

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

IGM

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is IGM. My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Life before going into care**

2. I grew up with my mother and father and my younger brother on a farm on the outside of Penicuik. I attended Howgate Primary School from 1967 – 197
3. My dad spent most of his time working the farm where it varied between dairy, pigs and sheep. On the dairy side mum opened a farm shop selling and delivering a variety of dairy products in and around the Edinburgh area. I would often help out on the farm, but I preferred the operational side of the farming, such as driving the tractor or helping out with repairs on the different equipment and baking in the shop. My younger brother leaned more to the science side of the farm, growing the crops and the rotation of the fields for the crops and the breeding of the farm animals. He eventually went on to get a degree in Agriculture. He was the one who was always the person who would take over the farm when dad retired.
4. At the beginning of the seventies I still had my four grandparents. My maternal grandfather was a former headmaster. When it came to the entrance exam for Edinburgh Academy, he tutored me to help me get through that. My other grandfather was a civil engineer. Both lived within a ten minute walk of our farm and were retired by the time I was starting at the school. They were both part of our lives and they had a Victorian attitude that children should be seen and not heard.

5. My maternal grandmother taught me a lot of domestic skills, cooking, sewing and shortening clothes. Some of those skills helped when I went into the army and even today if a button came off, I would just pick up the needle and thread kit and be able to sew it back on properly. She had a really positive effect on my life right up to when she passed away a few years ago at the age of 101.
6. My father was a former pupil at Edinburgh Academy from 194█ – 195█ and later a member of the Court of Directors from 197█ – 198█. I am not sure why he went to that school as his father was a pupil at Heriot's.

### **Edinburgh Academy**

7. I don't know how it was that my dad decided I was going to the Academy. I am not sure if we had to apply, whether it was advertised or what any of that process was. It would have been from about the Christmas of 197█ perhaps early start of 197█ when my grandfather was helping me with the exam. After having passed the entrance exam I began attending at Edinburgh Academy in the autumn of 197█.
8. As mum operated her delivery business and some of that covered the Edinburgh area, I would get a lift in the van to the school. I would travel home by bus and there was one that stopped at the farm gate entrance.

### **Routine at Edinburgh Academy**

9. I was nine years old when I started in Edinburgh Academy and that would be in year five of the lower school. In the prep school it was numbered 1 to 6 and the senior school was numbered 1 to 7. When I joined the prep school, I was in year 5. There were three different class groups in that year and I was allocated 5█. My form master for that year was Iain Wares. In lower six I had ICA█. I also had interactions

with Mr [CA] in the upper school as he was a [REDACTED] in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at the school.

10. I don't recall anything about any introductions being made or if I was given any instructions or booklet about what may have been expected of me while I was a pupil at the school.
11. I can't remember being aware which, if any, of my fellow pupils were boarders. While I was at the school I did not interact with any of them in the respective Houses or with any of my other fellow pupils as I always had to get the bus home. The last bus for me was 5:45 pm and if I was not on that one I would have to phone home to arrange for a lift and that caused an inconvenience for my parents as they were busy with the work on the farm.
12. In my class there were twenty of us and this was similar to the other class groups in my year. I think in total there would have been somewhere around 360 in the prep school and perhaps more in the upper school. In the prep school all our classes were similar in size but when you went into the upper school the classes would differ in size. In years four to seven where you selected your classes, some would be larger and some smaller. If you took Classics the class may be much smaller than some of the more popular subjects.
13. I have a report card of my first term which was dated October 197[REDACTED]. This report card also listed some of the teachers and the subjects I was being taught.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

14. The school uniform was bought by my parents and they had a list of all the items I would need for day to day uniform, gym gear and formal clothing for special occasions. It usually had to be bought from the suppliers, Aitken and Niven, previously known as Aitken and Dott. Sometimes we were able to visit a shop which sold second hand uniforms.

15. I have a photograph of the Queen visiting the school in 1974 which was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school. In that photograph you can see we were wearing shorts and blazer. We wore shorts from the primary up to the first year in the upper school, when we were allowed to wear long trousers.

#### *Trips/Excursions*

16. During my time in the primary side, I don't remember being taken out of the school on any trips or excursions.

#### *School*

17. In lower five we tended to be taught as a whole group. Some subjects we would go to a particular class and other times we were in our form class and the teachers came to us. We were in classes in the morning until lunch, which we ate in the large hall. It was then classes or games in the afternoons until around 3:00 pm when I would head home on the bus. On the way home on the bus I would try to complete most of my homework before getting home and then have more free time when I was back at my house.
18. The large hall where we ate our meals was also used for other activities such as Assembly and service first thing each morning. This hall would also be used for some gym classes and if there were functions this would be where they were held. At lunch time the hall had rows of tables all laid out and we would sit in our form group. Each of the form masters sat at the end of the table for their respective group. There were never any issues while we had our lunch.
19. I do have a memory of the large hall. Right at the back of the hall was a room where we had a large projector for showing films. I can remember [redacted] showing me how to thread the film from the reel onto the projector. I was really interested as I would want to know how the mechanics worked and allow the film to be shown. I can remember being in there on several occasions. There was nothing bad and I think this was a positive time from my time in the school.

20. In the prep school there were no other classes or groups after normal school time, but in the upper school there might be activities such as Societies or some rugby training. In the prep school we did not have any matches on Saturdays, that only came when we were in the upper school.
21. When I was at the upper school, we would all have to attend CCF. This was training in the different armed services. I chose to join the army section and this came in handy when I left school as I joined the army as a young adult. As well as being my form teacher Iain Wares also took us for Maths and English.
22. In that year I had John Brownlie for French. Mr IBL was our teacher and we went to his classroom for that subject. I can't remember who our Geography teacher was and in my report card it is just marked WGB. In the report card for that term there is a comment from Iain Wares which says, *'Now that IGM has had time to settle into his new environment I expect his results to improve next half term, as I feel that he has more ability than the above results indicate.'* There is an additional comment from IGG who was SNR and he states, *'He could make a greater effort.'*
23. It was when I went into 2<sup>nd</sup> year I was told I had to do the core syllabus subjects and was not allowed to do the woodwork. I can remember that this was quite upsetting. If I had been allowed to do this class, I could have enjoyed the rest of my time in school.
24. A lot of the teachers were also involved in the sporting activities at the school. Some would teach the rugby first fifteen, some the second fifteen and others may be involved in cricket or taking some pupils who were not interested in rugby, out for walks. Wares was quite a good cricketer and would be involved in that during the summer terms.
25. CCF was only for the senior school. In years one and two you were not involved and did rugby training on the Monday and Wednesday afternoons when classes were finished. When you were in the third year you did CCF on the Monday afternoon and rugby training would be moved to the Tuesday and Thursday.

26. After about 3:00 pm when lessons finished you did about an hour or so with your relevant CCF group. The Navy section would usually do something down by South Queensferry, RAF had an old cockpit of an aeroplane and would teach pupils some instrument training. I don't remember having a choice but ended up in the army side. We would do exercises or manoeuvres in the school grounds or on the rugby grounds. We would march down, do our exercise and march back.
27. The aim of the CCF was for pupils to enter into the armed services and be ready for officer training. In my father's time this was known as OTC (Officer Training Course) and likewise you were expected to be in the armed services and train as an officer.

#### *Discipline*

28. Most of the punishments at the school would involve some form of corporal punishment. The teachers would use a variety of things to administer this type of punishment. It could include the Clachan, a wooden bat, similar to the bat used in Shinty. Other implements used may be the leather tawse and some of the teachers used a gym shoe. The corporal punishment I can only remember being used in the upper school. I don't remember anything being used in the primary side. Depending on the severity of the punishment the tawse could be used on the hand or the backside, while the other implements tended to be the backside.
29. If being punished in this manner you were usually sent to the teacher's room and were given the punishment in private. If over the backside, it was over your clothing. Although most carried the punishment were in private, there were times some of the teachers lost their temper and would throw objects at the pupil causing them problems.
30. I can remember there were bins around the grounds of the school and on one occasion I set fire to one of them. I can't remember why I did it. My punishment was to be hit over the backside with a plimsole, again over my clothing. I think I had the tawse on another occasion. Once you were punished with any implement you tended not to repeat whatever you did wrong, the threat of the punishment was usually a good incentive not to cause any issues.

31. Hamish Dawson was one teacher I had, who taught us History. He was eccentric and kept two punishment sticks, one large and one small. He also had a tawse which he would hang over his desk. I don't remember being the recipient of any punishment in his class and never saw anyone being on the receiving end of this type of punishment. He had an interest in Calligraphy. If he was handing out work the first letter of the page was always drawn in a very elaborate manner, like in an old manuscript.
32. I don't know if any of the punishments handed out by teachers were ever recorded in a punishment book or similar.

### **Abuse at Edinburgh Academy**

33. Some teachers were just slap happy and would give a pupil who causing them some issue a clip around the ear.
34. My experience with Mr Wares was I can remember seeing one of my fellow pupils standing beside Wares at his desk. At that time he had his arm round the waist of my friend. I can remember also being in that same situation, but when I was there I can remember he would put his hands up my shorts. He was touching my privates. This left me with a fluttering, trembling, feeling on my thighs. The way his desk was situated, what he was doing was mostly hidden from the view of others. I can't recall how many occasions he did this to me.
35. Although this was the only manner in which Wares sexually abused me, I have been made aware of other occasions where he would fondle boys during rugby practice and would sometimes check to see whether pupils were wearing underwear during those sessions. I don't remember that happening to me as I always getting ready to run for my bus. Sometimes if it was tight for time I might even miss out on showers and just get changed and run for the bus.

36. There were other ways in which Wares would abuse you. I could be sitting in my seat in the class when Wares would be upset at me for some unknown reason. He would grab me by my hair, just at the side of my ear and pull me up out of my seat. He did not stop there and would keep going until I even had to stand on my seat, just so it was the maximum he could reach and hopefully let me go. This would be for little things perhaps smiling the wrong way or maybe having answered a question incorrectly.
37. There were other times if he was upset with someone, he would throw a blackboard duster at them. When he lost his temper and he was taking it out on someone he would often be so mad his face would be red with anger.
38. Wares did this to many other pupils, it all depended on which mood he was in. He had a nickname "Weirdo Wares" and I can always remember the trepidation of going into the class on a Monday morning not knowing how Weirdo Wares' weekend had gone and what mood he may be in as a result.
39. There was an incident at one of the morning assemblies when Wares lost the head with a pupil over the cleanliness of his shoes. He began beating the pupil and had to be dragged away by two other teachers who were present. Later when the story of abuse at Edinburgh Academy finally broke in the media about Wares, those two teachers denied the incident had occurred. This despite that it had happened in front of an assembly full of other children and other teachers. I think they were now saying this in an effort to protect the school.
40. In the prep school one teacher who had a temper was John Brownlie. I had him for French in lower 5<sup>th</sup> but when I was in his class in the prep school and he lost his temper he tended to throw the blackboard duster at the pupil he was annoyed with.
41. When I went to the upper school I had another teacher IFP, who had been at school with my uncle. He was my form master in the 1<sup>st</sup> year in the upper school and I can remember he was a good teacher.



42. When I was in first year in the senior school I was doing woodwork as one of the classes. I remember the class was divided in two, separated by a metal railing. One side was where the saws and any electrical equipment was used and the other side were the work benches. If the teacher, [IDR], was upset with one of the boys he would throw an offcut of wood at the boy, the same way other teachers threw blackboard dusters. He had a nickname as well, [IDR]. This was a class I enjoyed but with [IDR] having a temper on him, it took some of that enjoyment away.
43. There was a teacher in the upper school called [IBU], who was the gym master. He had a nickname "[IBU]" and because he was so short in height, he always seemed to have the small man syndrome, in that he was always angry. He was a rugby referee as well [REDACTED]. In the main school there is a War Memorial building which doubles as the gym. He would have a habit of watching the boys while they were in the shower room. The shower room was open and communal. As the boys showered, he would stand at the door observing the boys. I was never sure whether he was just ensuring we all showered or whether there was some other connotation to him being there.
44. On other occasions in the gym classes if someone had upset Mr [IBU] then he would be one of the teachers who would give you a clip around the ear.

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

45. What was happening to me was never discussed among my fellow pupils and I never had anyone at the school I felt that I could go to. As I had a headmaster as a grandfather, I was always under the impression schoolteachers were a figure of authority. Anything a teacher said to the pupil was done. I am sure that must have been the opinion of many other parents of pupils at the school. At that age I knew it was happening, but I don't think I knew that it was wrong. It was not until later in my life that I was aware of how wrong it was.

## **Leaving Edinburgh Academy**

46. When I finished school in 197█, I sat my O-levels and failed them. I decided then that I was not going back. I am not sure, but I suppose my father may have been quite pleased as he would be saving around £7,000 per term.

## **Life after school**

47. The summer I decided I was not going back to school I went to work full time with my mum in the dairy side of the farm. By this time she had converted the dairy into two sides, one was the shop for selling products and she had the other side converted into a milk bar selling tea, cakes etc. I enjoyed working on that side of the farm.
48. One day I was in town and was passing the Army recruiting office. On the spur of the moment I went in and passed the aptitude test. The Sergeant I was speaking to told me I did not have enough marks to get into Royal Engineers, which was my preferred option, but he said I could go into the Catering Corp. I signed on the dotted line and went home and told my mum and dad that I had joined the Army. There was not much reaction from them, other than what seemed like when was I leaving the house. Being just over sixteen I don't remember if mum and dad had to sign anything after I told them to allow me to go.
49. I did my two year training and then three years with the █. They were based just outside Coventry and I spent most of my time there. At the end of my time, I was working with an RSM who was only in the army for what he could get out of it and there was no encouragement for younger people to get on. I decided this was no longer the life I wanted and put my papers in to leave. This would have been in 1984. During my time I was deployed to Belize and spent six months there, this was my only deployment out of the UK.

50. I settled locally for a while before I moved back to Scotland. I returned to work on the farm and worked with mum to upgrade the café to a restaurant. That did not work out as dad had me sign papers where he had final say on everything. I already had mistrust of people, and this only re-enforced those feelings.
51. After a couple of years, I moved down south. I inherited some money after my grandmother passed away. I used some of that money to help me get my HGV licence. I went on to drive trucks for around thirty years, driving all around the country. For the last five years I have been based in the [REDACTED] in South Wales. I now work shifts and although I am part of a team, I am on my own a lot in the truck and that suits me as I still don't mix well with people.

### **Impact**

52. After being in lower 5<sup>th</sup> and being abused by Wares I had no recollection of year 6. I think this was a result of the abuse I suffered. This is how I continued to deal with adverse things in life. I would just compartmentalise it and then put it into a memory box where I could lock it away.
53. I have never discussed any of the abuse with my brother, either about the abuse I suffered or whether anything ever happened to him. I never felt able to bring it up with my father before he passed away and I don't feel it right to bring it up with my mother.
54. I prefer my own company. At school I did not have any friends as I lived so far out of town it was difficult for any visits. When I was in the army it was the same, I did not make many friends. It is only in recent times I have made contact with people from the Academy through social media.
55. I have had two failed marriages and met my current wife in 2009. I think some of reasons for those break ups were the fact that I could not open up to them. With the trust I have with her I have been able to tell her about the abuse I suffered at the

school. She is a trained Counsellor and as such was able to tell me that this explained some of the habits I had in life.

56. I was at an impressionable age when those abuses were carried out. When they happened, I just locked experiences away. Nicky Campbell, was in the year above me at the school. In 2022 he disclosed having been abused at the school and I was sign posted to his podcast "Different". I later emailed Nicky Campbell who replied saying I should report the things I experienced to the police and to contact the Child Abuse Inquiry. I had also spoken to Thompson's solicitors who agree to take my case on. My mum had read the article and asked me if that had happened to me. I could not tell her anything and denied anything had happened. That was the end of the conversation.
57. It is only in the last six months with the revelations from the interviews with Nicky Campbell and the podcasts from Alex Renton that I have opened up more with my wife. She was able to ask the right questions to make me feel safe to talk about my experiences. Through talking with her I have come to terms with the abuse as she has helped me analyse things. Rather than denying things she has helped me deal with the issues. I have not had any other psychological help as I am not sure I would be able to trust some stranger to talk to.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

58. Although I never reported anything as a child to any authority. I have also been in touch with the police and given a full statement to them. I have been back in touch with the police to add some other memories and arrangements are in hand for them to be in touch and update my original statement.

## Lessons to be learned

59. One thing I have always worried about is what was IGG SNR aware of in relation to Iain Wares? I am aware that he gave a reference over a phone call about Wares to SNR at Fettes. IGG retired in 197 the same year Wares transferred to Fettes. When Wares left our school, I don't remember any rumours about the reasons for him leaving. If IGG had the bravery to report Wares to the Police for the abuse at Edinburgh Academy, then he would not have gone on to abuse others at Fettes and later in South Africa. Wares would have been dealt with by the court and apart from serving any sentence he would not have had access to children.
60. Apart from IGG how many other Masters were aware of the Wares abusing children. Also, how many other Masters at the school were also guilty of abusing pupils under their care. Perhaps if there were more checks in place to look after the children, many of those abuses would not have happened. I am not sure if IGG had gone to the Governors to either report to them or to seek advice from them.
61. My father was on the board of Governors, and I never talked to him about any of those abuses. I am not sure how much he or the other Governors were aware of what abuse was taking place. My father always had the opinion that the Academy could do no wrong.

## Records

62. Up to this time I have not looked to request any copies of my school records.

**Other information**

- 63. I am not sure if the Inquiry can get to the bottom of the abuse that has happened and is still happening. I think this is because there are too many people covering up things happening in their care.
  
- 64. If the Academy, Fettes and now the school in South Africa can be shown to be responsible for allowing those abuses to take place, then this would go a lot better than the routine apology being handed out. The apology is just a general statement being churned out all the time. Apologising for the abuse is not enough. I would like them to accept responsibility for enabling the abuse to be carried out and continuing when they were aware of it.
  
- 65. If they did accept the responsibility, the result would be the insurance companies would have to pay out. I would hope if that happened then the reputation of the school would be sufficiently tarnished that they would lose pupils and that would hurt them more by losing out financially themselves. That would be a much more satisfactory result for me and for other survivors. I hope by coming forward to the Inquiry this may help others to come forward. I know that I did nothing wrong and want others to know they too have done nothing wrong to be abused by those people.
  
- 66. 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.

IGM

Signed.....

Dated..... 22/03/23