

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of KRG

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is KRG. My date of birth is 1942. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I am providing a statement in relation to my son KSB who attended Edinburgh Academy between the years of 198 and 199. He was a day pupil for the first four years and then when our family moved back to England he boarded for his final two years.
3. It was our daughter PKW a former Edinburgh Academy pupil herself who contacted The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry after seeing publicity on the BBC website about the Inquiry. There was also a link to the Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group and she also spoke to Giles Moffat who is a member of that group. He suggested that we write a Family Impact Report about the implications of the abuse that KSB suffered at the Edinburgh Academy.
4. Giles Moffatt and a couple of the other Edinburgh Academy Survivors made incredible headway with KSB by establishing contact with him in the last month of his life. Thereby, they helped to create a safe place for him to start to process of what had happened to him and which ensured him that he was not alone. He took solace in the fact that others had similarly struggled with life.
5. Once contact with Giles had been established PKW spent every day discussing the background with KSB and the abuse that he sustained. Together they only chronicled

a small part of his experiences of abuse at Edinburgh Academy. He died before he could make his testimonial.

6. Unfortunately, the contact that KSB was latterly to receive from the Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group, was too late to save him. He died on the [REDACTED] 2023 from multiple organ failure due to an alcohol addiction at the age of 48.

KSB's Life Before Edinburgh Academy

7. KSB was born on [REDACTED] 1975 and was the third of the five children I had with my wife [REDACTED]. Our other children are RMT [REDACTED], who was born in 1970; PKW [REDACTED] who was born in 1972; and our twins [REDACTED] and PFH [REDACTED] who were born in 1977.
8. When KSB was born, we lived in [REDACTED] Berkshire. His first primary school was Long Close Prep School in Slough where his elder brother had gone before. When we moved to Edinburgh KSB had the choice of going to St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, London as his name had been down to go there since his birth. He would have gone there if we had not been moving to Scotland due to my work.
9. My first big employment was with Mars, the confectionary company. I worked for them for ten years. I left them when they merged two businesses, and I wasn't offered the job I wanted. I joined Guinness and worked for them for eleven years.
10. Guinness acquired United Distillers which was Scottish based, and with my background I went up to Scotland to try to sort out the bottling operation for a hundred distilleries and ten bottling halls. Before moving with the job I spent two years in Glasgow before recognising that I needed to be located up there permanently, as I was flying up and down every other day.

Moving to Scotland

11. In 198█ I took on the role of █ of the bottling operation for United Distillers, based in Murrayfield in Edinburgh.
12. We had five young children so, without my presence during the week and █ was struggling to manage them all. Hence we decided the best thing to do was to move lock, stock and barrel to Edinburgh. This wasn't necessarily meant to be on a permanent basis, so we kept our house in █, but bought a second house in Edinburgh.
13. We then had to sort out schooling for the children. RMT █ was already at St Paul's which was the top school in London for day pupils and boarding. He had been weekly boarding and because he was part of the way through his schooling, he decided to stay down at St Paul's and board.
14. In the case of the others, because we intended at some stage coming back to England, it was necessary, to find schools that taught English GCSEs and 'A' Levels. The children were already at private primary schools in Berkshire. PKW █ had been diagnosed as dyslexic , had been through a range of suitable career options. She initially wanted to be a ballet dancer and then an artist. We managed to get her into Fettes School, she flew up right away and boarded for the last month, because she was already one term into the GCSE curriculum.
15. The rest of us moved up in the summer holidays of 198█ and the rest of the children started their schools at the beginning of the new term in September that year.

Edinburgh Academy

16. I had asked around my new colleagues at United Distillers as to what were the best schools for my children. Merchiston Castle School was mentioned, but that seemed to be for those that wanted to go into the army. They didn't do English 'A' levels, so we

decided on Edinburgh Academy for KSB and St George's School for the twins. They all went as day pupils.

17. The initial communication from Edinburgh Academy was very poor, and KSB surprisingly was not required to take any entrance exam, or even attend a formal interview.
18. The move into secondary education occurs earlier in Scotland. When we got to the Academy, we assumed it would be the same, and that he would be joining the intake year, when in fact the rest of the class had been there for two years already. He was the only new boy and was English.
19. We had been sent a letter from the school saying please bring your boy to a specific classroom. KSB took KSB to the said classroom, where they noticed that they were sitting with boys who looked a lot younger than him. They were in fact eleven-year-olds.
20. A teacher came in but didn't take any notice of who anybody was. She took all the boys away apart from KSB, and he and my wife were just left sitting there thinking what to do. Another teacher then came in and asked what they were doing there.
21. There was no official person from the school receiving them. KSB said it was so cold in the way they did it. Another woman came and just took KSB away, and the poor kid had to join a ready-made class of boys his age. As he was the only new boy and English as well, this was a really bad start.
22. My wife says she remembers leaving the school at that time thinking where did we go wrong. She had only followed the written instructions from the school and that first day was very poor. He was not given any first day guidance or a tour of the school.

Anti - Englishness

23. During KSB's early years at the Edinburgh Academy, we were aware that other boys were bullying him. KSB cited the reason as 'for being English'. PKW herself had

complained of similar treatment at Fettes. This dislike of the English was also our personal experience in some Edinburgh social circles.

24. When I was working in Glasgow, I found the Glaswegians very friendly, very helpful and lovely people to deal with. In Edinburgh they were very much more English in terms of the spoken word, but there was a cadre of people who were very anti-English. There were two elements to that. One, the Scots resented an English company taking over Distillers, which was their heritage, and then there were those that just didn't like the English for unspecified reasons.
25. Whilst I experienced verbal bullying soon after I arrived, a senior executive said "why don't you 'F' off back to England" we partially expected the children to have a tough time, but not one which was so aggressive as it turned out to be. I say that because clearly that colours the way in which I saw my time up there. We are talking about five or ten percent but, when you get it from senior managers you work with, it is not something one expects.
26. The children experienced it from the pupils at school. PKW experienced it at Fettes even though the school had a lot of students coming from overseas, and military backgrounds. The twins were a bit more immune at St George's because they were a very powerful pair together, so they made their own effective grouping.
27. To put it in perspective, quite a few of the friends that they made at St George's later came to England to work. They then apologised profusely for the way they had treated them at St George's saying they thought all English people hated the Scots. This was then evidently not true. We loved many of the Scots; we'd had both friends and relatives who were Scots. With them we knew them to have a sense of humour and they were always great fun at social gatherings.
28. I say this simply because I hadn't experienced this in Glasgow, only in Edinburgh. I found it upsetting and it affected the family. At that stage, we didn't think it was particularly serious as far as KSB was concerned.

Early signs of KSB's unhappiness

29. The first time my wife noticed that there may be some issue at Edinburgh Academy was when she was in the car with KSB taking him to school and they passed a boy from the school, who was obviously KSB's age and was walking. He was quite a long way from the school and enthusiastically suggested to KSB that she would pick him up. KSB almost froze with fear and he would not let her stop for this boy. He was frightened of him; did not know what the reason was but she thought something was not quite right.
30. KSB never wanted my wife to pick him up from school, and he wouldn't let her go near the school buildings each day. She thinks this was because he didn't want to be seen to be coming out of school without friends, and that he was alone.
31. PKW has related to us that KSB had told her the following: One of his good friends had been told by other boys at the school not to be friendly with KSB, because they were obviously hell bent on making his life a misery. That boy, was moved from Edinburgh Academy by his parents. I think that boy may be known to the Inquiry as he is part of the Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group.
32. That boy's parents had warned us there was a problem, but didn't explain as to what it was. His mother was a friend of and she remembers her coming for tea with the children sometime, about eighteen months after KSB had started at the Academy. She said she was taking away, and sending him to Merchiston Castle School. Merchiston didn't do English exams so for us, it wasn't an option as it meant KSB would be trapped in Edinburgh, and unable to continue his education back down south if circumstances changed.
33. We didn't realise KSB was being so seriously bullied and that's mother was trying to warn. She was alluding to it by suggesting we move KSB as well, but wouldn't explain why. Unfortunately didn't pick up on the seriousness of it.

Family move back to England

34. In 1992, we moved back to our family home in England, taking the twins with us. RMT and PKW were both by then at university. We left KSB boarding at the EA, at his request. His reasoning being that he was in the middle of his 'A' level studies and despite being unhappy, he thought it would be least damaging to his chances of success.
35. It came out later in conversations between him and PKW that his reason for not coming back was that he thought he might be coming out the frying pan, and going into the fire. He thought all boarding schools were similar, and he just wanted to get his 'A' levels done there.
36. KSB ended up boarding in Geoffrey House at the Academy for two years. Mr RJX was his housemaster. We were never able to visit the boarding house, because we had moved back south again. So we know little about the situation e.g. how many boys were in his boarding house, and how it was managed.
37. It was in his first month of boarding that we realised that the bullying he experienced as a day boy, had taken on a more sinister turn. Naturally, we spoke to his housemaster on the phone and reported it and we also wrote to the school about it. All KSB's possessions had been systematically destroyed. Mr RJX was now in possession of the hard facts. However, we never received a response from him or further communication from the school. Our reasonable expectation was that it would be stopped. We know from what KSB told PKW, and she has since told us, that sadly it didn't. It continued and escalated into physical violence from that point.
38. From an academic aspect, KSB had been identified at parent and teacher meetings as a potential Oxbridge candidate during his middle grades. This remained the case until he went into boarding, when his performance assessment reports dropped in expectations.
39. We got yearly reports from the Academy. Unfortunately I had kept all his annual reports but I have disposed of most of them when we returned to Devon.

40. The tone of his reports went from him being superb, an excellent student, which declined over his stay. The reports when he was a day pupil were so good. We went to every parents' evening we could. There was a process where you went round the tables talking to the different teachers and we had no real great concerns then. We knew that he was being bullied by the boys for being English but then, so were we, and his sister was as well. He didn't tell us a lot about being bullied, but we picked it up indirectly. He was a strong character.
41. One thing that I have managed to retain is a letter that was sent to us from the Academy not long after KSB had started there.
42. It is dated 21 October 198 and reads *"Dear Doctor and Mrs just a brief note to let you know how KSB is progressing. He seems to be settling in quickly and as far as his academic work is concerned, easily. All his teachers have been most complimentary about his progress. He is a nice lad who will do well in chemistry, coping competently with new work in Latin. He is contributing well in class and prepares prep well in English, while he is very good orally and on paper. Near the set in geography".* There is a bit cut off at this part but it continues *"he has recently been moved to the top set in maths having come easily top in a recent test. I have him for rugby in which he tries hard, is a brave tackler although lacks good coordination. Socially, I don't think he has many friends yet."*
43. The sports master was one of the ones who was implicated in the bullying. I don't know if it is him that has written the above, as it is not signed which is odd.
44. At the parents' evening in year two, they told us that he was Oxbridge material. At subsequent parent's evenings that gradually tailed off and we believe that this was as a consequence of his reaction to bullying, that his personal esteem and expectations were reduced. I have a report dated 23 September 199 which was obviously just before he was leaving and was about his university prospects, which expresses such a reduction in productive performance.
45. It is a brief report on an interview with a careers master and it says *"KSB has an interest in engineering but has not yet settled on a specialisation. Also attracted to*

physics especially up to electronics but aware of the dangers of over specialisation too early."

46. It goes on to say they are looking at various institutions or colleges to attend.
47. It then says *"he seems in particular to want to study in the south of the country if possible. KSB achieved grades of six 'A's, two 'B's and a 'C' in his GCSEs and is now working towards 'A' Levels in maths, physics and biology as well as Higher computing. He dropped chemistry after the first year of the 'A' Level course and should ensure that there is no need for chemistry beyond this level for the courses which he applies. I have advised him to seek the advice of Dr Hutt on his particular choice of course although we spoke in general terms about factors to be considered and the virtues of sponsorship and sandwich courses. He is also very interested in the possibility of study or work experience in Europe and is aware of the Erasmus Scheme as well as a year in Europe courses".*
48. There are Rector's comments *"If not quite having the world at his feet, KSB certainly seems well on the course for success."*
49. Our eldest son was assessed largely gifted when he started school. He was very shy and introverted so we had him tested before he went to the public school. KSB, on the other hand, in our view, was a much more rounded character. He was good at everything. ■■■ thought he should have gone into journalism as he was good at languages. Sports wise he was good at sailing and hockey but not at rugby because of his tight tendons he found it difficult running at speed.
50. In our eyes we were looking at a boy who had a really bright, gifted future coming out of Edinburgh Academy.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy

51. We now know through what PKW has told us that KSB was physically and mentally abused by his peers and at least two of the masters.

52. My wife does remember KSB phoning home not long after he had started boarding, saying that all of his stuff was in the corridor. He was very distressed, and I remember consoling him saying it was just a prank.
53. KSB wouldn't say what was happening to him. We found out later that when he was boarding his clothes got ripped up and got urinated on and that he was suffering physical abuse.
54. His property and clothes were damaged. Books, calculators, uniform, speakers, personal items of relevance and meaning to him, and belongings, were often missing on a regular basis. He would never say and he took the blame any time for ripping things, losing expensive items, and damaging things. We wrongly assumed that he was being clumsy and disorganised, which led to unjustified admonishment, which we greatly regret and feel guilty about.
55. At some point KSB was stabbed in the leg with a screwdriver by a fellow pupil. We were unaware of this until he had contact with the Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group just before he died- and the boy apologised for it.
56. I have a letter that KSB wrote to his grandma in 199█, who at that stage was living in Torquay, some distance from us. Because of her sensitivity possibly she decided not to show it to us at the time. We later found it amongst her possessions, after she died when we were clearing out her house. It shows just how unhappy he was and just how much bullying he was receiving.
57. It is dated 25 March 199█ and it reads *"Dear Gran I am writing to you in a very depressed state. I am sorry if this letter seems to be dumping my problems on you but I really feel I need to speak to someone before I go absolutely mad. As you can guess I have had a pretty bad week. It started to go downhill with minor annoyances. On Saturday my Academy training rugby top did not come out of the wash as it should have and has still not reappeared. On Saturday also we played hockey at Strathallan. We lost the last game I will ever play for the Academy very unluckily and whilst we were playing I had £50 stolen from my wallet. Then I did something very stupid and in my anger I knocked rather a large hole in the Strath changing room wall with my stick.*

I feel really guilty about it now and it also means that I couldn't report the stolen money. On Saturday night I was down at the yacht club for a re-opening party. I checked to see where the boat was and found it in a sorry state, minus it's sail and mast. This coupled with the fact that a person who borrowed the boat last year lost the centre board and still refuses to replace it spells real disaster.

58. The boat he is talking about is a Laser which he kept at the sailing club, and was left with him in Edinburgh to sail. Within the sailing club, Edinburgh Academy had allocated space and clearly, they would have looked after things. It was something to do with a couple of boys who had used the boat but which the boy just point blank refused to replace.
59. The letter continues "*Mum and Dad know all about it and at the moment I am still trying to see if the club has stored the mast and sail. This has not got very far as after that things decided to take a downward turn. My inquiries were distracted by the really bad part of the week. As you probably know I have been going out with a St George's girl for 2 ½ months. Anyway that ended on Monday night. Things were not working out well then a good friend of mine told me that she had been telling all of her friends that she was going to dump me. Anyway it came down to a choice between dumping her or being dumped, so she had to go. That was depressing enough but was nothing compared to the aftermath. We parted on friendly terms but two days later I was told the ugly truth by a good friend who is good friends with her best friend. Anyway as it turned out I had been used beyond belief. It turned out that about two weeks after we started going out she started seeing a 25 year old sailing instructor behind my back.*
60. This was a schoolgirl, and she was being groomed by somebody.
61. The letter continues "*Her friends knew but no-one said anything. I was basically being used as a cover so that her parents would not know the real story. Before me she went out with a friend of mine and as it turns out she two-timed him and the guys before him but he never found out. What really hurts is that I was so gullible and that anyone could be heartless enough to do that to me. She seemed so sweet and happy but it was all a complete front. Her personality was like PKW and completely bubbly. Anyway it turns out that isn't really the case. I found out about all that yesterday and having heard*

that all I could think of to cheer myself up was that I was going home soon. One I was going home soon and two things couldn't get any worse. However one of these was wrong and things did get worse. About three hours ago I managed to break my nose again playing hockey. I cannot work out how it is possible to fit so much misfortune into one week. anyway I am determined not to let it drag me down. It really reminds me of a joke I once heard that say smile they said, it couldn't be any worse so I did and it was. Anyway if you are still reading, thanks very much for listening, I hope that I haven't depressed you and that life with you is good. Are you coming up at Easter? I hope so. Thanks again for listening. Lots of love KSB

62. That letter gives a snapshot of problems he was having generally at the school but within his boarding house everything was trashed. His guitar was broken, his clothes were ripped and many other things.
63. The first indication we had of this, as Granny didn't show us this letter at that time, was when he came home for one of either the Christmas or Easter holidays when we were back in [REDACTED]. Whilst he was home, he was sullen, withdrawn, quick to anger and spent all his time in his room. He only came down at mealtimes. I can't remember what his relationships with his friends were like at that time.
64. To us now, there were visual signs of this abuse that we would have recognised if we had known how to interpret them.
65. For example, we remember that holiday he had one half of his head completely shaven and bleached and the other half was green. At the time, KSB told us that he had chosen to do this himself, which caused concern and led to some serious discussions amongst ourselves about appropriate behaviour and respecting the school code.
66. We later found out from PKW that the other boys had forcibly done this to him. If I had known what the truth of the matter, I wouldn't have been anywhere as harsh with him. Obviously, I regret that now. We couldn't believe that some things could be so terrible, and he wouldn't tell us.

67. The other thing that I noticed, and should have alerted me, was that I had seen that he had cut marks on his arm. His arms and legs had cuts on them that we now know were from self-harm and attacks in the dorm involving 'weapons'. He had been attacked by a boy using a screwdriver.
68. The reason it really hits home with me was that when I sold my business, I became a [REDACTED] of Broadmoor Hospital. Many of the women that were there in those days had self-harm injuries. They were either [REDACTED] burns, or slashed arms, so I should have realised what this indicated, and done more, but I didn't.
69. We could tell that he hated the whole atmosphere of the boarding house. One example related to a canoe trip. He was a keen member of the school canoe club; he had his own canoe and his own sailing boat. They went to a canoeing camp with the Academy but when he came back, he was a changed boy. He wouldn't have anything to do with canoeing after that. I can't remember where it was or for how long, but I just remember the atmosphere before he went and how that changed once he was back.
70. My wife did know that he had slept with a knife under his pillow when he was seventeen. He didn't tell us why, but we were worried because it is something you can't imagine your child doing.
71. KSB [REDACTED] had told us about the trashing of his room and belongings, but he never spoke to us, even in later years, about the abuse he suffered from the teachers. We only know about that through PKW [REDACTED] telling us what he had told her.
72. We blame ourselves that we didn't see it, but he wasn't an easy child back then. He wasn't open at all, he just clammed up.
73. We only really found out more about what was happening at the Academy from the time we got involved with the survivors' group after KSB [REDACTED]'s death. Before that we only really knew that he had been getting bullied. There is normal boy on boy bullying and serious bullying, but we had no idea what had really been going on.

Reporting Abuse whilst at Edinburgh Academy

74. KSB had said that when he had first gone into boarding school all his belongs, the whole contents of his bedroom had been moved out into the corridor. That sounded like a typical bit of teenage fun or a joke so we didn't take it seriously. However as we later found out it was not a one off, it kept happening. We wrote to his housemaster, Mr RJX about the bullying but we didn't get a response. I was busy with work and neither or I followed it up.
75. The day that KSB was due to leave the Academy, we asked if he could stay one more night at the boarding house, in order that we could move the boats and other items. This was allowed as we had to drive all the way up to Edinburgh collect all his stuff, and then drive back down to the next day. When we went to collect KSB in the morning, he was the only one left at the boarding house and a man opened the door, pushed KSB out the door and shut the door on us. The man never even said anything to us, and we took that as an affront. We guessed it was Mr RJX but can't say that for sure. We said something about this to KSB, but he never really replied, just made a noise. I think he was just glad to get out.

KSB's Life After Edinburgh Academy

76. After leaving Edinburgh Academy, KSB went to Durham University, following his brother. Just to emphasise the difference, RMT got top first in engineering and at Durham and went on to Cambridge for a research year.
77. KSB was, in our opinion, an unusually intelligent young man who could have studied anywhere. Instead, he chose to attend the same university as his brother to study the same subject, Engineering at Durham University.
78. Looking back now it was probably a safe decision to a boy who expected bullying to continue at university. After the Academy, KSB had quite an insular existence, mistrusting potential friend groups.

79. He soon lost interest in the engineering course for a variety of reasons. I think he spent more time behind the bar at St Chads and was asked to leave at the end of year one. This was after he had been drinking heavily, skipping lectures, and as a result, failed his first-year exams.
80. During his year at Durham, he began a relationship with his room-mates sister, [REDACTED] who was eight years his senior, a French doctor with her own issues. I would only describe her as being a very wild and wilful sort of person, but he obviously developed a very strong relationship with her.
81. After Durham University, [REDACTED] KSB took a gap year. He started as a holiday representative in Mark Warner's London Office, before doing a ski with them as a rep in Coucherol.
82. He went onto study Leisure Management and Sports Science at Southampton. His first job after graduating was with [REDACTED], which he found to be a very poor business in relation to their relationships with their staff, their customers and their pricing policies.
83. He then worked for twenty years with [REDACTED] and went from being a salesman up to being a sales director.
84. [REDACTED] who was a junior hospital doctor, suffering semi-sociopathic tendencies, followed him to Southampton, where they co-habited.
85. We were worried because of the age difference but he was insistent it was good. [REDACTED] KSB was only 23, and newly qualified, when [REDACTED] fell pregnant. We helped him to buy a house at auction. It was in a terrible state, and I spent three or four months doing the handywork with [REDACTED] KSB to get the place habitable for a young couple.
86. Whilst we were doing the renovations, [REDACTED] KSB and [REDACTED] lived with us, as they had nowhere else to stay. [REDACTED] would go out on her own on a Saturday night and come back drunk. Once she came back with a black eye, but couldn't describe where she had got it from. It was obviously a very precarious relationship.

87. With our help, they moved into their own home close to us in Maidenhead. They got married six months after their son [REDACTED] was born. They went onto have three children. [REDACTED] smoked and drank heavily through each of her three pregnancies, delivering babies very early, at seven months, accompanied by severe haemorrhaging. It is generally recognised that, heavy smoking and drinking during pregnancy can lead to foetus damage. So perhaps unsurprisingly, their second born [REDACTED], was born brain damaged.
88. During their early years, KSB [REDACTED] became the primary carer of the children on weekends, even though he had successfully developed a career in Sales & Marketing with [REDACTED], culminating in a Sales Director position. [REDACTED]'s drinking started to become more significant.
89. The relationship broke down after about eight years, soon after the birth of their 3rd child. This was due to [REDACTED]'s determination to dominate the relationship, coupled with her alcoholism.
90. A cycling accident, which required major surgery due to both the injury and a C-difficile infection, led to KSB [REDACTED] having a long period off work. [REDACTED] failed to visit him in hospital, blaming him for cycling in the first place.
91. KSB [REDACTED] discharged himself early from hospital because of his dislike for hospital authority, which left him in [REDACTED]'s care.
92. As a consequence of their fractious relationship, KSB [REDACTED] confessed that he was scared that [REDACTED] would kill him while recovering at home. As a doctor, she had attached a drip with unidentified medicines that he didn't trust. He called us in a panic and we brought him to our house to recover.
93. After that [REDACTED] became progressively more abusive and violent. On at least two occasions, KSB [REDACTED] had to call the police to protect himself because in her drunken mood, she tried to attack him, once with an axe.

94. She was later arrested for being drunk and in charge of a minor, [REDACTED] the brain damaged child, whilst on the London Underground. We were called by the police saying that they had arrested [REDACTED] and asked us to retrieve our grandson from police care whilst [REDACTED] was in custody overnight. I had to drive to the police station, late at night to pick [REDACTED] up and take him home.
95. What had happened was that they had been on a tube line escalator, an experience [REDACTED] had never had. He panicked, as he didn't know what was going on, and he tried to go back up the escalator to get to where he had come from. A member of the public reported her for dragging him up the escalator the wrong way.
96. There was a history of her being violent to KSB [REDACTED] and of her not looking after her brain damaged child very well. Together with other marital issues, this led to their divorce.
97. After the divorce, we spent a lot of time speaking to the local social services about the ongoing arrangements of the children. We weren't very impressed to by their professionalism. Social workers recommended [REDACTED] remain as main carer, and that she should have custody of the three children, with KSB [REDACTED] having them on alternate weekends. KSB [REDACTED] was distraught with this as he had a closer bond with the children than she did.
98. [REDACTED]'s authorisation to practice as a doctor was withdrawn by the Medical Council in 2006, as a consequence of poor performance and attendance issues. She is still not allowed to practice, but has mastered her addiction through Alcoholics Anonymous. [REDACTED] managed to get help for her drinking and on the third occasion she managed to kick the habit, hasn't touched a drop since and today remains "clear".
99. After his marriage broke down, KSB [REDACTED] was distraught and was drinking most nights. He came to stay with us and then got a flat with a neighbour friend who is a lovely lad. His social life thereafter comprised mainly drinking with friends and looking after his three sons on alternate weekends.

100. KSB did have a lot of close and dedicated friends. Although he was a heavy drinker, because of the unhappiness at home, he spent more time in the pub than he would have done normally with young children at home.
101. In the evenings he ran the disco at the local pub, and at the local hockey and cricket club of which I was a board member. Everybody loved him as he was part of the background scenery.
102. KSB then got together with a lovely young barmaid from the pub where he ran the disco and they lived together for about a year. That relationship broke up and then about ten years after he had split from he met his second wife, ,who was older than him and had been married twice before.
103. During this time, KSB was offered a more senior role at which he turned down, preferring to remain head of his successful team. He was fiercely loyal and had developed strong bonds with his team members over his twenty-year management career at and resisted the imposed changes. He was rightly proud of his team's performance, winning a major customers relationship prize. In hindsight, his team was a place of safety, where he had finally realised success.
104. The reason he left was that they were developing trade with Russia. As a consequence a Russian woman then became KSB's superior manager, who he described as a bully. She tried to re-assign his key accounts to other sales teams, almost a case for a claim for constructive dismissal. It really destroyed his confidence in business. His unwillingness to accept these "unreasonable" changes, led to him leaving.
105. Following twenty years at , KSB suffered long bouts of depression. He found authority and anyone trying to help him, abhorrent. His panic attacks and digestive issues became more pronounced. Despite having re-married, his drinking increased to the point of addiction. Latterly, most of the day and night he would spend in a chair downstairs, due to mobility and breathing problems. During periods of better health, he felt unable to leave the house due to agoraphobia. After two more attempts to hold

down senior sales positions, with similar interactions with dominant bosses, KSB lost the will to find work and his second wife, walked out on him.

106. That relationship came to an end because of his drinking. reported that he was drinking two litres of spirits a day and wasn't functioning. She walked out on him six months before he died. She had nothing to do with him after that and he was left on his own and dying.
107. When the marriage broke up, his friends were the pub friends that he spent time in the pub with.
108. Two weeks later, six months before KSB died, his son died in a residential care home on the Isle of Wight. had been admitted to intensive care on the Isle of Wight.
109. When KSB was told about this he was already at the stage where he couldn't drive. He got his friend who was a taxi driver to run him all the way down to the Isle of Wight. When he got to the hospital, it was a long walk to intensive care, having reached the main entrance doors he collapsed.
110. The stress of the rush to get to his son in time to be at his bedside led KSB to collapse. He was admitted to A & E at the same hospital and that was where we found him, when and I arrived. They were doing scans and various tests on him but, they wouldn't let him go up to see unless he discharged himself, so he did.
111. He then spent the night in the family room at the hospital. But, in the morning, a doctor from A&E came up looking for him and told him that he had had a heart attack when he had collapsed at the door of intensive care the day before.
112. He wouldn't go back to the A & E, so we helped him to go home, where he reported to his G.P.
113. Despite his worsening condition, did not return. He ended up on his own with increasing agoraphobia, panic attacks, insomnia, and feelings of self-loathing.

114. He was looking to sell his house and move to a cottage in Devon. We thought that once we got him installed there, he would be away from all his drinking buddies.
115. He had put his house on the market as he was wanting to move to the cottage we had found for him in Devon. He had received an offer for it but I found out that [REDACTED] had put a block on it. This meant that he could not sell it without her permission. He hadn't realised this and I only found out that it had been blocked by going on the land registry.
116. That disappointment knocked his final resolve and that was the point that he gave up.
117. Following the heart attack diagnosis in [REDACTED], he eventually got through to his GP in [REDACTED], who referred him to a cardiac surgeon. The NHS system then took three months to arrange a scan, and a further six weeks to arrange a telephone review of the results. Unfortunately, four weeks into that wait period, [REDACTED] died of heart failure. The appointment card arrived the week after he died.

Treatment / Rehabilitation

118. I think [REDACTED] started drinking the two litres of spirits a day, mentioned by [REDACTED] in about 2021. [REDACTED] and I offered to pay for him to go to a rehab clinic, but he wouldn't accept any help like that. It was strange and we can't explain why he was so resistant but it was apparently something to do with authority and because he was destroyed by it.
119. We even tried to get him to go to rehab in South Africa where we used to visit our daughter [REDACTED] at least once a year. We went out for Christmas two years ago and [REDACTED] came out with us.
120. I think [REDACTED] knew by then he had a serious problem. He was very unwell when we were there. His stomach was very distended, and he couldn't walk far. His brain was fine but he was drinking a lot. We had been trying to get him to go to rehab and when we got off the plane when we arrived, he said to [REDACTED] he would comply and go to rehab. Rehab is much cheaper in South Africa.

121. PKW's family were going on a camping holiday to Mozambique after [REDACTED] and I flew home. KSB was keen to go with them and to try and shed some of his drinking habit. However [REDACTED], my daughter's husband, said he couldn't take him because they didn't sell alcohol on the camp, and he might have a severe medical problem there. That really shook KSB because he was so looking forward to going to this safari camp.
122. We wanted to get him into hospital in South Africa because apparently you have to go to hospital for two or three weeks for a sort of detox before engaging in therapy. There was a specialist who ran a rehab unit there who told us you have got to get him down to rock bottom for him to be compliant.
123. He didn't go to hospital or rehab in South Africa.
124. We kept trying to get him into rehab in the UK as we thought at that stage, he was still saveable. I don't think it was just the drink, it was the effect that the drink had in that he couldn't eat properly, and he suffered from vertigo. All these things seemed to compact themselves onto him and meant that he couldn't solve his drink problem because he couldn't eat properly and because he couldn't eat properly, he was drinking. The G.P. provided no help despite several attempts in writing.
125. As a youngster he had eating fads as all children do. He couldn't eat potatoes and he couldn't eat eggs. When we sat down together to eat, he wouldn't sit with us and would say "no I can't eat now, I'll eat later." Even later on when he was cooking for us at barbeques he would only peck at things.
126. We don't think he was eating properly, and we think that comes down to the fact he was ill. The last two years of his life the amount of food he took in was very limited, even when he was entertaining us.
127. Being out of a job, and having spent his redundancy fund, KSB was running out of money. We were giving him money to pay his mortgage, as he would not seek funds from social benefit. We thought he would hit rock bottom and then accept he would need to go into rehab. We said that we would continue to pay his mortgage, but the only condition was that he went into rehab. He stormed off and kicked us out the

house. He told us to "F off" which wasn't like him but you could see the state of his mind was completely gone. He was full of apologies afterwards.

128. We never realised this was typical until we spoke to Giles Moffat and the other chap who were both at his funeral and they said that it was absolutely typical.
129. His sister **PFH**, being a GP was trying to get him to engage with alcohol reduction and addiction centres and speaking to his GP at Maidenhead. Although the GP was a lovely lady she didn't seem to engage much with the problem.
130. **KSB** never went to rehab and in the end, he just gave up.

KSB's Death

131. **KSB** passed away in last year. He just didn't wake up. The police said it was an unexpected death, so they had to have an autopsy because the doctor hadn't seen him in the last six weeks. Why she hadn't, I don't know. The official cause of death from the autopsy was Acute Organ Failure.
132. We were in South Africa when **KSB** died. We had left our car on his drive, and we had spent the afternoon with him before we went. He was semi-comatose, but he was talking. We just didn't expect him to die whilst we were away.
133. Because we were in South Africa when he died, we had deep conversations with **PKW** about **KSB** and the Academy as she had all these background bits of information. She got in touch with the Inquiry and invited us to get in touch with them. **PKW** is incredible, but nearly had a nervous breakdown herself, writing all these testimonials and being so involved with everyone.
134. At **KSB**'s funeral service the thing that really moved us was that even though **KSB** had left eight years before he died, there was a party about twenty strong from his colleagues who came to his funeral. Everyone we spoke to from there could not speak highly enough of him, saying how generous he had been with his time, what

a good manager he was and how they were so sad to lose him. I hadn't appreciated just how much affection they had for him, it was incredible.

135. There was a write up in [REDACTED], giving a glowing obituary, because not only was he sales director but he had been voted the supplier of the year by Asda, and had received many accolades from trade sources.
136. We buried his ashes in [REDACTED] churchyard and put a stone there with the words 'Your laughter and wit will live in our hearts forever' on it. These words came from his big brother. Everybody loved him. We had invited just family and friends along with [REDACTED] his elderly friend from the cricket club. Because her husband had died, and [REDACTED] KSB had looked after her, she was on her own and had said she was going to leave all her money to him as she adored him that much. [REDACTED] KSB hadn't known that, but we had. She always called him, her second, or adopted, son.

Impact on [REDACTED] KSB

137. We never knew that this 'bullying' involved teachers or that [REDACTED] KSB experienced serious physical aggression from boys. We had no idea that he suffered a daily barrage that would lead to life-long psychological damage. Additionally, it has also caused long term damage to our family dynamics, to [REDACTED] KSB's relationships generally, and most importantly to his children. It is now our greatest regret in life that we failed to understand this and to take corrective action.
138. Before we moved to Scotland, and [REDACTED] KSB went to Edinburgh Academy, he was the child right in the middle of everything and was the comedian of the family. He went from being the comedian, always cracking jokes and playing games, to mellowing slightly in his time as a day boy. Although he was being bullied for being English, he had developed a couple of good friends at the Academy.
139. [REDACTED] KSB was very sullen and difficult when he went from being a day pupil to being a boarder. At the time, we weren't aware why this was, as he never told us, but we have

subsequently learned through PKW and our other daughter, PFH, who both had conversations with him in the months before he died.

140. KSB changed from being the open, humorous, carefree, generous, confident and vibrant young man, to a mainly sullen, withdrawn, defensive, nervous and distracted youth who displayed signs of anxiety, eating issues, self-harm, insomnia, and rejection of authority, all of which were in keeping with the seriousness of the bullying.
141. His predicted grades slipped during this period, going from a prospective Oxbridge entry to a reasonable red-brick student.
142. His choice of university and course of study, which mirrored that of his successful elder brother was, in retrospect, a bad choice. Had I taken time to discuss his choice, further problems in his life might have been avoided. He did not like the subject, which led to him spending a wasted year at Durham, in which he started a disastrous relationship with his room-mates sister, who later became his first wife.
143. From university onwards KSB's life was a very complicated affair. We didn't really understand a lot of the underlying reasons until we spoke to the Edinburgh Academy Survivors group, and Giles, who put it into perspective.
144. We all used to phone him regularly when he was on his own. He loved my wife a lot and a lot of the reason he never told us about the bullying and abuse was for protection of her. We would have loved to have known though.

Impact on Family

145. KSB's death has impacted deeply on me, as I feel there are so many things as a father I could and should have handled differently, which could have improved his sense of self-worth, and guided him down better pathways.
146. KSB was a happy child but like me, being left-handed, found some things difficult to manage, such as cutlery, writing neatly etc. Coupled with this, he had tight leg tendons,

which meant he walked on his toes most of the time as a child. My parental tendency was probably over-corrective which, I assume, he would have resented. However, all seemed fine in our inter-relationship, until we moved up to Edinburgh with my job in 1981 when KSB was thirteen years old.

147. I later got involved in setting up Childline in Edinburgh and raising funds for it. It defies belief that you can be so close to the problem, but yet not recognise it in your own.
148. In retrospect, I was too absorbed in my challenging career, to spend time investigating his changing behaviour, and the underlying causes. Worse still, we went along with his decision to become a boarder, in order to complete his "A" level studies at the Academy, when the rest of the family moved back to our family home in [REDACTED], Berkshire.
149. To us, as parents, we always wondered what had caused such a radical change in the behaviour and demeanour of our happy, gregarious son. We carry a strong sense of guilt for not recognising that there was an underlying cause from psychological damage and treating it wrongly as a teenage "rebellion" phase. I am afraid that I merely added to the perceived "bullying - lack of self-esteem" reaction.
150. Not wishing to alienate him further, I made no effort to advise him against a marriage, especially as his partner had become pregnant, perhaps deliberately. Instead, I helped him to buy and renovate, their family home, close to us in Maidenhead. During those months of renovation, and the early years of his growing family, we spent much time together redeeming, I thought, past mistakes on my part.
151. Throughout his adult years, we have been close to KSB and his sons, and have suffered anxiety at KSB's physical and mental decline. We have agonised as to what more we could do for a proud son who stopped us from providing private medical help throughout, despite the obvious likely outcome.
152. The events of KSB's life, in particular his tumultuous relationships, have taken their toll on KSB's entire family, especially his children. KSB died mainly isolated from his dearest friends, and a family who loved him but could not maintain a continuous vigil.

His closest friend, and family members, who did remain in regular contact physically, and by phone, tried to get him the help he needed from both the NHS and private rehab resources. All efforts were spurned.

153. KSB's most destructive characteristic, born of his time at the Edinburgh Academy under his oppressors, was his absolute secrecy regarding the abuse. He held back from telling us in order to shield us, his family, who could have done so much more to protect him. Sadly, this self-less act led to his ultimate demise.
154. It has impacted our whole family. You don't see it coming. We thought we had the perfect family. Even with all his problems, KSB was still lovely to so many people. Unfortunately KSB quarrelled with [REDACTED], his sister because [REDACTED] quarrelled with us. He thought it was very cruel what she was putting us through. [REDACTED] never went to the funeral and that was quite hurtful. The others are all still very close.
155. My over-riding feelings now are a sense of failure that I wasn't able to create a relationship, such that KSB would have welcomed, and responded positively to offers of funding for interventions and support, as clearly needed.
156. It was only in the last few weeks of his life that I understood the profound damage caused to KSB by my decision to take on a new job in Scotland.. This was then exacerbated by standing back, when input action was really needed.
157. His family and friends all loved him dearly. His death, and funeral, made us realise how many other lives he so clearly touched by his care for colleagues; respect as a business manager and friend; his humour; his many talents and skills - it makes us both proud but at the same time increases our sense of loss.

Contact with Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group

158. One much needed avenue of support that could have come from the Edinburgh Academy, unfortunately came too late. Sad to say, this only came through my

daughter's instigation, and not from the school's sense of responsibility, or from KSB's willingness to seek it out.

159. Until the Edinburgh Academy inquiry hit the newspaper headlines, we had assumed that KSB's bullying had largely been isolated to him, a product of an 'anti-English' establishment. Our daughter PKW had witnessed only some of the bullying that took place at the school. She now lives in South Africa, but without television coverage, was fortunate to see a BBC news article on her mobile phone. That article not only mentioned the Edinburgh Academy inquiry, but more importantly, it mentioned the existence of an Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group, which spanned the years of KSB's time at the school.
160. It also gave the link to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Website. She contacted the Inquiry through the link in the article, and they put her in touch with the Edinburgh Academy Survivor Group to identify KSB as being another long-term sufferer. Giles Moffatt then agreed to get in touch with KSB independently, so that KSB could decide without sensing family intervention.
161. KSB could hardly deal with what happened. It was a month before he died that Giles Moffat gave him a call. Giles pretended that it wasn't PKW that had contacted him to prevent any resistance. KSB phoned [redacted] and said she would never guess that there had been all these people that had been suffering too. He hadn't known and he thought he had been the only one.
162. Only in the last four weeks of his life did KSB engage with the Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group, which provided him with much needed mental relief to know that others had been similarly affected.
163. It did help him, and he spoke to a lot of them including the abuser who had stabbed him with a screwdriver then phoned to apologise for behaving the way he did but said he was being bullied so badly himself, that he had to join the gang. KSB told him not to worry because he would've done the same. It was like Lord of the Flies.

164. Giles and The Edinburgh Academy Survivors Group told us about the numbers, how many had committed suicide, how many had become addicts or how many had broken relationships.
165. We were horrified about the sexual bullying element, as we had no idea. It was different times in the 70's and 80's and like many we didn't think that things like sexual abuse happened at such schools. It wasn't something that anybody talked about. It was a secret world. It was the internet that opened it all up. Nothing is secret now as it is all out in the open but before then we just didn't think that what PKW found out at the end was possible
166. We have no evidence that KSB was involved in suffering sexual abuse. PKW and Giles discussed behaviour patterns of other survivors in detail and think that there had been a sexual element to KSB's abuse. It did not seem to be the sports master, but we don't know who it might have been. We assumed it was the deputy head from what has been said, but we cannot be sure.
167. KSB did reveal the name of one of the teachers to PKW I think. We still don't know why he wouldn't name the second teacher to us. He was obviously more senior to the rugby man. He told PKW when he was on his death bed, "You wouldn't believe what he did." PKW kept on at him and eventually got a couple of names out of him. That was the time that we discovered how serious it all had been.

Failings of Edinburgh Academy

168. We have two perspectives about the failings of Edinburgh Academy (KSB's and PKW's) because PKW went from Fettes to Edinburgh Academy. She moved for two reasons. The first because she wasn't happy at Fettes, the second because she had by that time had developed a talent for art. She had identified that the Leith School of Art teachers were based at the Academy. She went on to blossom there. From there she went to Newcastle University and studied fine art. She is now a brilliant artist. Her artistic talents have led her to become the marketing director of the family company performing all the design work. She seemed to manage herself at the Academy,

because she was in an older age group, and I think her male friends tended to protect her.

169. There was a strong national ethos in Edinburgh, but this wasn't as acute as it was at the Academy. One doesn't expect a boy-on-boy bullying like in Lord of the Flies, but this seems to be an apt comparison.
170. What surprises me too, is that a lot of the victims at Edinburgh Academy were Scottish, or Scottish based, and that therefore says that it wasn't just a racist problem, it was a bully problem.
171. Edinburgh Academy failed in that they must have known about the bullying and the abuse taking place. We have seen in the press that Ian Wares got a glowing reference from Edinburgh Academy when he went on to Fettes. That should never have happened and that shows the endemic behaviour pattern of protectionism. It probably started off in a small way, in which a person in a powerful position starts off behaving badly, but then encouraging others to participate.
172. To frighten normal boys so much that they become bullies, themselves takes a tremendous amount when it is not in their nature is a complex issue to resolve. Teachers and staff influenced that because they practiced it themselves when throwing board dusters and banging students' heads on the table. That may not have been a general practice, but it was there.
173. We keep asking RMT what St Pauls was like, but he said no there was nothing like that. If other schools can get it right, they must know what teachers to employ and what to know.
174. We think that it was the whole regime at Edinburgh Academy that was responsible for the bad experiences KSB suffered there. I can't believe twenty two teachers out of a population of probably two or three hundred could go under the radar as far as the other ninety percent of them were concerned, they just couldn't. Why these people didn't speak up, whether they were threatened with losing their jobs or they had predilections in that direction themselves but never actually practiced it, I don't know.

175. Howard Hazlett was the chaplain of the school, and I knew him through my involvement with Childline, organising and attending dinners at which he spoke. He was a very engaging and very interesting character but, apparently as a chaplain, he did very little teaching. Reportedly he just left the kids to run riot at school which was very poor for a man in his position.
176. There was never any indication that he had anything to do with the bullying. On the other hand when the chaplain is not doing his job and the matron was apparently not doing hers, one has to wonder what they knew.
177. We only learned about the matron's attitude from reading reports but naturally she would have been the person that any child would turn to for help. The fact that she wasn't providing such support makes her culpable. KSB said to PKW that she was the worst because she wasn't there for them.
178. The whole community around the public schools and their 'Old Boy' institutions in Edinburgh seemed very cliquey. Our next door neighbour kept trying to get me to apply to join The New Club, to become an 'insider.' I do not know what the club was about as I never joined. Other friendly folk sought us out because they knew how difficult it could be in Edinburgh so they purposely made friends with us.
179. I had annual contact with most of his teachers at parents' day but I can't recall if they came across as part of that clique. They came across as fair in their judgement, but they also were fairly guarded especially when we started asking why the performance wasn't what they had suggested in the first place.
180. They had initially eulogised over KSB's abilities, which we took as an indication of where he was likely to end up, but they gradually toned that down over his six year stay.
181. We never heard of any interaction in the boarding house with the staff. Our other experiences of boarding houses are of St Paul's with RMT, and through our three South African grandsons who went to Michaelhouse boarding school in South Africa. There we have been to induction days and open days where the atmosphere is totally

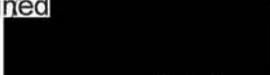
different. We were shown around the schools, the boarding houses and the dorms. It is all very open, they discuss everything, they discuss the social life and the performance of the child.

182. If I was sending a child to boarding school now, I would send them to one in South Africa. I wouldn't go near Edinburgh Academy now; in fact, I am afraid I wouldn't go back to Edinburgh even although we did have some good friends up there who were very loyal.
183. Without the evidence now emerging from the Edinburgh Academy inquiry, I would not have recognised how badly I had misread the evidence of bullying, and the impact that this had on ^{KSB} and other students lives.
184. Hopefully this enquiry will help prevent other lives being destroyed by those seeking gratification through inflicting pain on others.

Other information

185. 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.

^{KRG}

Signed.....

Dated..... 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024