing staff and patient acuity, to ensure there is cover and the patients are being looked after properly.
50. I met and married my wife [REDACTED] thirty years ago, but it was only in the last few months that I have told her about the abuse I suffered at Fettes. [REDACTED] tells me it made sense as I [REDACTED] could never talk about the time I spent at Fettes.
51. I would have loved to have children but even around other children I have such a fear of doing anything which someone may find as being inappropriate. Fettes had

damaged me so much with all the self-doubt. I can project self-confidence, but I am churning inside.

Impact

- 52. My memory throughout my life had led me to understand I can't recall people's names. The only way I do remember is if I am constantly being reminded of their name.
- 53. I am very unsure of myself when I am around people and have difficulty trusting people. I don't have many long-term friends. Throughout my life I had suicidal thoughts as I felt I could never escape the control Fettes had over me. Everything you did at Fettes was never good enough and was continually questioned by the staff. Abuse does not only affect the victims but can impact on their partners and their family.
- 54. I have found a change recently in my life, where if I find I have an issue with anything, I find the solution and make sure I follow it through, without worrying about any consequences which may result in being in trouble.
- 55. I have joined a self-help discussion group called Andy's Man Shed. There is a group of us males and we can talk about anything that might be bothering us. I also have love for photography, and I will wait for hours in the driving snow, just to make sure I get the perfect shot. I use this time to focus my mind.

Reporting of Abuse

- 56. Even after I left school life, I could not tell my mother what was happening. Later in life I had to help stop my mother committing suicide and if I was to tell her then what was happening that would have led to another event. I have not reported any of the abuse to the police or any other organisation.

Records

57. I do have my report cards from Fettes, but I have put them aside. Some of the comments are funny and some are quite cheeky. There is one comment from a fiddle player saying I can't even hold it, never mind play it.

Lessons to be Learned

58. I would like the pupils of today to be aware not to tolerate any abuse. I think there should be mandatory public disclosure of abuse happening at school. I am not saying the names of the teachers should be disclosed but the issue should and the action the school has taken to prevent it should be made public. I also believe the governors and the senior school staff should be held more accountable for their actions.
59. Wares came from another school to Fettes and then left and was then employed in another school. Recent media articles show that he was referred by Fettes and being treated at hospital for wanting to abuse children. I believe this was the second referral, as he had also been referred at the Academy. The governors of the schools were aware what he had been doing and they should have put a stop to him and his activities. This allowed him to harm many other children which was blatantly avoidable.
60. There should be something like the Sex Offenders Register for teaching staff and more put into place to protect children. Ideally, I would like to see abuse of children in schools, eradicated, but I realise that is too difficult.
61. I would also like to see a special needs governor as part of all schools make up, as it is in some schools in England. It should be an elected role. The main issue I see with schools having this role is that the school would then be certified as capable of helping vulnerable children with special needs and that in turn would require the school to spend extra money to complete that requirement. I am not sure if there is anything similar in Scotland.

Other information

62. I would like to see Wares charged and dealt with at court for the abuse he carried out on all the boys he dealt with. I doubt that this will ever happen. The school governors also need to be held to account for not taking appropriate action to stop the likes of Wares and others. They could not have possibly been unaware of his actions as every pupil he ever had in class was terrified throughout their time at school.
63. I have been to the school on a couple of occasions. I have no issues with the school, but I do have issues with the teachers and what they did to the children. Fettes gave me a good education, but it came at a huge cost in my life, for which I am paying to this day.
64. I have met with some people in a former pupil group, but they are so wrapped up on the bad things and I cannot cope with those bad memories.
65. I seriously thought about coming to the Inquiry when it first started but kept putting it off. It was only recently when I read an article in the Daily Mail, which mentioned incidents similar to what I had suffered. I later learned from another news article that Wares was still alive. I saw a Panorama programme and there was a person on that episode who I knew from school. This had such a profound effect on me that I phoned the Inquiry line the next day, and I was in tears. It was after that when I came home I was able to tell my wife [REDACTED] all about it.
66. 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.

KKI

Dated.....

6 / May / 2024