

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ICA

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is ICA. My date of birth is /1940. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background/Qualifications

2. In 1964 I got my M.A. at St. Andrew's University. In 1965 I got my diploma in education at Edinburgh University and my Teacher's Special Certificate at Moray House College.

Employment at Edinburgh Academy

3. My first teaching role was in 196 as an assistant prep school teacher at Edinburgh Academy and I carried out that role until I retired in 200. When I was at St. Andrew's University the Rector of Edinburgh Academy wrote to me and invited me to go and teach at the Academy and that was it.
4. I did provide two references, they were from my tutor and my professor at St. Andrew's University.
5. I was an assistant teacher, so an ordinary teacher of. The subjects I taught were, and. I also took rugby and cricket coaching. The age group I taught was nine, ten and eleven year olds, all prep school.

6. My line manager when I was teaching at Edinburgh Academy was the headmaster of the prep school. To start with that was Mr James Britton, which was followed by Mr James Burnet, then Mr Lawrence Smith and finally Mr Campbell Paterson. They were the four prep school headmasters during my time.
7. One role I had at Edinburgh Academy was the organising or assisting in the organising of many of the trips that the boys would go on. There were many after school activities in which I took part.

Policy

8. I didn't have any responsibility for any of the school policies, but I did contribute, in that I was asked to give my opinion about some things. I would think that would come from the deputy headmaster who was John Brownlee.
9. I'm sure there were written policies latterly but I can't recall them all. There was one for Forward Planning, in relation to lessons, so by such and such a time we had to get the classes to such and such a stage, for example. I don't recall much about policy documents, I really didn't have a great deal of involvement in anything like that.

Recruitment/training of Staff

10. I wasn't involved in the recruitment or training of any staff at Edinburgh Academy.
11. I attended a large number of training courses throughout my time at Edinburgh Academy. Some were once a month, some were a bit further apart, some would last for a week, some would be a single day and I attended some during the actual school holidays. I went to different places for training courses and they were offered to me by the Academy.

12. The courses included modern language French, modern maths, history teaching, geography teaching, religious and moral education teaching, first aid, rugby coaching at Fettes and cricket coaching in Shropshire.

Supervision/staff appraisal/evaluation

13. I didn't have any responsibility for any other staff and didn't complete any appraisals or evaluations for any staff.

Living arrangements

14. Edinburgh Academy prep school was and still is in Arboretum Road, Edinburgh. The boarding houses were opposite in Kinnear Road but they're all sold now. There would be about twenty five boys in McKenzie House, the house I resided in, and it was all boys.
15. The boarding houses included senior school boys and as well as prep school boys. It was really the rector who was in charge of the boarding houses. There was also a matron and sometimes an assistant matron for every boarding house.
16. I was involved in residential care at Edinburgh Academy as I was resident there for a about five years. I was an assistant House Tutor and resided in McKenzie House. That would have been from 1966 until 1971. The teacher in charge of the house was a Mr ICG [REDACTED].
17. My role as an assistant House Tutor was to take the children out at weekends and supervise them. I would take them out for games, supervise homework, take them to swimming and other events, take them on walks, anything really.
18. When I was actually on duty I would help the matron in the evenings and I would be responsible for making sure children were ready for bed and not making any kind of

noise or disturbance. That was the same age group, nine to eleven, that I was responsible for.

19. I bought my own house and moved out of McKenzie House in 1971.

Culture within Edinburgh Academy

20. The idea at Edinburgh Academy was that the boys were to be stretched as far as possible. This very much applied to boys at all levels, both the intelligent and the not so intelligent. Bearing in mind that parents were paying vast sums of money and they, quite rightly so, wanted value for money.
21. I think being stretched was good. When children are made to work hard provided it's something they can do, in my and everyone else's experiences, they are much happier provided there is not undue pressure causing stress. Children are much happier working hard rather than not doing very much in class.
22. A very important part of the school was the emphasis on outdoor activities. That was very much for all the boys. Rugby and cricket were taught twice a week and teams were organised to play other schools on Saturdays. The competition to be included in those teams was always very keen.
23. I don't believe there was any preferential treatment for any children that were better at sport than others. I was in charge of the children who were not so good at sport but we still had teams and training for them and matches on Saturdays. Many were very poor physically but they would still join the teams and play after school. I would hope they got as much satisfaction from it as the very clever and very able boys.
24. Another important part of the schooling were the school trips, both locally and further afield. We went to the Highlands and Hadrian's Wall and outside the UK boys would take part in school cruises and ski trips to the Alps.

25. Drama was also important at Edinburgh Academy and plays and musicals were produced regularly as were orchestral performances.
26. I do think the role of women within the school was important. When I first started at the prep school all the teachers there were women. It was myself and three others that were the first male teachers in the prep school. All the other prep school teachers were women, which included the art teacher, the music teacher and the drama teacher.
27. As the school went on, there were younger and older women appointed, not just in the prep school but also in the senior school. Everybody thought that was quite acceptable.
28. Another important part for Edinburgh Academy was the full co-ordination between the prep and upper schools and we held regular meetings between the two schools and the senior staff to discuss how things were going. That included work, subjects, what we should do, when we should start and stop, games, that all came into it.
29. The upper school ranged from ages eleven to seventeen or eighteen. It was quite a different culture altogether. They had all sorts of different activities as well, more than the prep school.
30. I didn't have any concerns about any fellow teachers and their treatment of pupils. Staff didn't perhaps talk about things quite as openly as they should have.
31. By and large the ordinary staff associated quite well but there was a kind of separation between the deputy head and other members of staff.

Discipline and punishment

32. I can say that discipline at Edinburgh Academy was very good whether it was in class, the art room, the music room, the gym or games fields and the standards were high in the trips and project work.

33. In a staff meeting in October 1971 the then headmaster, Mr James Britton, wished to abolish corporal punishment in the school. He then rescinded that when all the staff rejected that proposal.
34. If corporal punishment was used it would usually be a gym shoe across the backside. It would generally be a single hard whack on a clothed backside and it would perhaps be because a pupil was being particularly disruptive or continually disruptive in class. They would be given a warning but if they were still not heeding it then they would be given a punishment of some sort. It was down to the teacher to administer the punishment but occasionally the pupil could be sent to the headmaster to receive their punishment.
35. We didn't have a school bus and most of the children came to school by ordinary bus. A No. 23 came down from Morningside and there was an occasion when a number of boys started fighting and misbehaving on the bus. The headmaster James Burnet found out and gave them all a whack with his slipper. I don't remember the names of any of those boys. Subsequent to that incident a past rector INU made it his task himself to travel in that bus to make sure there was no bad behaviour.
36. Corporal punishment was allowed and not forbidden but during my time at the school it became used less and less and before it was officially abolished it just wasn't being used at all.
37. My normal punishment would be extra writing or extra homework. Writing would be copying something out of a book perhaps one of the books that were being used in class, a book, something like that.
38. The most severe punishment was exclusion from a school team because there was great competition to get in to the teams or perhaps from a much anticipated school trip. Looking at it from the other side, stars were awarded for good work throughout the school.

39. No senior pupils were involved in any form of punishment or discipline and there was no fagging at Edinburgh Academy during my time. There were ephors in the senior school but there was nothing like that in the prep school. There was a cross over and sharing of information between the prep school and the senior school and there was never anything raised that gave me any cause for concern about the upper school.
40. There was a policy on the use of corporal punishment and discipline for the teachers. I think it changed and developed over time and all the staff and the children would have had an awareness of that policy. Any incident of corporal punishment was entered in a register at the senior school. At the prep school the headmaster gave directions as to its use.

Concerns about the school

41. I have been told the picture the Inquiry has of Edinburgh Academy from the people the Inquiry have spoken to is that the school was quite inward looking, it had a high opinion of itself and that its primary concern, over and above child protection, was the reputation of the school.
42. I don't think Edinburgh Academy was inward looking. We had expeditions outside, we joined in with other schools to do camping in the Highlands, expeditions and games. The school is very concerned about its reputation, but that's only right. In Edinburgh there are quite a number of fee paying schools and the school must therefore keep a good standard. I suppose the reputation was based on the school's good standards, it had a good standard of work, of outdoor activities and of relationships in the school. I would say it was perfectly alright for the school to want to attain a good standard and it did.
43. I took parties of school children on various trips. If I had allowed boys to rag about and get boisterous and cause any disturbance in public then that would be a very bad mark for the school. I would also take them in the train on trips and if they misbehaved there, causing a disturbance for other passengers, that would be a bad mark for the school

as well. I made sure things like that didn't happen and if it did, my policy was that the boy would not be allowed to go on another trip.

44. The boys who were boarding at Edinburgh Academy were all treated exactly the same as the boys who were not boarders. When I was residential at the school I was never told of any concerns for any of the boarders and had I any concerns I would have shared that information.

Trusted adult/confidante

45. As far as members of staff themselves were concerned the headmaster was a trusted confidante. The class teacher would fulfil the role of trusted confidant to the pupils in his or her class.
46. Personally, I made it a practice to give my home telephone number to parents at the beginning of each school session. This was because I was keen to hear first-hand of any concerns or worries relating to my pupils. Sometimes you don't hear it in school, during the school day, and I liked to think that parents were able to talk to me, during an evening, as they did, to speak about any concerns they might have had.
47. I was contacted by parents and it was mainly about concerns the parents had over the progress of their children. Parents were very keen that their children should make progress and if they didn't then the parents would obviously have concerns.
48. It could also be if parents had concerns about their child perhaps being a bit of a loner or wasn't happy in some way or another. I wanted to know that and I think the parents wanted me to know and to know if there was anything I could do. It could also be a parent wanting to know why a child wasn't playing in a team or something like that, the children could get very disappointed if they didn't get into a team.
49. If a child was a loner or was struggling in some way I would firstly try and speak with them. Not too much as that might put them off but I would try and involve them in

activities. I would suggest activities they hadn't perhaps been involved in before or encourage them to join a new team activity. That usually worked quite well, but I must say something like that didn't happen very often as, by and large, the children were very good at looking after themselves.

50. My wife and I did have a few boarders to our home, not very often but some of the younger ones would sometimes come for tea on a Sunday. That would have been primary five boys, aged about nine. They would be boys who hadn't gone home for the weekend or their parents were perhaps abroad and so I would speak to the housemaster and arrange for them to come to my house for tea.

Reporting of complaints/concerns

51. If parents wanted to make a complaint then they would go to the headmaster. If it was because their child wasn't doing well or wasn't being pushed hard enough then the headmaster would refer that to the staff.
52. Parents could phone me up at home, as I mentioned, but we also had parents' evenings every so often and that would be at a time when parents would raise issues or complaints with me as the class teacher or they could go and see the headmaster.
53. As far as the children were concerned, I did have children come to me and tell me about bullying or something like that, so I would have heard about it. Apart from some occasional unkind teasing, which happened, I never witnessed physical bullying.
54. The children would come and speak to me in my classroom in the morning, I was always there, and I would have a chat with them. I wasn't a guidance teacher, there was no such thing then, I was an ordinary teacher, I was their teacher, I got to know them very well and they would come and speak to me very informally.
55. Children complaining to me about other teachers is not the sort of thing I would like to talk about. Children would, occasionally, refer to another teacher but I don't think it's

fair on my colleagues for me to talk about that. On no occasion did I have cause to be concerned about any serious allegation.

56. More often it would maybe be that a certain teacher didn't teach a subject in a particular way and the child couldn't perhaps understand it.
57. I have been asked about the rector's response to a parent's complaint about Ian Wares allegedly abusing their child. I am told the parent was told by the then rector, [REDACTED], that it would be unhelpful to complain and that their child must have an over fertile imagination. I have been asked if that response from the rector was something that was common. To me this was an absolutely shocking response.
58. I don't think any headmaster in the prep school would have responded in that way but I don't know if such a complaint was ever made to a prep school headmaster. If a parent complained to the prep headmaster I feel certain he would have gone to see the parents and the boy to establish exactly what had happened and then take the appropriate action, at the time and if it ever happened again. I'm just guessing here though, as I just don't know.
59. What I should say is that when Mr Wares did leave Edinburgh Academy the deputy head at the time, Mr John Brownlee, spoke to all the staff to explain what the situation had been; that abuse had taken place. That was after Mr Wares had left and it all came out after he had left. I'm sure that would all have been recorded by the school but I don't recall there being any change in policy at the school.
60. I don't recall there being any written guidance or instruction given to staff in relation to the action that should be taken if a child came to us and complained about any kind of ill treatment. I suppose if a child was punished too severely or something like that, that would be termed as ill treatment.
61. There could be a child who was desperate to take part in a play or something like that but because of them misbehaving they were not allowed to take part. That was a

severe punishment and the child could be very upset, although I'm not sure it could be termed ill treatment.

Bullying / peer abuse

62. In relation to bullying and peer abuse there would be staff meetings from time to time where the headmaster or deputy head would make everybody aware of the dangers of bullying but I just don't think it happened very often.
63. Apart from unkind teasing, as I've said, I can't remember any actual physical bullying at the school at all. I just don't remember that. I think I can be quite sure about that. I don't even remember any serious fighting between any of the boys.
64. There was always a member of staff on duty outside during all breaks so that would have prevented any fighting and the member of staff would have seen any fighting or bullying.

Child protection arrangements

65. I do believe that if a child was being abused or ill-treated at Edinburgh Academy prep school it would have come to light at or about the time it was occurring.
66. There was communication between staff about the children but not about abuse or anything like that.
67. In relation to safeguarding processes, I can think of safeguarding for fire and electrical safety, and on the rugby field one had to be careful there weren't any injuries. I can't recall any serious injuries during my time from rugby or cricket.
68. I don't recall there being any official guidance or instruction for teachers or staff, on how children in their care at the school or in a boarding house should be treated or

cared for and protected. We were all aware that there must be a certain amount of affection and a certain amount of encouragement for children, that was the main thing.

69. If there was a boy who was particularly homesick or something like that, the answer was ordinary affection. That's what I felt and I did what I could to get to know the boys better. I would see them at meal times and we would have meals together. I would encourage them to take part in things and encourage them with their work, which could sometimes be a cause of unhappiness; if they didn't understand something, that kind of thing. There was not any official guidance but that was just how I engaged with the boys.
70. With things like hugs and physical contact the guidance was generally not to do that, unless you were a woman, and everybody knew that. If you were a man you didn't hug a child, it wasn't written down but you just didn't do it, that was it. It just didn't happen. No man would take it upon themselves to hug a child. I do think some of the women teachers did very good work in that way.
71. I do think the systems in place at Edinburgh Academy Prep school were adequate to protect the children.

External monitoring

72. I have no knowledge of Edinburgh Academy ever being of any concern to any external body or agency.
73. We did have inspections by the Scottish Education Department. The inspections weren't very often, I can only remember there being about four in my thirty five years at Edinburgh Academy. We would always be warned of their attendance for any inspection.

74. When inspections were carried out the pupils would be spoken to by the inspectors; that would be in a group not alone, and there would be Edinburgh Academy staff there as well. Our staff spoke to the inspectors as well.
75. That's all I really remember. I don't remember being spoken to about the care of the children but the headmaster would receive the full inspection report and he would be the one to speak of those things and of the relationship between the staff and the pupils.
76. The first report that I remember stated that the relationship between the staff and the pupils was very good. That was very early on in my time at the Academy but it was from an HMI Inspector going round all the schools, including all the local authority schools.
77. There probably would be have been negative feedback in the reports. I do know that Edinburgh Academy didn't follow the Scottish syllabus as closely as we might have done, but you do have to bear in mind that quite a large number of our pupils went on to English universities when they left school. So some people would do Scottish Highers and others would sit 'A' Levels to go on to English universities. Inspectors would sometimes criticise the school for not following the Scottish curriculum.
78. I do know that if the inspectors found something that was not to their liking they would have said so, I'm quite sure of that. When the inspectors came to Edinburgh Academy prep school I don't remember them saying anything at all negative. There was an ambience between the pupils and an ambience between the staff and I clearly remember the occasion early on when the inspectors thought the relationship between the staff and pupils was very good.

Record-keeping

79. Reports were held on each child on each subject at the end of each term. These reports were then sent to parents but records were kept and forwarded to the senior school when a boy left prep at the end of the school year.
80. Inspections were also carried out as I've talked about and records would be kept from those inspections.
81. I don't know if records were kept in relation to allegations of abuse or ill treatment or inappropriate conduct. Nothing that I know of.

Reports of abuse

82. During my time at Edinburgh Academy I'm not aware of the school ever having any official definition as to what constituted abuse.
83. It never occurred to me that any member of staff was ever abusive towards any of the children. I couldn't say it didn't happen definitely, it just didn't occur to me.
84. If I heard any reports of excessive corporal punishment within the prep school when I was teaching there, I'm sure I would have discussed it with my deputy head.
85. I can say that I myself didn't hear any allegations of abuse or ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour.
86. One conversation I overheard was about Mr Wares, nobody else. It was before he left Edinburgh Academy, possibly 1977 during his last year, he was still teaching at the prep school. I didn't do anything with that information and I know I should have done, but I didn't. I overheard a conversation and that was all.
87. I overheard junior boys from the prep school, who were aged about ten, talking about Mr Wares, who they named, they said he put his hands under the trousers of boys, I did hear that. They were talking about it among themselves and I got the impression

they were talking about him doing that to other boys, not to them. It was a group of young boys, I don't know their names, who were talking to one another outside my classroom. I felt it was inappropriate for me to intervene and discuss it further with them as they were not making a report to me. You did hear the boys talking about things in class or outside the class or in the yard; boys talked about sex and relationships and things like homosexuality all the time and I didn't know then what I know now about Mr Wares. With hindsight I know I should have gone to the deputy head with that information but at the time I just didn't pursue it.

88. I do feel that had there been a formal procedure or written policy instructing teachers what action should be taken under such circumstances, I would have followed those instructions and done something. I feel I myself didn't know or think enough about it, quite honestly.

Police investigations / civil claims

89. I have been informed that a Philip [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] have submitted civil claims against Edinburgh Academy which includes a claim of physical abuse against me. I have never been approached by the school about this or any other civil claim. The first I knew about either claim was when you informed me of this at my interview.
90. I do remember a boy called [REDACTED] who was repeatedly misbehaving in an art class and the teacher, who was very annoyed, sent the boy to me to be punished. I'm afraid to say I walloped him with a short stick, during a break, in the classroom. It was a broken pointer stick and I whacked him on his backside, over his clothes. He was about ten years old and that would have been around 1971.
91. It was as a result of that incident that the then headmaster James Britton held a staff meeting about corporal punishment. I believe the boy [REDACTED] told his parents and they made a complaint to the headmaster. Mr Britton didn't want corporal punishment but most of the staff did, so it remained at that time but Mr Britton did tell the staff not

to use wooden sticks to administer corporal punishment. There was nothing else done at that time.

92. It was many years later, I think it was in February 2020, that I was interviewed about that by the police. The police told me then that the complaint was that I had hit the boy repeatedly with a billiard cue. I was interviewed by the police at St. Leonards Police Station in Edinburgh, and I had my lawyer represent me. The answer to it all was that I was released without any charge; and the detective sergeant's words to me on leaving were "You will hear no more about this Mr ICA".
93. Edinburgh Academy has never contacted me about that complaint and I have had no other involvement in any police investigations or any civil reports or claims from when I was teaching at Edinburgh Academy.

Convicted abusers

94. I do not know of anyone who ever worked at the school that had a conviction for the abuse of a child.
95. I did hear that IPT had been convicted but that was a long time ago. The police actually came to our house and asked me if I knew anything about him. That was long after I had retired. I didn't know anything about it at all. I've seen his name mentioned subsequently. I did not know IPT. He was senior school staff.
96. As far as I'm aware there was no response from Edinburgh Academy in relation to the conviction of IPT for abuse at school. I didn't hear his name mentioned at all and I haven't received any information about that from Edinburgh Academy.
97. In relation to Loretto being exposed for abuse in 2001, that was after I had retired as well. I didn't receive any communications from Edinburgh Academy about that.

Knowledge of specific named alleged abusers

Ian Wares

98. Recently I have been thinking about Ian Wares. I worked with Ian and I can say that I have been on different trips with him and I never suspected anything at all. You have to imagine the situation; for example, he accompanied me on several school trips and we stayed in youth hostels. The situation there is that everyone sleeps together, in one big room and there is a warden who is in charge of the hostel. If there had been anything going on the warden would certainly have raised it and reported it to the school. On those trips there were quite a number of boys and two or three staff.
99. I was also in Paris with Ian Wares and a group of about ten or eleven boys from the school. That was the same sort of situation, we were in a hostel for ten days. The only teachers were Mr Wares and myself and if he had been doing anything that he shouldn't have been doing then that would have been noticed. You couldn't have avoided noticing something and the person in charge of the hostel would also have noticed.
100. We also went on a steamer to the Western Isles, and also from Leith to Aberdeen, where we very close together and there was nothing suspicious whatsoever that I saw.
101. Those trips would have been in the seventies but there were other occasions. I didn't perceive there to be anything different about the children when in the company of Ian Wares, not at all.

IBP

102. I knew IBP he was teacher. He was at the senior school, when I was at the junior school. He was there when I first went in 196. He must have left around 197 perhaps. He came to our house on one or two occasions along with his mother.

IEG

103. I don't know that name at all.

IPT

104. I know about IPT, he was at the senior school and I don't remember him at all.

105. As far as I'm aware there was no response from Edinburgh Academy in relation to the conviction of IPT for abuse at school. I didn't hear his name mentioned at all and I haven't received any information about that from Edinburgh Academy.

IEH

106. I don't remember that name at all.

IGY

107. I remember him, he was very much more senior to me. I think he taught at the senior school. I had nothing to do with him. I didn't ever see him teaching or working with children. He was at Edinburgh Academy when I started, so 196, but I'm not sure when he retired, at a guess perhaps 197 or 197.

IDQ

108. I knew IDQ to some extent, very loosely I would say. He must have arrived after me but he had taught at another school. I didn't observe him with any children and didn't see or hear anything of any concern relating to him.

109. I knew he was when I was at the school. He was very good with the children, he'd been at a prep school in Oxford and was experienced. I would say he was very good, he produced plays for the children and

was a very nice man. I didn't observe or hear anything that would give me any cause for concern. I didn't see him administer corporal punishment at all.

John Brownlee

110. John was the assistant deputy headmaster. He was there the whole of my time and retired when I was still at Edinburgh Academy. He was fine on the whole, but he got annoyed sometimes. Sometimes more annoyed than he needed to have done. He did organise trips, mainly the cruises, and I went on some of those with him and the boys.
111. I didn't see John administer any discipline but I did hear that so and so had been whacked by him, something like that. He was known to be a bit more severe than some teachers.
112. I did know Brownlee quite well and he was strict in many ways with the boys. I never saw it but I heard he did administer corporal punishment and other forms of punishment. He would exclude boys from taking part in teams, that sort of thing.
113. I believe the corporal punishment he administered was sometimes excessive. That's from speaking to him, and it was an accepted thing that you could be more severe if you wanted to be.

Hamish Dawson

114. I hardly knew Hamish Dawson at all. He was in the boarding house more senior to mine, it was called Dundas House. He then moved to McKenzie House later on. He also retired when I was still teaching at Edinburgh Academy.
115. He had some rather strange ideas of teaching, he would have funny things up on the wall and so on. I just can't remember some of the things I've heard and I didn't really know the man very well. I just met him from time to time. I just heard things from other members of staff, that he was a bit strange. He told strange jokes and things but it

wasn't something the boys disliked him for. I really can't remember what was said about him other than that.

IBL

116. I knew IBL, he sadly died in strange circumstances. I think he took his own life, but the police weren't too sure about it. It was classed as death by drowning.
117. IBL left the Academy at the end of a summer term, 197 I think, and the next thing I knew he had been found dead. IBL was a bachelor, I worked with him from around 196 to 197 when he left to go to a school in Oxford, but he died before taking up this post.
118. IBL was a very progressive teacher, he was always taking boys out on educational trips, he was more modern than most of us with videos and television and things like that. I didn't have any concerns about him with the pupils. He was perhaps a wee bit eccentric.

Mr IHE

119. I remember him, he was a teacher. I have no cause for concern with him at all.

Mr IHC

120. Mr IHC was a teacher as well, a very nice person and I have no cause for concern with him.

IDO

121. I knew IDO quite well, he was like me and taught subjects. He was rather aloof. He was a good cricketer and organised in the senior school.

IDR [REDACTED]

122. I knew IDR [REDACTED]. He taught [REDACTED]. I have no concerns about him.

ICR [REDACTED]

123. ICR [REDACTED] was a friend of mine. He taught [REDACTED]. I have no concerns about him, not at all.

IFP [REDACTED]

124. IFP [REDACTED] is older than me and is retired now of course. He taught [REDACTED]. I have no concerns about him.

IBW [REDACTED]

125. IBW [REDACTED] was the head of [REDACTED] for a while when I was there. He was at the senior school. He worked hard and produced [REDACTED]. I can't say much more, I certainly wouldn't have any concerns about him.

ICQ [REDACTED]

126. I remember a ICQ [REDACTED], but I don't think that was the surname. I don't think I remember him.

Mr IFS [REDACTED]

127. I know who Mr IFS [REDACTED] was but I didn't know him at all.

IHJ [REDACTED]

128. That will be IHJ [REDACTED], he was much older than I was and was very much a senior member of staff. I don't know much about him at all. I know he taught [REDACTED].

Mr IDV [REDACTED]

129. He was known as IDV [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Sadly he died of cancer. I have no concerns about him.

IDP [REDACTED]

130. IDP [REDACTED] was the gym teacher at the prep school. He had quite a hard job as, for a time, he taught gym at both prep school and the senior school.

ICP [REDACTED]

131. ICP [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of the prep school, the year before I retired. I have no concerns about her at all.

ICG [REDACTED]

132. ICG [REDACTED] was the only teacher I ever saw administer corporal punishment. He was a housemaster at McKenzie House and was whacking a boy for misbehaviour in the boarding house. I'm sure the boy had damaged something. ICG [REDACTED] whacked him once, quite hard, with a gym shoe. I felt it was quite appropriate.

133. ICG [REDACTED] did a good job as a housemaster, he was always keen to organise activities but he didn't have quite the same attitude as I had, we weren't quite the same. He would sometimes punish the boys and wasn't always a very kindly sort of man. He would quite severely tell boys off when I wouldn't have thought it was really necessary.

ICH [REDACTED]

134. ICH [REDACTED] was the rector who appointed me. I'm sure he was a very good rector. I remember he was responsible for renewing the boarding houses at that time, making them more attractive. He also produced a new dining room and a changing room and

games room for the prep school. He also established the outdoor activity centre called Blair House.

135. ICH [REDACTED] was a bachelor and spent a lot of his time working on such things, he was very good with the children. I had no concerns about ICH [REDACTED] at all.

IGT [REDACTED]

136. IGT [REDACTED] was very much a senior member of staff when I first arrived at the junior school. I have no concerns about IGT [REDACTED].

ICF [REDACTED]

137. Miss ICF [REDACTED] was still at the junior school, primary three class, when I started. I have no concerns about her.

IDZ [REDACTED]

138. I remember IDZ [REDACTED], but I didn't know him very well. I wouldn't have any concerns about him teaching the children. I think he taught [REDACTED].

IFN [REDACTED]

139. I remember IFN [REDACTED], he taught [REDACTED], he used to go on walks with a group of us. That was after I'd left Edinburgh Academy. He was rather a portly chap and sadly on one of the walks he actually collapsed and died. We had to call for a helicopter to take him to the Borders General hospital. That must have been around 2010. I had no concerns about IFN [REDACTED].

Mr IGF [REDACTED]

140. I don't remember who that might be.

IFR

141. I knew of IFR, but I didn't know him that well. He was senior school and I don't have any concerns.

IEF

142. I didn't know him.

ICM

143. I knew ICM he was SNR of the senior school. I didn't ever observe him teaching children. I didn't come into contact with him very much and I wouldn't have any concerns about him.

IDX

144. IDX taught. I was young when I started and he was teaching. I didn't know him well enough to speak about anything to do with him.

IDY

145. I don't remember anyone by that name, I don't recognise it at all.

IDT

146. I knew IDT, he was, and became a housemaster. I have no concerns about him.

ICL

147. ICL taught [REDACTED]. He retired and moved to Brittany. I think he was a bit more strict than he needed to be. I saw him being strict and thought he needn't be so strict but then sometimes he was alright.
148. He didn't hit anyone he would just get annoyed and perhaps shout at the boys for something he felt they should have done a long time ago, that kind of thing.

IBU [REDACTED]

149. I remember IBU he was the head of games until I retired. He had a reputation for being a little bit handy with his hands as regards corporal punishment.

Allegations – from named applicants

150. I would firstly like to say that I've estimated that out of approximately 2,800 pupils, that I taught at Edinburgh Academy, four have made these allegations, and that these allegations are completely untrue.

ICW [REDACTED]

151. I have been read the following quotation from the statement of ICW that he has given to the Inquiry, "*my first encounter with corporal punishment was in the Preparatory School. ICA one of the teachers, had a reputation for giving it out with the belt and his hands. He was scary and a bit of a bully. I remember he was tall with thick, tight, curly hair. He had a very pockmarked face and was probably in his early fifties, but it's difficult to judge an adult's age when you are a child. He was still teaching in the Preparatory School in the early 80's when I started teaching*"
152. I cannot remember anything like that at all, it's completely untrue. I very vaguely remember ICW I think he may have been in my class.

153. The statement that I had a reputation for being a bit of a bully is completely untrue. Pupils and parents generally described me as being firm but kind. If I'd been a bully I would have had people phoning me up to talk to me about that. The assertion that I administered punishment with a belt is completely untrue. I never possessed a belt.
154. At this point I must state that I always regarded it as a failure, in my teaching ability, to have to administer any type of punishment at all. I was of the view that all teachers should be skilled enough to maintain discipline without that sort of resort.
155. I would say that although corporal punishment was allowed, I did not like to administer it and I was upset if I had to. On the rare occasion I did administer corporal punishment it was in my class and I used a slipper on the backside. As I have said I did not use or even possess a belt and I do think that excessive or continual punishment with a belt would be abuse.
156. Continual misbehaviour or continual disruption of the class is the sort of thing I would administer corporal punishment for but it had to be continuous and excessive before I would resort to that sort of punishment. I always gave a warning. I would often get them to go and sit and write something out.

IBZ

157. I have been read the following quotation from the statement of IBZ that he has given to the Inquiry, *"The punishments were generally in front of the class. You knew it was serious if somebody disappeared to be beaten. That happened to me once when I was ten years old and in my sixth year at the junior school. It's the only time I could suggest something improper happened to me. My repeated cheekiness or failure to do my homework resulted in me being taken to be beaten up to a storeroom, by Mr ICA. The room was at the back of the hall in the junior school. You went down a few stairs and the room did not have any windows"*.
158. I remember that room.

159. *"Mr ICA had a slipper. He made me take down my trousers and pants and out me over his knee. Mr ICA spanked me with his slipper. I don't know how many times. I was upset and crying. I don't know if I was crying because it was humiliating and upsetting. He was consoling me afterwards. He tucked my shirt back into my trousers and touched me on my genitals when he was doing that. That's the only time I recall being taken to a room to be beaten privately and the only time I was smacked on my bare bottom. The whole thing was weird. Why would you do that and console the boy you had done it to? I had no idea if the touching was accidental or not. I can see from that experience how easy it would be to transform that into opportunities for sexual abuse"*
160. The very suggestion that I would touch a boys genitals is absolutely abhorrent to me. I just completely reject that and I think it's awful to make that kind of allegation.
161. I just totally reject that allegation, totally reject it. I could not leave my class to take a pupil some distance away to smack him. I couldn't do that as there would have been chaos in the classroom and colleagues in adjoining classrooms would have been disturbed and would have wanted to know where I was. I certainly could not have concealed anything. Any corporal punishment I administered would always have been given in my classroom.
162. The room that is mentioned was a store room, immediately underneath the headmaster's study and secretary's office. The secretary was there all the time even though the headmaster was perhaps sometimes absent. As well as that people would walked through the main hall throughout the day including other teachers, other staff, parents, helpers and the janitor and his assistant and cleaners. The headmaster and the secretary could not have avoided hearing the loud noise of somebody crying in the storeroom, and would want to investigate.
163. I don't remember the pupil, IBZ. I remember nothing about him, he was possibly in my class. I'm so shocked to read that.

164. I agree that if I did that, or anyone did that, it would most certainly have been abusive. I couldn't have done anything like that without the headmaster knowing; it would have been under the headmaster's nose. A boy coming out of that storeroom in tears, crying would have been seen and heard.
165. I don't know what would have happened to me if I did something like that. It would have been addressed and this touching of genitals is just terrible. If that had been happening I'd have been called to account by the headmaster definitely. I'd be called up to his office and told I'd be out of the school if I did anything like that again.

Giles Moffat

166. I have been read the following quotation from the statement of Giles Moffat, *"In prep school there was another teacher called ICA [REDACTED] who was completely dedicated to his scripture and one time I saw him absolutely pummel a nine year old boy which was very out of character. This was on a coach in the front passenger seat where he was punching him on the chest, shaking him and smashing him back into the seat because I think he had been singing on a school, trip or something like that. The boy was called [REDACTED] and his dad was a teacher called [REDACTED] who taught [REDACTED] at the school. I was even more surprised that a teacher was attacking a teachers son. Nothing ever came of it afterwards. This was completely out of character behaviour for Mr ICA [REDACTED] but there are other examples of teachers who thought it was acceptable to use extreme physical force without worrying about other people seeing their behaviour"*
167. Once again I categorically deny this incident. I have no recollection of any such incident on any bus. Over the years I organised or assisted in countless trips involving coaches but the incident described by this pupil would be completely alien to me. You couldn't do it. Bus drivers on school trips always remained at the coach entrance or in the coach itself. An incident like that would certainly have been reported by him to the school.

168. The pupil states that boy was the son of a staff member. In the event that did happen I could not have done anything other than contact my colleague, whom I knew well, to explain my action.
169. I very vaguely remember Giles Moffat, I remember his name, I think from the youngest boarding house. I don't know who the boy is that he's talking about. There were a few boys who had parents teaching at the Academy.
170. I have no idea why this is being said. Had it happened it would have constituted abuse, but I would never have contemplated doing anything like that.
171. My memory hasn't been affected by the passage of time for this or any of the allegations that are being made.

Philip [REDACTED]

172. I have been read the following quotation from the statement of Philip [REDACTED] *"There is another particular incident which took place in the prep school that remains in my mind. It was by a teacher called ICA [REDACTED]. He was very tall, walked with his head to one side. I have a recollection that it happened in one of the portacabins. We were in the middle of a lesson or possibly a test when I sneezed very loudly and everyone giggled. Mr ICA [REDACTED] came up behind me, through the line of desks so I didn't know he was coming. He thwacked the back of my head with his hand, causing my head to get thrown forward and it hit the desk. This was the first time ever that I had seen stars, having only ever seen something like that in Tom and Jerry cartoons. I fell to the floor and he picked me up, he was very apologetic afterwards, possibly realising he had gone to far. This was quite out of character for him as he was usually a nice guy. I never heard any other stories about him doing anything similar."*
173. I don't recall any such incident. I never hit a boy on the head in such a way that he hit his head on a desk causing him to fall to the floor. I reject that. If I had caused a boy to be knocked out by banging his head on a desk he would have had to go to hospital. At the A&E they would want full details of exactly what had happened so my actions

would have been reported. In addition, an incident like this would have totally disrupted the exam which would have been the last thing I would ever have wanted to do.

174. I don't remember the pupil at all and I've never hit anyone in that way in any class ever. I totally reject this allegation.

INF

175. I have been read the following quotation from the statement of INF, *"The first boarding house I went to was Mackenzie House. It was a big house with forty, possibly more, children from the ages of seven to around twelve years old. The housemaster of Mackenzie House, at that time, must have been in his mid-fifties. There would also be a house tutor who lived in and his name was ICA. He was a lovely guy.*

Bedtime was around 08:00 pm. We could read for an hour and lights out was at 09:00 pm. We were absolutely forbidden to talk after lights out. If you were caught talking, it would be a minor infraction but most, if not all, discipline was corporal punishment. In Mackenzie House, we would either be smacked by Mr ICA which was a bit like getting a cuff around the ear from your mother, and not sore, or you would get a beating from the housemaster. The beating was designed to make you cry. I know it happened from speaking to other boys, but it didn't happen to me and I didn't witness it because it always took place in private, in his office"

176. I do remember INF I actually went to visit him in hospital when he was admitted for an illness when at Edinburgh Academy. He stayed in Mackenzie House and he was a very nice boy. The housemaster at that time was ICG and he was very strict. After lights out we were very strict about the boys' behaviour, I had very strict views about not talking and boys mucking about after lights out because I myself was at a boarding school where that wasn't properly enforced. It could affect my sleep and other boys sleep and was an unnecessary disturbance. I would give a verbal warning first and if that was ignored I would give the person or persons responsible a smack. That was with a slipper, usually over their pyjamas, but very

occasionally it was on a bare bottom, using my hand. In that situation I was standing in for parents and this form of punishment was accepted at that time. I would usually take them to my room in the boarding house and it was only ever one or very rarely two smacks. The boys all knew that was the punishment and fortunately it didn't happen very often. I cannot remember the names of any of the boys I smacked.

177. I know Mr ICG punished boys with a slipper. When he was on duty he would decide what to do about corporal punishment and if I was on duty, I would make the decision.

178. I didn't ever hear any boy complain officially about ICG. I heard boys talking about it, but I was not aware of a formal complaint being made.

Neil Douglas

179. I have been read the following quotation from the statement of Neil Douglas "*Violence happened openly from teachers and it was a violent environment. Looking at the Roll Book of teachers for the Prep School, I run down the list which includes ICA and I feel vague repulsion for each of them*"

180. I don't think I remember that boy. I think that's a strong statement to call the school a violent environment. It was a strict environment. If you were teaching a class it was strict not violent. I maintain, that a good teacher is a teacher who can control a class without resorting to some form of punishment. It's a sign of competence to be able to control a class without any kind of punishment. I didn't witness any kind of violence at Edinburgh Academy and I completely disagree with that statement.

Leaving Edinburgh Academy

181. I retired in 200, one year earlier than planned, on medical grounds. Unfortunately the situation was that in my final year of teaching there was a very disruptive pupil who was virtually impossible to control. The pupil had caused great distress, to his previous class teachers from early years, primary school onwards. Those teachers had all

recommended to the then headmaster that the pupil should be withdrawn from the Academy, but he wasn't.

182. During the spring term of 200█ I was on sick leave for a short period as a result of stress caused by that pupil's behaviour and the resulting disruption in class. In March that year I received a letter from the then current headmaster of the prep stating that some parents weren't happy with the progress of their children in my class. He basically told me it was my fault and that it was all down to me. That was his attitude. He recommended that I take early retirement at the end of that academic year (July 200█). I agreed to this.
183. In May of 200█ I suffered a heart attack █ and had to be taken by ambulance to hospital. The conclusion reached by medical professionals was that the cause of the heart attack was stress alone as there were no clinical causes found. I did not complete that academic year.
184. It might be worth noting that the disruptive pupil was finally expelled within a very short time of his arrival at the senior school, which was in August or September 200█
185. I don't feel that latterly, as a teacher, I was given any protection by Edinburgh Academy. Before that it was alright but that headmaster didn't do anything about the disruptive pupil. I felt that it was being left to me and that it was my responsibility. I was being made to feel I was incompetent.

Helping the Inquiry

186. I am not aware of there being any policy or strategy in place at Edinburgh Academy for me to raise any concerns that I might have about pupils or other teachers, other than to go to the headmaster.

Closing comments/other information

187. Over the course of 35 years of teaching at Edinburgh Academy I gave complete loyalty to the school. I gave well beyond normal classroom hours in teaching and outside the classroom. My greatest reward was always to receive appreciation from parents and pupils alike, for seeing their development and progress as well as the enjoyment of an academic year under my care.
188. 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. ICA

Dated. *2nd August 2023*