

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

INF [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is INF [REDACTED] I am known as INF [REDACTED] I was known as INF [REDACTED] at my primary school, but when I went to Edinburgh Academy, I was predominantly known by my last name. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going to Boarding School

2. I was born in Calcutta. I lived with my dad, [REDACTED] and my mum, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. My dad was out there selling agricultural equipment. We moved back to Dundee when I was around six months old.
3. My dad worked for Canada Life Insurance Company throughout most of my childhood. My mum worked as a psychiatric social worker and worked at [REDACTED] Hospital for most of her career. I don't have any siblings.
4. My memories of my early childhood are that I was quite a happy wee chappy. I went to Eastern Primary School in Broughty Ferry and I have mostly good memories of going there. I think it was a very good school and my memories are happy ones.
5. My mum and dad were very happy with Eastern Primary School. They went to see the school that I would have moved onto which was Grove Academy. I can't remember now what they didn't like about it, but they really didn't like it. I guess there would have been alternatives in Dundee, like Dundee High School. I think I applied to go there but

didn't get in. My dad had been a day boy at Edinburgh Academy in the 30's. He got a good education there and had pretty good memories of what it was like, so I was taken to The Academy for an interview.

### **Entrance Procedure at Edinburgh Academy**

6. The first time I visited Edinburgh Academy was in the spring of 196█ I remember thinking it was huge. I was certainly interviewed by the headmaster of the junior school and I think I had to do some kind of exam, but I can't remember much about that.
7. The reason I went when I did, when I was nine, was because the school felt that if I started at the upper school, I would have too much catching up to do. In The Academy junior school, they did Latin, French and probably a couple of other things I wouldn't have got at Eastern Primary School. They thought if I had to start from scratch, aged twelve, it would be very hard for me to catch up, which was probably true.
8. I don't think I had any say in it at all whether I was going to go there or not, so off I went to The Academy. I didn't particularly want to go, but I wasn't terribly resistant either. If you had asked me then whether I would have rather stayed in Dundee, I would have said absolutely because that's where my pals were. I think if you had asked me the same question throughout most of my time at The Academy, I would have given the same answer.

### **Edinburgh Academy**

#### *Boarding Houses*

9. There were four boarding houses at The Academy. All of which were located on Kinnear Road in Edinburgh. There were two junior houses, Mackenzie and Dundas and two senior houses, Scott and Jeffrey. Mackenzie House, Scott House and Jeffrey

House were all in a row and were really big. They backed onto the playing fields. Dundas House was just across the road from Mackenzie, but much smaller.

10. The first boarding house I went to was Mackenzie House. It was a big house with forty, possibly more, children from the ages of seven to around twelve years old. The housemaster of Mackenzie was, at that time, Mr <sup>ICG</sup> [REDACTED] and I guess he must have been in his mid-fifties. There would also be a house tutor who lived in and his name was <sup>ICA</sup> [REDACTED]. He was a lovely guy.
11. Within the house, there was a big playroom where they had a table tennis table and a large common room where we did our homework. There was a changing room for games and the dormitories, which were quite big. I think there were maybe eight pupils in each.
12. I believe the junior school had around one hundred and fifty pupils while the upper school had around two to three hundred. Each of the boarding houses, apart from Dundas House, had approximately forty boarders. Dundas was substantially smaller with only fifteen or sixteen. After Mackenzie House, I boarded in Dundas and laterally in Jeffrey House.

#### *Edinburgh Academy – Junior School*

13. The junior school was a new build on Arboretum Road which was literally just across the road from the boarding houses. Within the building, there was a long row of classrooms, a gym, theatre and practice rooms for music. The playing grounds were opposite the main building but part of the school grounds.
14. We spent our days in the one classroom but different teachers would come in for different subjects. I think I had around two or three years in the junior school before moving to the upper school.

## *Edinburgh Academy – Upper School*

15. The upper school consisted of a number of early Victorian buildings, some of which was not in the best shape. I remember the building as being musty, cold and in need of some love. The heating system was pretty rudimentary. It was a bit more make do and mend at that point and I think the upper school was in need of investment. There were maybe ten classrooms and a separate physics and chemistry wing. There was a music department and a very good library.
16. When it came to life in the upper school, it was sink or swim as far as everything was concerned, certainly in terms of sports. It seemed the teachers had no ability to comprehend what boys could possibly do to occupy themselves if they didn't like sport.
17. ██████ was a bit like sport at the school. ██████ department was pretty dysfunctional at that time. The ██████<sup>IBW</sup> ██████ was totally focused on a small number of pupils who were going to go somewhere. I've always had a love of ██████ but I wasn't one of the favourite few. What I would say, to his credit, is around half of the pupils in the upper school ██████.
18. Originally, when I joined the school, I was a bit of a keen bean. By the time I made it into the upper school, because of various things that had happened by that point, I was trying to kick back at the system and I had become cynical. My academic results definitely got worse the longer I was there.

## **Routine at Edinburgh Academy**

### *Early memories of Edinburgh Academy*

19. I don't have any memory of my first day at school at The Academy, but I have some memories of arriving at Mackenzie House for the first time. Both of my parents took me to the house. I remember thinking that the older boys were huge. I was pretty nervous but determined to make an effort.

20. To the best of my recollection, I think the school were quite keen to shoo the parents away. I don't think I even said goodbye to my parents, they just slipped away. I found the first night in the house quite exciting and I don't remember feeling too homesick.

#### *Daily routine*

21. Each day we got up around 06:45 am. Either the housemaster or tutor would knock us up. We would get washed and go for breakfast. After breakfast, we got our school books and went to class. There was a daily assembly followed by four morning lessons and two afternoon lessons. On a Monday and Wednesday we had games. In the Autumn and spring it was rugby and in the summer, we played cricket.
22. I can't remember too much about the routine after school. After tea, we would have done our homework in the common room. I think that went on for about an hour and it was supervised, usually by the house tutor, and occasionally by the housemaster. There was a little bit for free time at the end of the day and most of us used that time to play table tennis or practice an instrument.
23. Bedtime was around 08:00 pm. We could read for an hour and lights out was at 09:00 pm. We were absolutely forbidden to talk after lights out. If you were caught talking, it would be a minor infraction but most, if not all, discipline was corporal punishment. In Mackenzie House, we would either be smacked by Mr <sup>ICA</sup> [REDACTED] which was a bit like getting a cuff around the ear from your mother and not sore, or you would get a beating from Mr <sup>ICG</sup> [REDACTED]. The beating was designed to make you cry. I know it happened from speaking to other boys, but it didn't happen to me and I didn't witness it because it always took place in private, in his office.

#### *Mealtimes / food*

24. In the Junior school, we ate breakfast, lunch and tea at the school building, not in the boarding house. Mealtimes were always supervised. The junior school food was pretty bad, but nothing compared to the upper school food, most of which was inedible. I remember spam fritters with fat running out of them and pink custard. It really was

terrible. A friend of mine got a packed lunch every day and his mum used to put an extra sandwich in there for me.

#### *Washing / bathing*

25. In the morning, we washed at the basins in the communal shower room. It wasn't supervised directly. The housemaster or tutor might pop in, but that was it. At night, we were given time to have a shower or a bath. There was a room in each of the houses with approximately ten baths in it. We also showered after games. In the junior school we would go back to our boarding house to shower, but in the upper school, we showered in the pavilion next to the playing fields.
26. In the junior school, I don't think we thought much about privacy at that stage. As a young adolescent, you are more self-conscious and there was a lot of bullying went on in the washrooms and changing areas. It was always certain boys who were bullies. If they were around, you would try not to be. They might flick you with wet towels, that sort of thing.

#### *Clothing / uniform*

27. The uniform requirements were slightly different depending on which house you were in. For example, in Mackenzie House, I think we wore our school uniform all the time. We never wore our own clothes. In Dundas House, I think we got to wear our own clothes while in the house, but never outside. In Jeffrey House, we could wear our own clothes in the house and outside of the house at weekends, but we had to wear our uniform to church on a Sunday. All of our garments were labelled with our names and were cleaned regularly, but I can't recall who cleaned them.

#### *Religious instruction*

28. We attended Inverleith Church each Sunday. We really resented it. The housemaster doled out pocket money that our parents had provided and we were made to give one quarter of our pocket money to the church each week. We responded by behaving

abominably. I feel so bad for others who attended that church because we really did behave awfully. Latterly, towards the end of my time in Jeffery House, I bunked off going to church and people didn't seem to notice.

29. There were daily assemblies where we would sing hymns and a weekly scripture lesson, taught by your class teacher whether they were religious or not. In the boarding houses, certainly Mackenzie and Dundas, there were prayers after homework. I can't remember it in Jeffrey House. I would say there was quite a lot of religion put upon us and quite a lot of racism and antisemitism from boys carrying the views of their parents. There weren't many boys of other faiths at the school, definitely some Jewish children, but they just kept their heads down.

#### *Sport and athletics*

30. Sport was a huge thing at The Academy and so many relationships were formed through the playing of sport. The boarders not only had a lot of sport during the week, but we had sport which we had to do at the weekend. Saturday morning was devoted to sport whether that was rugby, going for a run or some other ghastly activity. What's more, we had to turn out on Saturday afternoons to cheer on our first fifteen so the whole bloody day was taken up with sport.
31. If you weren't sporty, you encountered problems at a place like Edinburgh Academy. You were generally despised and left on the side-lines. Almost all of the teachers were sports mad and were expected to coach.
32. I remember the very first Saturday I was at the school, brightly asking if we could play football because at my primary, everyone played football. Whoever was overseeing games that day gave me this incredulous look and said, "We don't play soccer, we play rugby". I just couldn't get my head around people not liking football. With hindsight, it's apparent that it was a class thing.
33. I absolutely loathed rugby and cricket and still have no interest in either. As far as I can see, schoolboy rugby consisted of a load of fat boys jumping up and down on a

load of thin boys and I was one of the later. I could see no pleasure in it at all. In my last year of school, for the really hopeless cases, of which I was one, they did have football. Although, it was overseen by someone who had no interest in it and didn't really know much about the game.

#### *Combined Cadet Force*

34. Combined Cadet Force or CCF was something that was absolutely compulsory at The Academy. You had to do three years of it, from second to fourth year. You could choose exactly what you wanted to go into. I went into the Navy because I had a dinghy. In the summer months, we went down to Granton Dock and went sailing on The Forth. In the winter, you did some other vocation. It was good. We hardly had any marching up and down, as far as I recall. I enjoyed it, so it wasn't something I resented.
35. That was something that again, a lot of teachers were very involved with. Indeed, some of the older ones had military backgrounds and had fought in the war. There was a very strong relationship between the school and the military and it wasn't uncommon for boys to get commissions at school to go to university.

#### *Leisure time*

36. We were always kept quite busy and there wasn't a lot of time to just be you. A lot of the weekend was spent doing homework, particularly in the upper school. When I did have time to myself, it was mainly spent doing lots of piano and clarinet practice.
37. In my teenage years, when the Beatles broke up, I assumed that would be the end of pop music. I think a lot of people thought that. Around that time, I was starting to accumulate knowledge about classical music. It was really nerdy information. I could have easily rattled off the top twenty every week. I had a beloved aunt on my mum's side called [REDACTED]. She would give me classical LPs for my birthday and Christmas. She gave me this one LP of the Russian pianist, Emil Gilels, playing Beethoven's Waldstein sonata. I was completely obsessed with this thing. I played it over and over again. I found out that he had in fact written thirty-two piano sonatas. I wanted to know them



all, so I spent most of my down time voraciously listening to classical music and collecting LPs. That was a major thing for me.

38. We were allowed to leave the boarding house at the weekends. In the junior school, you could go as far as Goldenacre. I went there quite a lot in those days. There was a promotion scheme called Green Shield Stamps. My dad would give me his. There was a place in Goldenacre where I could get a plate of beans and chips and pay for it using these Green Shield Stamps. I would go there a couple of times a week and it definitely supplemented my diet. In the upper school we had a bit more freedom and were allowed to go into town.

#### *Trips / holidays*

39. The school had a place in Glen Doll called Blair House. It was used for hiking, walking and some biology studies. I went up there with a group of boys and the tutor from Dundas House, Mr <sup>IBP</sup> [REDACTED]. He was keen on outdoor activities. It was nice. There weren't any issues while we were away.
40. It was a very popular thing among teachers to go up there. Some of the normal teachers from school, not just those associated with the houses, would get involved.

#### *Chores*

41. There were chore rotas in the boarding houses that the bottom two years had to fulfil. Probably once a term, you would have to go round first thing in the morning with a bell to wake everyone up. You had to do that a week at a time. We had to make our beds and clean our shoes, that sort of thing.

#### *School dances and socials*

42. There weren't many school dances or organised social events, other than sports, at the school. There was a thing called 'Free n' Easy' which was like a sort of disco I

guess, but I don't think I ever went to it. Edinburgh Academy was of course, at that time, an all-boys school, but it's possible girls from St Georges attended the disco.

#### *Birthdays / Christmas*

43. Birthdays at The Academy were generally pretty miserable. The occasion was marked by being bullied by bigger boys. There was a tradition of getting what we called 'bumps', but it really meant you got beaten up. Although I would be sent something by my parents and my aunt, birthdays were not great times at all. It was almost a time to pretend it wasn't your birthday.

#### *Home Leave / Family Visits*

44. Home leave was restricted to half term, when the school day would end at midday on the Friday and then you had to come back on the Monday night. That was once a term. Other than that, you got two days out, per term. I would get up early and get the train to Dundee. I'd be in Dundee by around 09:00 am. I'd spend the day in Dundee and travel back to my boarding house for around 08:00 pm. To this day, my heart lifts when the train comes round Tayport and I see Dundee. Going in the other direction, was a sort of feeling of depression. I don't have that feeling now, but I do still get a feeling of elation when I return to Dundee.
45. As well as home visits, we all had to write to our parents once a week. Half an hour was dedicated to writing a letter every Sunday before church. I'm not sure if the letters were censored before they went out. We each had a pigeon hole in the boarding house and any correspondence from home would be put in there for you to collect.

#### *Inspection/Visitors*

46. In those days, I don't think there was such a thing as inspections. I remember having a very strong feeling one day, as I was standing in the school yard looking out, that the law stops at the gates here. The teachers could do what they liked. I think there was generally a feeling that the private schools were a good thing and they were just,

sort of, left alone. I don't even know how much oversight there was in the state system at that time.

47. I'm aware, from going through old school publications that the rector, who took over in the early 80's, asked for an inspection. This had obviously been a considerable shock to the school. He seems to have been quite straight forward in that some things were good and some things really needed seeing to. It felt like this was something that hadn't happened before, that it was something really new.
48. There weren't a lot of outside visitors to the school. I do remember the Queen visiting in 1974 [REDACTED] It was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school. The Queen's visit was obviously a big deal. For once, we got decent food. We all put on a show and the orchestra played for her.

#### *Healthcare/Matron*

49. There was a matron who looked after the boarding houses. Her primary role appeared to be to tell you there was nothing wrong with you and you should get yourself off to school. I really have no idea if she had any medical qualifications or not. I can picture her, but I can't remember her name.
50. In the senior house, the Housemaster's wife also had a bit of a pastoral role. The Housemaster was Mr Evans. He was a chemistry teacher. His wife was Patricia Evans. She was a nice lady. If you were unwell, you would get to the matron. If she wasn't available or on duty, you would go to see Mrs Evans. If you were really unwell and needed a doctor, one would come to the boarding house. I don't remember a doctor having to come more than a couple of times a year.
51. All of our dental care was dealt with and overseen by our parents, not the school.

### *Bed-wetting*

52. I had a problem with bed wetting before I went to the school. I had that problem until I was around fifteen or sixteen. I found it to have quite a personality changing aspect to it. It had a tendency to make you quite secretive.
53. Bed wetting at The Academy was dealt with slightly differently, depending on which matron was on duty. Some were a little kinder than others. I don't think there was any punishment, but there was also no help given to try to address the problem. There was generally an unsympathetic approach taken.

### **Discipline**

54. In junior school, discipline was administered by your housemaster or teachers. In upper school, it was mainly administered by ephors. That's what the prefects were called. The school had only recently ceased allowing ephors to beat younger boys a couple of years before I went to the upper school. The ephors could still hand out lines and other punishments like early morning runs. Basically, if they told you to do something, you would have to do it. Some of the ephors were fine, some were little Hitlers and let the power go to their heads. The use of ephors was a sort of relic of the fagging system. There was no longer a true fagging system because you didn't have to 'fag' for an ephor directly, but it was a derivative of that.
55. I think, in the context of the 1960s, on the whole, we would have said the sanction regime was fair. For example, I think Mr <sup>ICG</sup> [REDACTED] was a decent guy and, despite his use of corporal punishment, he definitely wasn't a sadist like some of the other housemasters. There were kids at The Academy who had been to other schools like Fettes. They said it was like a holiday camp compared to where they had been before, but there were of course situations that were exceptions to this.

## **Abuse at Edinburgh Academy**

56. I was physically and sexually abused as a pupil at Edinburgh Academy and I witnessed the physical and sexual abuse of other boys too.

### *Specific incidents witnessed*

57. One of the first examples of physical abuse I witnessed, happened when I was around nine or ten years old. There was one teacher we were really wary of and that was Mr Brownlee. I think he taught English. I was never beaten by him but I saw him give another boy a terrible beating.
58. It happened at the end of class when we were all going out. He held one boy back and grabbed him by the scruff of the neck. Our desks had chairs attached to them. He bent this boy over the chair part and rammed his head under the desk. Then, he beat him with a clachan which is a wooden bat used to play Hailes. He was a tough little guy but Mr Brownlee made him howl. It just seemed that Mr Brownlee had lost the plot. He definitely was a sadist. All the boys who witnessed it were pretty shocked by it and it made us even more frightened of him.

### *Specific incidents relating to me*

59. The first time I remember being physically abused by a teacher, was when I was around ten or eleven. It was summer and I was in the little garden behind Mackenzie House, mucking around on the grass with some friends. All of a sudden, a teacher called Mr <sup>CXL</sup> [REDACTED], who was the tutor at Scott House, came storming out of the building and beat us with a cricket stump. He struck me three or four times on the bum. He struck me really hard. So much so it left marks for days. I remember feeling outraged by this incident because we were perfectly within our right to be doing what we were doing.

*Abuse by Hamish Dawson – Housemaster Dundas House/History Teacher*

60. The second junior house I boarded in was Dundas House. Hamish Dawson was the Housemaster and lived there with his wife and two daughters. He was also a history teacher at the school. The first day the new boys went into Dundas House, the housemaster had a meeting with each of the parents. My parents were really struck by him and liked him. I remember my dad saying, "he sounds really fun – he has a system of fun punishments". For Hamish Dawson they were fun punishments, for the rest of us, not so much.
61. One of his favourite punishments was associated with the sports pavilion where we showered after games. He would make us go to the pavilion in small groups. He then made us strip off and recite a poem or a tongue twister. If you got it wrong, he would throw buckets of cold water over you. The juice for him was seeing young naked boys and humiliating them. He used to wear baggy corduroy trousers which were to hide his erections, but they didn't always. For us, the punishment was humiliating, but he had a completely different agenda.
62. Another of his favourite punishments occurred when we were doing our homework in the common room at Dundas House. He would come in and say that it was a very smelly room and he would ask if someone hadn't showered. He decided that, on game days, after we had finished our homework and had the house announcements, he was going to check who had and hadn't showered. He brought out a theatrical hat. I think it was a fez. He would pick out, seemingly at random, three names from the hat. I'm sure the names he picked out were just boys he felt like hitting or boys he fancied. Those boys had to go into his study and take all their clothes off. He would then examine them to see if they had any dirt or marks on them. If they did, he beat them hard. I honestly can't remember if he ever touched any of us when he did that, he quite possibly did. This proceeded to happen over the course of a year and it happened to me at least once a term.

63. Twelve-year-old boys in 1970 were very different beings from twelve-year-old boys now. We had no sex education and our parents didn't talk to us about sex. Anything we did know, we got from older siblings, but really, we didn't know a thing. At the time, we had very little awareness of what was actually happening during these exchanges with Hamish Dawson. I just remember feeling embarrassed and a bit creeped out by it. Unquestionably, it was sexual abuse, but we didn't know it. We were only dimly aware that it was inappropriate and over the course of the year, acquired some sort of sense that what he was doing was wrong. It feels much worse looking back on it now than it felt at the time. Now, it feels deeply perverted.
64. There were a lot of beatings carried out by Hamish Dawson in his study at Dundas House, mainly for minor infractions. He would give you the choice of two whacks of the slipper on the bare bum or one whack with the tawse, but you got to keep your pyjama bottoms on. I tended to choose the tawse, even though it was a lot more painful, because he wouldn't get to see my bare bum and, if he used the tawse, he had to go to the school office to record it in the punishment book. I figured, if someone looked at this punishment book, they might notice he was beating more boys in the school than all the other teachers put together. I was beaten by him four or five times in my year at Dundas House and I was one of the more well-behaved boys, so there were a lot of lads who got it worse than me.
65. Hamish Dawson could be very jolly. He could come across as the kind of guy you wanted to spend time around. He had that sort of side to him. In the dormitory at Dundas House, he would come in and tell you a story. If you cheeked him too much, he would have, what he termed, horseplay with you. What he was actually doing was touching you up. Some of us noticed his erection when he did this.
66. There was no question that Hamish Dawson had his favourite boys. We spoke about it amongst ourselves. We believed he liked prepubescent brunette boys. I was blonde so I didn't get targeted quite in the same way others did.
67. I think many of the day boys really liked him because he did appear to have a theatrical, warm personality. That's not to say Hamish Dawson didn't abuse any of the

day boys, because we know from Nicky Campbell that he did, but the boarders had a very different take on him. He was a very good, imaginative history teacher who made the subject come alive, but he was also a sadistic paedophile. There were very different sides to him.

68. In class, he had a system of rewards and punishments. He had a jar of jelly beans which he would give out if you got something right. Get something wrong and you would get whacked with something. I was very aware of all of Hamish Dawson's instruments of correction. They were on display in his classroom for all to see. I think he was proud of them. He had several canes and some items which looked pseudo medieval such as a bat with nails in it and a tennis ball on a chain. Some of the day boys would even give him these things as presents. He had a Christmas stick gifted to him which was a cane that the boy had stuck pictures of Santa to.
69. Most of my encounters with Hamish Dawson were in the one year I spent in Dundas House with him as my Housemaster. The only other time I encountered him was in my final year at school when he was my history teacher. It was totally different as he had no sexual interest in me, given my age.
70. Hamish Dawson suddenly left The Academy in 1984 and very unusually, he left at Christmas. I can't remember that ever happening with another teacher when I was there because teachers were contracted to the summer. At the end of each year is speech day and the rector of the school makes his annual speech. These speeches are all printed in a school publication called The Chronicle. As part of the speech, Laurence Ellis, who was the rector at the time, says farewell to teachers that are leaving. Well, Mr Dawson got a real send-off. It was quite clear, that out of all of the teachers that were leaving, he was the one the rector was most sorry to lose. The rector spoke about Hamish Dawson's eccentricities which included "his menagerie of curious instruments of correction, including the idleness inhibitor". When I read that, I thought, of course he knew. Everybody knew about Hamish Dawson and the rector knew enough to haul him in and say enough is enough.



71. You can draw parallels between Hamish Dawson and Jimmy Savile. They both hid their behaviour in plain sight. Hamish Dawson even admitted to being a sadist when asked directly by one of the boys. Why nothing was done about him, I don't know. I really struggle with the collusion of the other teachers. Of course they knew. Why did none of them speak up. The other thing I really struggle with, and in fact am really angry about, is when Hamish Dawson left, he would have got a glowing reference from the rector of The Academy. If he got a truthful reference, he would have never worked again. I know from reading a newspaper article, that I found online, that he worked in department stores in Cheltenham as Santa. I think it is unforgivable that he was allowed to continue in a position where he could abuse children, based on a reference that was a tissue of lies.
72. Even now, the school continue to attempt to protect their reputation when it comes to Hamish Dawson. I'm aware that recently, Nicky Campbell interviewed one of Hamish Dawson's daughters, Jenny. When Nicky Campbell set up this interview, before the broadcast of it, he contacted Edinburgh Academy to ask them to contact any living relatives of Hamish Dawson and they didn't. I am incredulous about that. You can hear how incandescent Hamish Dawson's daughter was about it in the interview. She confronted the current rector and made it clear how unimpressed she was.

### *Peer Bullying*

73. As well as the abuse by some of the teachers and housemasters, peer bullying was a systemic problem, particularly in Jeffrey House. It was very hierarchical. The ephors had a lot of power and some of them misused it. There was also a lack of pretty oversight from the Housemaster and house tutor, who were both decent guys. The house tutor was a man called Tim Turvey and he was a biology teacher.
74. The house was more or less run by the ephors resulting in a lot of bullying, some of it pretty outrageous. You could get quite badly hurt. Some of the older boys were just out of control and if they decide to torture somebody, they would. It was generally felt that anyone who liked classical music was automatically homosexual and would be

treated as such. As it happens, I'm not gay, but my liking of classical music didn't help me at all in that house. I got beaten quite badly.

75. There was one guy who loved giving Chinese burns. When I was around fourteen, he got several people to hold me down and gave me Chinese burns all over my chest. My chest was literally black by the end of it. I was in quite a lot of pain for several days and couldn't breathe properly. He wasn't actually an ephor, but he was a typical senior boy bully. I guess he was around seventeen at the time. There was a group of around four or five boys who were bullies and he was one of them.
76. I was very unhappy in the senior house. I think I was probably clinically depressed. There was no one at school or in the boarding house that I could talk to. There was a Chaplain, a man called, Howard Haslett, who was a really great guy. I did go to him a couple of times but didn't discuss the abuse. My education suffered very much as a result of what I went through.

### **Leaving Edinburgh Academy**

77. I left Edinburgh Academy a year early. My dad was very suddenly and unexpectedly made redundant. They closed down his Dundee office. I remember my mum and dad coming to the school to speak to my housemaster, Mr Evans, about it. They obviously couldn't afford to send me for another year. It was a period when the social mix at The Academy was probably a lot wider than it is now. My parents weren't poor, but they certainly weren't well off either. Sending me to the school was a massive burden for them financially and one of the reasons I could never talk to them about how awful it was. So, I had to leave in the summer of 197█ instead of 197█

### **Reporting of abuse whilst at Edinburgh Academy**

78. I didn't report any of the abuse I suffered to any of the teachers at The Academy. My parents could see, when I visited home, that I was really very miserable. Sometimes I

would go home and I would just cry. They could see that something was wrong, but they never worked out what was wrong and I'm not sure I could have ever told them. We weren't a great talking family. I can't imagine having that kind of conversation with them. Much later on, my mum certainly knew that I hadn't enjoyed school. To some extent, it affected my relationship with my mum, because there was this elephant in the room that we really couldn't talk about. I don't think it affected my relationship with my dad. In fact, my dad and I got much closer when I was living at home as a young adult, but we just didn't have that kind of relationship where we could talk about that really personal stuff.

### **Life after being at Edinburgh Academy / Impact**

79. Educationally, I left school as an underachiever and emotionally, I was an absolute mess and not ready for the world at all. Often, the parents of people who go to boarding school say they make you independent. They actually make you the opposite of independent. Each day is mapped out for you and you have very little freedom.
80. I didn't leave The Academy with much education at all, certainly not enough to get into university. I definitely attribute that to the abuse I experienced. My attitude towards the school changed. I became quite self-destructive and cynical about a lot of the teaching. I just didn't want to be there anymore so I didn't study hard enough and I didn't do well. I had quite a lot of catching up to do after I left The Academy and did a year of Highers at Stevenson College. I did eventually make it to university to study music, but a number of years after I should have. It took me a long time to catch up academically.
81. The majority of people who go through The Academy system, end up in the professions of one kind or another; architects, lawyers and so on. I worked in a shop for thirty years and I owned the shop for a bit. I didn't join the professional class until I was over fifty. I did a two-year MSC at Queen Margaret to retrain as a music therapist. So, the last ten years of my working life, I was a professional, but it took me a long time to get there.

82. I wish I had done something to address the abuse I suffered sooner, because I started to have quite serious depressive episodes. The first one was while I was in my last year of university and I started drinking regularly to cope. I was assessed to be clinically depressed and that was the first time I was put on antidepressants. I made the decision to stop drinking, but the depressive episodes continued and there were several others. I've been on antidepressants now for many years.
83. I have also had flashbacks over the years, more since The Inquiry started because more and more appears in the papers. The impact of Nicky Campbell's podcasts has been pretty massive and took me straight back to my time at school. Recently, I've not been sleeping at all well and there has definitely been a dip in my wellbeing.
84. Human beings are very complex organisms. The journey from happy small child to depressive adult is so common that it's hard to make direct attributions for the way I am. I'm sure it's not entirely down to Edinburgh Academy. Nevertheless, there are clearly issues, as a result of my time there, that I never resolved and came to terms with.

### **Treatment and support**

85. Following a depressive episode in 1991 or 1992, I went to my GP. I was referred to The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for psychotherapy and was an outpatient there for quite a few months. That was the first time I talked about any of this stuff. I found the treatment helpful and had a second period of psychotherapy around ten years later.

### **Deciding to speak to The Inquiry**

86. Seeing Hamish Dawson's name appear in print back in November 2022 was a real physical shock. It was like being electrocuted and having a heart attack. It actually sent me a bit bonkers. I came to the realisation that I hadn't dealt with this and was going to have to do something about it. There have been other times, when I've read

something about abuse in schools, when I've been triggered and it has set off a reaction.

87. One of the things I did, in preparation for my session with The Inquiry, and to get my head back into that world, was reading a publication called The Chronicle. It detailed everything that was going on at The Academy in a particular term. I tore into these Chronicles chaotically and read every one since 196█ I didn't take notes, I didn't even know what I was looking for. It was just a sort of desperate attempt to get back into that world. I reread them more recently, but a bit more forensically this time.
88. There is also an annual publication called The Academical, named after the alumni of The Academy who are called Academicals. That was useful to read because the experience of a lot of people who went through The Academy was clearly a very positive one. You could see from The Academical that people had built lifelong friendships, usually through playing rugby or cricket together, and felt very supported by the school.
89. Another thing I discovered through reading these publications and obituaries of teachers, was in order to get a gig at the Academy, it wasn't enough to have a teaching certificate and a degree, you had to be jolly good at sport. Almost all of the teachers were people who had excelled themselves at school sport whether they were rowing blues at Oxbridge or playing first class cricket.

#### **Contact with Edinburgh Academy and former pupils since leaving**

90. I have been back to the junior school since I left The Academy. For a number of years, I have sung with the █ Chorus. As you can imagine, during the festival, rehearsal space is very much at a premium, so a lot of the schools are open for rehearsals. For a number of years, we used the main hall in the junior school at The Academy. It was actually ok going there. It was interesting to see how it had and hadn't changed. Then, one day, during a break in rehearsals, I decided to go along Kinnear Road. By that stage, they had sold the boarding house buildings. Dundas

House had long since been the Polish Consulate. I was ok with going along one side of the road seeing Mackenzie House, Scott House and Jeffrey House, but coming back passed Dundas House was like going passed the Bates Motel. I don't think I'll be doing that again. The bogeyman lived there.

91. I have stayed in contact with some former pupils of Edinburgh Academy. Two are good friends. They are probably my oldest friends and I'm in regular contact with them.

### **Reporting of abuse after leaving Edinburgh Academy**

92. I have not reported the abuse I suffered to the police.

### **Records**

93. I have not requested or read any of my records from my time at Edinburgh Academy.


### **Lessons to be Learned**

94. In terms of lessons to be learned from past mistakes, the number one thing is around staff references. I have no idea what the law says about this, but it should be illegal to make a false reference. It didn't just happen at Edinburgh Academy. It happened at other boarding schools too. The rector would just write a load of nonsense about the problem teacher to get them moved elsewhere. All that does is move the abuse elsewhere. I'm furious about that happening with Hamish Dawson, but it happened with Ian Wares too. For someone to have done something criminal, which Hamish Dawson most certainly did, and for the school to know and still provide a glowing reference, is astonishing.
95. There should also be a method of whistleblowing for teachers who have concerns about other teachers. There should be a way for them to flag up these concerns.

Although, whether that would have made a difference back then, I don't know. I think it was a case of 'protect the institution as all costs'. That was the priority, but the priority should have been the abused people. They were protecting the wrong people.

96. I don't know what the Academy does now, but the kind of hand-wringing, boilerplate statements they have previously put out, whenever journalists ask them for comment, are meaningless. They are clearly lawyered. It would be nice if the current rector made himself available for interview to explain what happened, what didn't happen and what's happening now. The behaviour of the school suggests they are still burying their heads in the sand.

97. 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..... 19/06/23 .....