

Scottish Child Abuse InquiryWitness Statement of ^{CCD} [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is ^{CCD} [REDACTED], though I'm more commonly called ^{CCD} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1960, and I am 57 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I was born in Kenya where my father worked as a bank manager. I am the youngest of four and have two sisters and a brother who are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is the eldest. We were in Kenya until I was 8½ years old, and I thought my childhood was blissful though when I went back years later I realised it wasn't all it seemed.
3. Everything changed when my father became ill and we moved to Worthing in England. He got progressively sicker and suffered several strokes one after the other. He had been a very athletic man up until then and I found the whole situation quite confusing, especially living in Britain. I went to a prep school in Sussex as a boarder, along with my brother. My sisters also went to a boarding school.
4. When I was ten the family moved to Edinburgh where my dad was originally from. I think I had been in Scotland once before when I was six years old and had found it rather strange. I couldn't believe it when my mother said we weren't going back to Kenya. I hadn't even been able to say goodbye to my friends in Kenya.
5. When I was about 26 years old I went back to Kenya for my sister's wedding. I went back to where I had grown up, and it was only then that I realised that I had really been living in a colonial bubble when I first lived there.

Day pupil at the Edinburgh Academy, Henderson Rd, Edinburgh

6. I was in the Edinburgh Academy primary school for a year before I moved on to the main school. The Academy was an all-boys' school and it was very different to what I was used to. I at first felt there was an attitude to me being English. There were also a lot of beatings using clackens which were like hurling sticks which we got hit with. There was also a lot of noise that I wasn't used to which was caused by kids banging their desks. There was also an atmosphere of fear, and people were regularly beaten with the tawse.
7. There is a particular story of something that happened to me in 1970 or 1971 that, on looking back, I find quite harrowing. One day I was dressed in my tracksuit but had forgotten my sports shorts. I was worried about this as I was aware that there was a lot of discipline at the school. I spoke to somebody about it who told me to speak to Mr Wares but added "Watch him".
8. I went to Mr Wares. I was dressed but didn't have my shorts on under my tracksuit. I told him this. It was so quick, but he seemed to want to turn it into a joke. He put his hand down my tracksuit trousers and rubbed his hand against my groin. My recollection is that this happened outside the classrooms, and there may or may not have been other boys around. I've never told anybody about that until a couple of weeks ago when I spoke to somebody who had also gone to the Academy and he said he remembered Mr Wares.
9. There was another teacher there called Mr Dawson. He never did anything to me but as a child I couldn't understand things he did. He used to give out jelly beans, but he was also a disciplinarian who would punish you in front of everybody else. There was just something about his demeanour that I found unnerving. On one occasion a boy wanted to go to the toilet, but Mr Dawson refused to let him go. The boy ended up pissing himself, and I think Dawson just shouted at him to get out. Dawson disciplined lots of boys, with both a ruler and the clacken, and one in particular who I recall was called [REDACTED]. You were normally hit on the hand with the ruler and on the backside with the clacken.

Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh

10. I went to Fettes when I was fifteen years old. I boarded for the first two terms at Fettes, but then I complained that I shouldn't have to board when I lived in Edinburgh. So I was a day pupil after that. I started Fettes in 5th year.
11. There were four houses in the school. I was in Moredun. The other houses were School House, Arniston and Kimmerghame. The boys in the school ranged from eleven to eighteen years old.
12. When I started there were fifteen boys in my dorm, and we were all the same age. Each house was in a separate building with a dorm and study rooms. Each house had a housemaster, and then there would also be prefects.

Routine at Fettes when a boarder*Mornings and bedtime*

13. You would get woken up by a junior (a first year student) who would come to your cubicle at about 7am. You would have a shower and then have breakfast which would be in the main hall. Showers were communal and all the boys using them would be in the same year. You would then go and get your books and go to class. Day boys would arrive after breakfast.
14. Lunch and supper were also taken in the main dining hall. Staff would be present though not actually eating. They were there in a supervisory role. Kitchen staff were also present. You were allowed to talk during meal times. You had the usual dynamics of who to sit with, and sometimes there would be a teacher at your table.

15. Mealtimes were fairly relaxed, though I do remember the derision visited upon the younger kitchen staff calling them "skivvies" and such like. It was very class driven. This was done by the boys, and there would also be sexual references typical of boys at that age.
16. We wore sports jackets, grey trousers, white shirts and black ties, but it wasn't a uniform. Your parents would buy these.
17. After lunch you would go back to your houses where we would have a half hour daily assembly for your house. The seniors would stroll around strutting their stuff. They would be telling people to do things though I can't now recall what. After this we would have games and thereafter you would continue classes. The games mainly involved rugby which we played almost every day. There was a serious hierarchy in the rugby, and those who did well had a bit more kudos. If you were in the 1st 15 you would have a different scarf to indicate that. It was pink.
18. There were some afternoons when we could go into town until lessons started again between 3:30pm and 6pm. If you went out you had to sign yourself out so that they knew you had left the school area. After I stopped boarding I would go home at that point.
19. The only leisure time was the short time after prep at 8pm. There was no TV. There was a library. You could phone home. While boarding you had to get permission to go home which you could do after lessons on a Saturday. I think I got home every weekend. I think it was natural that those who boarded were jealous of those who could go home every night.
20. Prep was like homework and you did it from 6-8pm. You would then have free time till about 9pm and then it was time for bed. During this free time there were small kitchens where we could perhaps have some toast or some such snack.

School

21. Classes were in the main building with a normal curriculum. There were 15 to 25 pupils in a class, and you were in a different class for each subject. The atmosphere was alright and not as fearful as it had been in the Academy. The teachers certainly weren't as frightening. I don't recall punishments as such given by the teachers because punishments tended to be handed out by the housemasters and the headmaster. Holidays were the usual school holidays.

Birthdays and Christmas

22. I was always home for Christmas, and birthdays weren't celebrated in the school.

Visits/Inspections

23. There were no official visitors that I recall. Obviously I didn't get visits from my family as, when I was boarding, I went home every weekend. Also, my mum worked at the school as a secretary which was why I was sent there.

Religion

24. The headmaster would come in and give passionate speeches about God every morning in the chapel. We went to the chapel after breakfast but before school.

Abuse at Fettes

25. For me it's important to get something recorded. This is because I've thought about it in different ways, and I've become quite furious about what happened.
26. I went up to Fettes once to show my wife where I had gone to school and I saw a plaque in the foyer for Anthony Chenevix –Trench who had been the headmaster. I thought "Oh look, they've got a tribute to their own Jimmy Saville". I think it was that plaque, as much as anything, that made me come forward to the Inquiry.

27. Fettes had a sadistic and mocking environment, and I think it was from the top down. The prefects would line you up before lunch and slap who they wanted. I think the prefects were chosen by the housemaster, and there was a culture that they actually called "mocking".
28. I don't recall if prefects beat you, but they certainly handed out punishments like polishing their shoes or things like that. The prefect I recall was called [REDACTED], and I hated him. After lunch we had assembly in a big square. All the prefects would walk about and shout at people. It would never have crossed my mind to make a complaint. The housemaster might have been present but, as often as not, he wasn't.
29. Punishments were carried out in private, not in public in front of other students. The boys would talk about what had happened to them. I was given the cane on the backside. They had a trick whereby they would bend you over then you would hear the swish. That made you clench your buttocks and then they would hit you. This was because you would loosen your clench immediately before they hit you which made it hurt more. You would have to shake their hand and say thank you afterwards. I hated having to do that. Beatings were carried out in the headmaster's room and was done over your clothes.
30. On one occasion I was punished for smoking when I was a boarder. I got a choice of either getting gated or caned. Gated meant not being allowed out for two weeks. I said I would take the cane. I got hit six times on the occasion when I was punished for smoking. This was done by my first housemaster though I can't recall his name.
31. I also got beaten with the cane by Mr [REDACTED] who was the second housemaster I had when I was a boarder. I can't remember the name of the housemaster he took over from. I can't remember if I got beaten by him for smoking or for leaving the grounds without telling somebody.
32. I was also punished by a prefect who was in the same year as me. I couldn't understand how somebody could do that to a person in his own year. I think it was

because I had signed in late as a day student and I think he made me come in early and do chores. Whether or not the prefects had somebody checking on them to make sure they weren't being unfair is not something that ever crossed my mind. To me it just seemed that they were part of the housemaster's posse.

33. There was a particular incident which involved the headmaster Anthony Chenevix – Trench when I was a day pupil. I suppose it was more the manner of what happened rather than the punishment itself, though I was innocent of any wrong doing on that occasion. What happened was that my name had been mentioned in connection to cannabis, and my housemaster sent me to the headmaster. I knew others at the school had been caught with cannabis and one of them had mentioned my name. I asked my housemaster where the evidence was but he just sent me to the headmaster.
34. When I went into Anthony Chenevix - Trench's personal quarters he sat me down. He then said "My dear boy, your father is too ill to punish you so I will". He got me to stand up and put his hand on my shoulder and said "My dear boy, I'm going to have to beat you. There is the slipper, the belt and the cane". Facetiously I said "Oh! We have a choice?". He then told me what he would do with each.
35. He said "With the slipper I will take your trousers and pants down. With the belt, just your trousers will come down. The cane will be over your trousers". I immediately said "I'll take the cane" to which he said "Oh, what a good choice". While he was talking to me he had both hands on my shoulders and was in my personal space. He was talking in a twisted manner.
36. I've reflected on that incident, and I think there is something about abuse that he was basically getting me to agree to something. He bent me over the couch and then he beat me, and all that was going through my mind was that I wasn't going to give him anything. He beat me hard and when I stood up he said "Oh well done, my boy. I've known many a senior to squeal after the second cane". And then of course I had to shake his hand and thank him. He had hit me six times with the cane.

37. I went home after that beating and I remember looking in the mirror and thinking "Wow". I literally had a bump across my backside. I think back and just wish I had contacted the police, but it was 1977 and I doubt anything would have happened then, never mind now.
38. Looking back I now wonder if my housemaster Mr ^{FTF} [REDACTED] knew what sort of person he was sending me to. I often wondered if there was some sort of collusion going on. Did he know that he was sending me to somebody who clearly got pleasure out of handing out such punishments?
39. I did hear stories about Trench from others who said he was drunk when he had caned some boys and had hit them half way down their legs as well as on the backside. I don't know if anybody was ever beaten over the bare backside, but I'm sure it's possible they were.
40. I didn't get medical treatment after I had been beaten by Trench. I could have seen the matron but she would just have told me to get on with things. I don't recall the matron's name.
41. There was another incident which I found strange. I had an English teacher whose name I don't recall who invited me to go see him in his personal quarters apparently to talk about poetry. I felt he was being overly friendly, and when I left I just felt that things didn't seem right and I found myself asking "What went on there?". The teacher was asked to leave Fettes. I think he was asked to leave because of something that happened in a previous school.

Reporting of abuse at Fettes

42. I spoke to my mother about the abuse some five years ago as I felt more emotionally intelligent about things. I told her that that man Chenevix –Trench had abused me. But she just replied "Oh don't talk rubbish" and that was it with her. In fact when I told

her I was going to speak to the Inquiry she said "You mustn't do that, you'll get into trouble". That felt somewhat surreal.

43. Before five years ago there wasn't anybody or any adult I felt I could talk to about what happened at Fettes. I think I just considered that that was how things were there. I used to talk about it to people, almost as a party-piece, but when I started to look back at it properly I realised it wasn't funny.
44. I've never gone to the police about what happened in Fettes, but in retrospect I wished I had done something about it. Having said that, I don't know what reporting it would have meant or what would have happened back then, back in the bad old seventies.

Leaving Fettes College

45. I did my A' levels. I applied to various universities and eventually went to one in London.
46. I think by this time my dad had had his third stroke and had tunnel vision. He was very unwell and was half the man he used to be. I had a strange relationship with him because I had the normal teenage resentments but he was getting progressively weaker. I think by that time I was just interested in my own world. As I say, typical teenager.
47. My sisters were schooled in Edinburgh and my brother in Perth. One sister went to London to be a nurse. My relationship with my siblings was sort of close but, because we went to different schools, we were drifting apart. The other three are closer to each other than I am to any of them.
48. I went to Royal Holloway, University of London for a year, but I didn't concentrate on my studies. I then became an actor. My brother had auditioned but didn't get the part as he was too old, and he then recommended me for the part.

Life after Fettes College

49. I formed a production company and did radio and even some stand-up. In 2003 I retrained and qualified as a therapist in 2007 and worked in a crisis unit. I was living in London. I became a therapist because of my experiences in the acting business where there was a drinking culture. I had been arrested for drunk-driving in Edinburgh and disqualified. I had a long look at myself and my drinking and decided to become abstinent, and part of that process was to get therapy.
50. I was fifteen when I started drinking using my pocket money and it just continued. I suppose it was just the teenage culture at the time. When my father became ill my mother was on valium and I would steal these and take them at school. When I was eleven I drank a full bottle of spirits. My sister was taking LSD at fourteen.
51. It was in 1997 that I got caught drunk-driving. A friend levelled with me and I went to Alcoholics Anonymous where I heard some powerful things. I then went off the drink for six months, but then I started drinking again. It was my brother who pointed out to me that I was going back to my old habits and that was when I decided to abstain from drink altogether.
52. It was when I met my wife, who I first met when I was 39, that I went to see my third therapist and that changed me. I saw her regularly for three months, but when I started retraining as a therapist she said she couldn't see me anymore. She then put me on to another therapist who I saw every week for eight years.
53. Initially we looked at my drinking, my relationships and my anger. This was very helpful to me and I found myself recounting what had happened at school and the beatings that happened there. I was in counselling from the age of 43 until I was 51. I stopped counselling four years after I qualified as a therapist.

Impact

54. I was reading something about shame that resonated with me in terms of me understanding my addictions and understanding sadistic organisations and environments. The impact it has had on me relates to my being intimate and open which is something I've struggled with. I'm more open now but that's been hard.
55. I think it's about being able to feel empowered about knowing what's right and wrong and what's inappropriate in terms of people crossing your boundaries. Also, it's about what voice you might have or about feeling gagged. It's interesting to talk about what happened as I have to think of who I was at that time
56. It feels enlightening to be able to talk and it changes concepts. I hate platitudes and inauthentic meaningless things where people don't acknowledge things. I find that really painful. I particularly found it painful that my mother won't acknowledge in some way what I went through. Even when I spoke to her about it the other day it was more about her being upset rather than me having been upset. Things like that can run deep with you, even if it's subtle.
57. It's great to reflect on an organisation which, at the time you were simply supposed to accept was okay. To be able to think of it differently is quite powerful to me and to be able to say "Oh, that was a bit strange" or "That was a strange organisation".
58. You can almost become a harbinger of secrets when you don't or can't speak about things. Things can get twisted as in who is in the wrong or who is to blame and am I bad and to what degree am I bad, especially in terms of punishment. Reflection of those times is there. How you choose to address it depends on how you view it. By facing up to it, it can make you feel more alive rather than dead.
59. There does seem to be a lot of deadness in me in conversation, especially with my mum. I talk to her about abuse but there's nothing there. It is just awful that it's ignored, dismissed. I think it has affected my relationship with my wife. I think I chose her because she is very alive, very real and challenging and very open. If I choose to be secretive with her she'll find me out. I think I need that as she says it like it is.

60. It's to do with being able to be open and safe instead of splitting your anger with people or being secretive about whatever aggression you might have with someone. It's just better to be open rather than suppressing your feelings. I don't know if that's something to do with my experiences or if it is something to do with the make up in my family. I suppose there are parallels that can be drawn between the family experience and the experience found in certain organisations.
61. I did have relationships before I met my wife, but the longest only lasted about two years. I lived an almost bi-polar existence and could be up and down and was taking a lot of drink and drugs.
62. My addiction to drink from an early age was, I think, my way of dealing with what happened in my family and at school. It was also cultural at the time.
63. I did form friendships at school but was anxious of people getting close. I have formed friendships in adult life but I can be prickly about it. My new occupation has helped me to get consistency in my friendships which I never had before.
64. I became a dad at 43 and my relationship with my daughter is good. There have been times I feel as if I behave to her the way my mother behaved to me but my wife always catches me out if I'm like that. I have great conversations with my daughter. Really interesting and emotionally challenging, rewarding conversations. I've always been able to hug my daughter and we get on great.
65. I wish I had gone to a comprehensive school. There is something about hierarchy that I really resent. I don't like it when you get into contemptuous relationships where people spurn something. There's something about a sadomasochistic environment in a public school that I really don't like. I think such systems almost have contempt for vulnerability or softness, and for how brave it is to be a soft and vulnerable person. So, in a way, it's highly defensive and I've understood it more because of my profession. I think that is what has been difficult.

66. I find it difficult to channel the anger when challenging people. When it comes it comes as a flash and so, in a way, I've found it interesting but difficult to start to channel it into a more constructive kind of anger when I want to challenge people. When I was younger I didn't know how to channel that anger, and a lot of my anger went into alcohol addictions which I now recognise as almost textbook classic behaviour.
67. I've spoken to former pupils about my time in Fettes. I used to wonder if I was over the top in my displeasure of those experiences because others didn't really share my feelings about the school. I've stayed in touch with one of them. He makes sense of things. He was regularly punished and had quite a rough ride in Fettes, but he's more affectionate of the place than I am.
68. I got mixed reactions to some of my comments about Fettes and did get affirmation from some of my peers. I emailed two of them about Anthony Chenevix-Trench. One came back and said he always knew about Trench and that he always knew Trench was a "bad 'un". The fact that he agreed with me meant something to me though I didn't get a reply from another I emailed, but I don't know if I can make anything of that.
69. My dad died in 1982.

Records

70. I don't think they recorded what punishments were handed out. I've never tried to get any of my records.

Lessons to be Learned

71. It's about looking at organisations and challenging how they are operated to ensure they are responsible for the way in which they behave. They should be challenged

about anything that is untoward. I also want from the Inquiry, and in fact it's what I've heard today, is for people to feel validated for what they want to say. It's about healthy boundaries to be understood in social terms and in relationships, especially between adults and children. Children should be empowered to be able to speak out.

- 72. There were no official visitors that I recall, but it would have been good if there was a process that wasn't bureaucratic where children could be heard. I think awareness groups for children are good where kids are able to talk and it should be part of the curriculum. It's a way of channelling and discussing emotional awareness for children to get hold of.

- 73. If I reflect on Fettes, it's something to do with the group culture, somebody recognising that abuse, in any terms, can seep into the culture and the organisation itself can become unwell. It needs somebody to see the sadistic behaviour and the reasons why children are mocking each other. Somebody needs to realise that what they are doing is getting rid of their own whatever, by means of the punishment they are receiving and passing on to others. In this way it continues. Maybe it needs somebody outside the organisation to come in and fill in the blanks.

- 74. 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... [REDACTED].....

Dated..... 1/9/17.....