

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

CCA

Support person present: Yes

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

### Life before going into care

2. My father's name was . He was raised in a Presbyterian family. He went to Uppingham boarding school in England from an early age. He went on to become a surgeon and was a medical officer in the second world war. He retired in 1948. My mother was an ex-nurse. She was raised in a more bohemian family in London. She stopped working when she began having children.
3. I was born in South Africa. I have two younger siblings. is two years younger than me and is four years younger than me. My parents moved back to the UK from South Africa when I was eighteen months old. We moved to middle England when I was aged six or seven.
4. I was sent to two prep-schools in the North-East of England. The first prep-school I went to was called St Nicholas' in Hayden Bridge, Northumberland. I then went on to Newlands Prep school in Gosforth, Newcastle. I must have been seven years old when I was first sent away from home. At the time, I remember feeling particularly upset that I was being sent away to boarding school when my brothers were not.

5. My father had limited funds when he retired from the army. He became a registrar when he retired but it was much lower pay than he had been used to. He was trying to support three boys and a wife. By sending me to boarding school, he thought that he was doing the best thing for me. There was no family tradition of going to Fettes but it had a reputation for being one of the best schools to go to. My father was trying to do the best he could for at least one of his sons. There was no discussion with me about it.

### **Fettes College**

6. I went to Fettes College when I was about eleven or twelve years old. I am not sure of the dates. It must have been around 1954-5, I am not sure. The first time I visited, I remember thinking what a ghastly building it was. It was this huge overly-decorated lump of granite sitting in these massive grounds. There were six houses in total. Four houses were located in Carrington Place. Inverleith House was positioned at the bottom of the drive, just outside the school grounds.
7. The headmaster was called Donald Crichton-Miller. He left after I had had left Fettes for a year. It was around 1958 I think. He had run the school with an iron-rod. He went on to "restore discipline" at a school called Stowe.
8. Fettes liked to boast that it was very academic but it wasn't. The school was obsessed with rugby. The rugby players were revered by the staff and the pupils. Some of the boys at school went on to play for Scotland's first fifteen.
9. When I arrived at Fettes, I was immature, slightly chubby, slightly academic, with a stammer and large round glasses and useless at games. It was not a good start. Initially, I went into Inverleith House which was the post-prep part of the school. It was a stop-gap until I was old enough to go to Fettes proper. Inverleith House was fine in itself. The problem was where it sat in relation to Fettes. It was located outside of the school gates. It was part of Fettes but not completely. We would be taught

within the Fettes buildings and share the school sports facilities but I definitely felt like an outsider. As soon as I arrived, I stood out as an Inverleith boy.

10. After Inverleith House, I moved to Kimmerghame House. It was positioned within the main Fettes grounds. The housemaster was called Richard Cole-Hamilton. He did the best he could within the system. He couldn't really speak out against the school. I think he disagreed with the school about the discipline practices but he had to follow the party-line. He would have lost his job otherwise.

### **Routine at Fettes**

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

11. I can't remember a huge amount about the daily routine. I remember we would get up and have a cold shower. We were watched by the senior boys from their warm showers. It was their privilege for being seniors. We would then have to walk up to the main school for breakfast.

#### *Dormitories*

12. Our dorms were small in Inverleith House. It was a private house so the rooms were quite small. There were perhaps seven or eight of us in each dorm. When I went to Fettes, the dorms were much larger. There would be thirty to forty boys in each dorm. The windows would be kept open all night even through winter. We had one trunk and one locker per person to keep our personal possessions.

#### *Food*

13. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were held in the dining room. I had no real issue with the food. It was fine. There were long tables where we all sat together. Someone would have the job of collecting the dirty plates. The plates would need to be taken to the

serving hatch for cleaning. You had to be careful because boys would stick their foot out to trip you up. We would get a bun at mid-morning break.

### *School*

14. After breakfast, we had lessons. Fettes followed the English exam system of O-levels and A-levels. We had lessons in all of the main academic subjects. At the mid-morning break, school honours would be handed out. Boys would be given school colours and congratulated in front of everyone. We would then go back to lessons until lunch.
15. We would have sports in the afternoon. If the weather was unsuitable for the scheduled rugby or hockey, you would be sent on a cross-country run. The run was always around the circumference of the school grounds. Sometimes we would have swimming. Swimming was always in the nude. I remember there were always comments about boys' physiques.
16. After sports, we would have communal showers followed by dinner. After dinner, we would have two hours of prep. We were then given time to do athletics or hobbies.
17. On Saturdays, we followed the same routine as on weekdays. We had lessons in the morning and sports in the afternoon. On Sundays, we went to church. Fettes had its own chapel. By Sunday afternoon, there was nothing to do. I remember being utterly bored on Sunday afternoons.

### *Cadet training*

18. We would have compulsory cadet training. [REDACTED]  
**CDH** [REDACTED] I am not sure about this name. We would have to wear uniforms and learn how to be a soldier. In the early years, it was called cadet training. As you progressed to the higher ranks it became known as Officer Training Corps (OTC). It was fully disciplined and you had to wear standard battle dress. We had to carry

rifles as big as ourselves. We were given live ammunition to use. We were thirteen year old boys with real guns.

19. CDH [REDACTED] was an un-commissioned officer. It meant that he was looked down upon by the other members of staff. Fettes was quite an “upstairs – downstairs” sort of place. CDH [REDACTED] was definitely “downstairs”. As a result, he was slightly separate to the other staff; a bit of an outsider.
20. CDH [REDACTED] took a special interest in me. [REDACTED] he would ask me in for cups of tea. He was always asking me to “help” with army things. We would have to go on night exercises sometimes. I remember lying in the heather and he passed me a pistol. He told me to aim at one of the other staff members cars. He told me to try to hit it.
21. Nothing ever happened with CDH [REDACTED] but I think he was grooming me. He would have had to be cautious because he was not part of the establishment. He would not have been protected by the school if he had ever been caught doing anything inappropriate. If he had had more opportunity, I am sure some form of sexual abuse would have taken place.

#### *Holidays*

22. We would be sent home for the summer, winter and Easter holidays. My parents would also take me out of school for “exeat weekends”. The exeats were on prescribed dates.

#### *Letter writing*

23. Letter writing was every Saturday evening. There was a blackboard with suggestions of what to write in your letter home. Things like, “Fettes won the rugby match on Saturday”. We would give our letters to our housemaster for posting. I am not sure if they were read.

*Pocket money and personal possessions*

24. We were allowed some personal possessions. We kept them in trunks in our dormitories. We also had one tuck box each. They were kept in a long row outside the common room at Kimmerghame. We kept tins of sweets in our tuck boxes. We brought sweets from home or bought them with our pocket money.
25. We were given pocket money. Sometimes, I would take my pocket money and use it to go to the open-air swimming pool in Musselburgh. I would always go on a Sunday afternoon. I would have to sneak out of school. Nobody missed me at school, so I never got caught.

*Uniform*

26. We had house ties which were different colours. Otherwise, everyone wore the same uniform. Status depended on whether you were a prefect or played sport for the school. It was a matter of distinction and privilege.

*Visits/Inspections*

27. I do not recall any visits from inspectors or outside agencies. My parents would visit on the prescribed exeat weekends and take me home for school holidays. They did not attend during term-time.

*Bed-wetting*

28. Luckily, I was not a bed-wetter at Fettes. My room-mate in third and fourth year wet his bed regularly. His name was [REDACTED] He was still bed-wetting aged thirteen and fourteen. He had to put his bed-sheets into a special bag and leave it out in the corridor. I think that it was in order that all of the other boys could see that he was a bed-wetter. He had to put his mattress up against the wall to dry. Matron and the school were un-merciful. Their attitude was that, "you just shouldn't be doing it".

*Healthcare*

29. Both Inverleith House and Kimmerghame had a matron who was in charge of our healthcare. All of the houses had matrons. The matron at Inverleith house was fine, she cared about us. At Kimmerghame House, the matron was only interested in the running of the House.
30. In the Autumn term of 1957, there was an outbreak of impetigo at school. I was in fourth or fifth year. There was a group of three of us who were banished to the sanatorium or "san". It occurred to us that being in san meant that we got out of classes, sports, prep etc. From then on, we tried to string out our illness as long as we could.
31. We did not have routine medical examinations but we were seen by a doctor if necessary. It was on an ad hoc basis. We saw a doctor whilst in san with impetigo. He signed us out of san when we were deemed fit. As we were leaving san, matron gave us a lecture. She told us that we were "dirty little boys". She said that it was only because of our "dirty practices" that we had contracted impetigo.
32. I was shocked and angered by the matron's speech. I reacted badly. I went back to Kimerghame where all of our tuck boxes were kept. I mixed up the other boys' sweet tins and stole the ones I liked the look of. I ate all of the sweets.
33. Stealing was deemed to be totally unacceptable behaviour. As a result, I was referred to the Sick Kids Hospital to see a child psychologist. I went by myself to the Sick Kids Hospital every day from then on. Back at house, I was kept apart from the other children. My dormitory bed was put at the end of the dorm. I was put into purgatory.

## Abuse at Fettes

### *Discipline*

34. The school had a peculiar discipline structure. Most of the discipline was handed out by the senior pupils. Apart from the staff, there was a very clear hierarchy of boys who were able to punish you. The most senior boys role was school prefect. School prefects were chosen from the six houses and were directly answerable to the headmaster. They were normally chosen because they were in the first fifteen rugby team. Being a prefect was a real privilege. One level down from the school prefects, were the house prefects. House prefects were directly answerable to the housemaster.
35. Corporal punishment was just a part of life at Fettes. It was called "schooling". The corporal punishments the prefects handed out were always quite public. If you were given schooling, the head prefect would stand up in lunch and say, "would CCA CCA please go to the area outside the Headmaster's room". It was an area that was out of bounds. You would have to stand up, leave the dining room and wait in the specified area. After lunch, each of the eight school prefects would attend. They would each strike you once. It was boys beating boys.
36. Within the House, corporal punishment was administered in the evening during prep-time. You would be summoned during prep to the house prefects. They would all strike you once.
37. Sometimes, we would be given "impositions" . Impositions were lines to write out in ink. You had to buy your own lines paper which had two parallel lines. You had to write your lines correctly within the upper-case and lower-case lines. Often the other boys would blot big ink puddles on your lines. It meant that you would have to re-do all of the lines again. Each imposition was marked up in a book. Once you got beyond a certain number of mistakes, you would be caned.



*"Vigilantes"*

38. One level below the House prefects were the "vigilantes". I thought of the vigilantes as the "Klu-Klux-Klan" of school; the unwritten rule-enforcers. They were a self-selecting group. The group consisted of the boys that were not prefects but were still good at sports and popular within the house. I remember one of the vigilante leaders was called [REDACTED]. I can't remember the names of the other members.
39. It was a strange system of school-sponsored ritualised abuse. The vigilante practices were openly permitted by the staff. It was very much boys on boys. You either sank or swam to survive.
40. The vigilantes would look for ways to punish you. They would ask stupid test questions that you were supposed to know the answer to. Questions like, "what's the difference between the Houses of Parliament and the House of Lords?". If you were new, you would refer to the real places in London. If you had been at Fettes for any length of time, you would know that they were both the names of toilets in the school grounds. The vigilantes would expect you to know which one had urinals. If you got the answer wrong, the vigilantes would punish you.
41. There was also a strict behavioural code that the vigilantes monitored and enforced. To get to the main school building, you had to walk up the main drive. In first year, you had to walk in the middle of the drive without any hands in your pockets. In second year, you had to walk slightly off-centre of the drive with one hand in your pocket. In third year, you had to walk on the edge of the drive with both hands in your pockets.
42. In first year, I didn't pay much attention to where I walked or whether I had my hands in my pockets correctly. The vigilantes noticed and punished me regularly. They would trash my text books or put my fingers into the hinges of my desk and close the lid. Sometimes they would make me play fives with golf balls. Fives was a game similar to squash but without the racquets. You would play on a squash court with a squishy ball and gloves on. Using golf balls was incredibly painful.

43. The longer I stayed at Fettes, the less I fitted in and the worse the bullying got. I started to get beatings in the school showers. The vigilantes would use wet knotted towels to hit me. The wet towels caused a lot of pain but didn't leave bruising. More and more I was driven into a hole of misery. Increasingly, I would hide in the lavatory and not come out for hours.

### *Fagging*

44. There was also a "fagging" system at Fettes. It meant that any one of the senior boys could just shout the word "fag" and you were expected to go running to them. They would give you a chore to do. It was normally menial tasks like cleaning their rugby boots or making them tea or toast.

### *Sexual abuse*

45. There was a senior boy called [REDACTED]. He was known as [REDACTED]. He was one of the school prefects. He was a member of the first fifteen and one of the headmaster's "golden boys". He had power.
46. One day, [REDACTED] caught me masturbating. He walked in, smiled and whipped out his own penis. He said, "let's do it together". From that moment onwards, he had me "bang to rights" because he could use it against me. It continued throughout my limited time at Fettes, for probably one year. At first, he would make me masturbate with him. Then he moved to masturbate him and engage in oral sex. It happened in our free time. There were certain places at school that he would tell me to go to. A wooded spot against the wall in the grounds. The boiler room. A little hut tucked away from sight or his study.
47. In fourth year, I was moved to a study room that I shared with [REDACTED]. We were both misfits so I think that we were put together deliberately. [REDACTED] grew in confidence and the abuse escalated. He started having anal intercourse with me.

48. I got through underpants as a result of the injuries I sustained. I would bleed from my back passage after. I would cut up strips of towels to mop up the blood. Nobody really queried why I needed new pairs of underpants. I would throw the soiled ones onto the refuse dump at the back of Kimmerghame House. I just told matron and my parents that I had soiled myself.
49. The abuse by [REDACTED] was common knowledge amongst my peer group. The way people treated me changed considerably. I became known as [REDACTED]'s "bum-boy". It made me untouchable. The bullies backed off. In the showers, everyone would steer clear of me.
50. It was a confusing situation to be in. I was in this strange bubble of quasi-affection. There was this cool, older boy showing me special attention. I was marked out as someone special. The fact that the bullying backed off was proof in itself that I was special to him. I began to question whether it was me; whether there was something wrong with me. Later years taught me differently, but I still see him as a product of the system at Fettes rather than a predator.

### **Leaving Fettes**

51. The psychiatrists at the Sick Kids Hospital had written a report detailing their findings on me. The doctors had made me do a battery of tests every day. Some of the tests were diagrams of girls and boys. I don't think I told them about [REDACTED] but they must have known that improper relationships were going on. The report went back to my parents, the headmaster and my housemaster. I don't know what the school said to my parents. I know that the issue of homosexuality cropped up. I think they decided to keep the matter "in-house", within the four walls of the school.
52. Following the Sick Kids psychiatrists report, my days at Fettes were numbered. I was what I refer to as "ghost-trained". In the prison service, if a prisoner is problematic there is a practice of suddenly moving them from their usual prison to a new one. No explanation or warning is given. That is what happened to me when I left Fettes. No-

one explained anything to me. I was taken home by my parents and banished to my room. My brothers were at home. I was not allowed to see them or leave my room until they had returned to school. I was an embarrassment to everyone.

### **Reporting of abuse at Fettes**

53. I never shared what was going on at Fettes with anyone. I didn't feel that I could say anything. It would have been against all the unwritten rules of the institution. The attitude was, "you just don't grass". I ran away after first year and again after that. When I was returned to school, I was given lines as a punishment. I never told anyone why I had ran away.
54. When I shared a room with [REDACTED], it did cross my mind that he could have been suffering from similar physical and sexual abuse to me. It would have explained his bed-wetting. I never discussed anything with him or any of my peers. You just didn't. The attitude was that you should, "grin and bear it". It was your fault.
55. Although I never told the teachers what was happening, it seems unlikely that they did not know. Society knew about homosexuality in those days even though it was illegal. The school did not want to acknowledge that it existed, certainly not within the school walls. The attitude was, "it doesn't belong here, therefore we don't recognise it". It was a subject that just wasn't talked about. Staff like matron must have realised something was going on. The number of underpants I went through alone should have rung alarm bells. At the Sick Kids Hospital, the psychiatrists made me do so many tests every day. Some of them involved diagrams of girls and boys. They too must have known what was going on.
56. The first time I have spoken about my time at Fettes and the abuse I suffered is when I got in touch with the Inquiry. It is the first time I have told my wife the full extent of what happened to me.

## Life after Fettes

57. When I left Fettes, I was sent to a Quaker school called The Friends School, Great Ayton. It was located in North Yorkshire. My father would never have been sent me to such a school if I hadn't left Fettes under such circumstances. The headmaster was called John Reid. He was a very gentle man. If you did something wrong, you would be quietly spoken to. The headmistress was great and taught English literature. It was her teaching that gave me my underlying love of books.
58. In comparison to Fettes, the Quaker school was like night and day. It felt like heaven. Nobody was privileged for no reason. If you were punished, the prefect involved would be involved in the punishment too. If you had to dig a hole in the school grounds, the prefect would be digging too. There were no pointless punishments like lines; all punishments were for the good of the community. We addressed teachers as "Mr", "Mrs" or "Miss". They did not have to be referred to as "sir". There were sometimes up to three "meetings" a day. At a "meeting", a person would talk about a worthy cause like missionaries in Africa. There was space and quiet.
59. Although I was much happier at the Quaker school, academically I went downhill. I still have my school report which has phrases like "doesn't take an interest", "careless", "sloppy", "doesn't concentrate". I must have been ok at the core subjects as I managed to scrape through my o-levels. I got into the local crammer in order to get the results for university, but did not do well and I did not apply to University.
60. I joined the army but I was a lousy soldier. The Quaker beliefs were pretty well entrenched. I was discharged after twice failing the "Other Rank 1" (OR1) exam. I do remember the army being a doddle in comparison to Fettes.
61. I wanted to join the probation service but I required some academic qualifications. I went to learn nursing and thereafter sat the probation service tests. I passed the tests and was sent to London for training. The training in London was brilliant and taught me a lot. The knowledge I gained from the mental health nursing and the

probation service training has helped me learn that the abuse at Fettes was not my fault.

62. I am now retired. I am happily married to my wife [REDACTED]. We have one grown-up son and two grandchildren.

## **Impact**

### *Physical impact*

63. I was on holiday a few years ago in the United States and walking at high altitudes. I was at about eight thousand feet when I began bleeding rectally. I went see my GP when I got home. I had a lump that turned out to be anal cancer. I also had a massive anal fissure. The only anal sex I have ever had was at Fettes. I wondered if it was the legacy I had been left by Fettes. I can't say for definite but it is certainly a possibility.
64. I have had to undergo radiotherapy and chemotherapy, plus surgery, and it has affected my pelvis and bowel. I have a number of food problems and chronic gastritis. My digestive system has been left in a total mess.

### *Mental impact*

65. I have feelings of total hatred towards Fettes and all that it stands for. I have a massive dislike of unearned privilege.
66. I don't have any friends. I just don't make friends with people outside of my family. I'm happy with that. It's safe. I have been let down by others too often.
67. I have never considered attending formal counselling. I have self-counselled in a sense. The mental health nurse training and the probation service training focused

on other peoples' behaviour and their victims. It was very supportively taught. From what I learnt, I was able to make sense of what happened to me.

### *Impact on work*

68. In the probation service, I had to work within clear guidelines. It had a certain discipline that I liked and needed. The prison setting was very similar to the setting in Fettes. There was the same hierarchical structure and the same kinds of sexual relationships between in-mates. My experiences and training all seemed to work together. I can't be sure where my knowledge has come from, whether it was acquired from my experiences or acquired from learning, or both. I never reached the higher ranks in the probation service. I was too much of a "pain in the arse". I was always asking, "why?" if I was asked to do something.

### *Family*

69. I felt like an embarrassment to the family. My mother's uncle was quite a high-profile homosexual. His name was [REDACTED] and he was friends with the Mitford sisters and Lawrence of Arabia. My father was horrified by him. I know when I left Fettes he thought, "oh no, not another one". He was even horrified by my brother going into acting and me going into nursing years later.
70. I now know that my father was trying to do the best for me. He was an emotionally cold father. He never hugged me as a child. The only time he ever gave me a hug was when I was an adult, at my step-mother's funeral. I still blame him for sending me away to boarding school. When my father died, he left a letter. It referred to me as his "number one son". That was when I realised that he had been trying to do the best for me for all those years.
71. My father sent my two brothers to Fettes even after what had happened with me. My father had been bullied at Uppingham and his attitude was that a bit of bullying "made a man of you". I never discussed my experiences with my brothers. They both

went on to do well in life. My older brother went into the Foreign Office/Scottish Office. My younger brother is an actor in New York.

### **Records**

72. Since leaving Fettes, I have had a total and utter refusal to even acknowledge its existence. I won't even stop at a hotel if it looks similar in appearance. When the Fettes alumni magazine comes through my door, it is put in the recycling before being read. I've just never wanted to know anything about it. I have not kept in touch with anyone from Fettes at all. I have not looked into obtaining any of my records. You could put a bomb under Fettes for all I care.
73. The only time I have ever looked up Fettes online was in response to the Inquiry. I went onto the Fettes website to get the correct dates for applications. I have made no other contact at all.

### **Other information**

74. I think the institutional part of the problem has probably been halted. Schools have much greater checks. Homosexuality is no longer so taboo. No one could really blackmail me into being gay anymore. Having said that, there will always be those that are bad. There will always be those that are good. There will always be those in-between. I think the lesson is that abuse doesn't stop, it just changes form.
75. I think it's important that whistle-blowers have the freedom to come forward. There must be protections put into place to protect them. I never had the guts at school to stand up and say what was happening to me. I felt unable to say anything as there was no protection provided. It went against the ethos of the school to "grass" and I was terrified that the abuse or bullying would get worse.



- 76. I suppose the biggest lesson for the Inquiry to learn is that anyone coming forward with allegations of abuse, adult or child, needs to be protected from repercussions.
- 77. 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..... CCA .....

Dated..... 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 .....