

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FPT

1. My name is FPT. My date of birth is 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I currently work as a Project Sponsor for the MOD. I am based at Rosyth. I am currently involved in a project to Morton Fraser LLP can provide my contact details.
3. I was a pupil at QVS between 1983 and 1991. My father was in the RAF and often moved between bases in Scotland and England. To try to ensure some continuity of education, my elder brother and I went to QVS. My brother is older and started at QVS the year before me.
4. I started at QVS when I was in primary 6. My brother was in primary 7. We were both in Wavell House at this stage. CRC was the housemaster but he died in the 1980s. After he died OLB became the housemaster. The matron left while I was in primary 6 and was replaced by another lady who was fine. When I moved into primary 7 my brother moved to Trenchard House as he was now in secondary 1.
5. I moved into Trenchard House as well when I went into secondary 1 and stayed there until the end of s3. Bill Webster was the housemaster. He was a character. I have nothing overly negative or positive to say about my time there.
6. For S4 to S6, I was in Haig House. Ben Philip was the housemaster. I have fond memories of him. He was very calm and level headed. The matron was Betty McKeitch but she retired while I was there and was replaced by Liz Evans. She formed

a formidable team with Ben Philip. We were older so had more freedom. We felt respected by the housemaster and matron. If we crossed a line, we were made aware of that in a firm and polite way. Ben Philip ensured we were looked after but generally treated us like adults. The s6 boys sometimes visited Ben Philip's flat and on occasion Liz Evan's flat in small groups for coffee/biscuits and a chat. Ben Philip was always approachable and you could always have a chat with him.

7. There was still corporeal punishment while I was at school - a slipper to the backside if you misbehaved. The belt was also still in use. It was not dished out wily nily - very much a last resort. Some staff had a lower tolerance for bad behaviour than others. I never felt bullied or threatened by staff and never feared going to classes.
8. I was very homesick when I started at QVS. The staff were very caring. I remember my aunt died while I was in p7. The staff were again very caring. I was told about it with my brother. The school chaplain, John Silcox, was there to support us. He kept a close eye on me and made sure to include me in what was going on that day. He ensured that my peers encouraged me to join in activities like swimming.
9. If I had concerns or troubles, I would usually speak to my brother first. He kept an eye on me. After that, I'd speak to the housemaster. I tended to speak to the housemaster more than the matron.
10. When I was at QVS in the 1980s, it was still seen as a military school. There was a chain of command. Prefects were able to punish younger pupils for misdemeanours - punishments like a lap or the sports field or circuits in the gym. I always felt that if I got a punishment it was deserved. There was a hierarchical structure at school with the Haig boys (the senior boys) ruling the roost. Some of them gave off an air of authority but not in a way that they were feared. I was bullied for a while by a boy in my year group. It was not overly bad and I wasn't scared of him. He hit me once in class and I told a teacher about it. The staff pulled him out of class and spoke to him. I am not sure what else happened there. It calmed down after that and we started to get along with each other in S5.

- 11. I am aware of the story that hit the press with Harrison in 1991. I never experienced or saw anything of that nature. If there were trips out from the school, they were enjoyable. Some boys did go away as individuals, normally associated with pipe band activity on Remembrance Day. Any trips I went on as part of a smaller group were associated with Pipe Band activity with either one of the teachers, QYL [REDACTED] or the school Pipe Major, Alan Dippie.

- 12. On the whole, my team at QVS was a positive experience and I got to do things I would never have done otherwise. I made friends for life. It was a positive for me.

- 13. 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..........

Dated..... 01 September 2021