

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IBR

Support person present: No

1. My name is IBR but I am known as IBR. My date of birth is 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before boarding school

2. I was born in Sheffield and we lived in Holmesfield, North East Derbyshire. My father is who was from Edinburgh originally and died in 1980. My mother is and she was born in Chesterfield. She is 93 years old now and has dementia. I have two sisters who is seven years older than me and who is five years older than me.
3. We moved to Sheffield because my sisters wanted to be able to go to Sheffield Girls High School. I started off at nursery school before I was sent to in Sheffield. There were lots of rich families sent their boys to this school. My dad was a university lecturer and I'm not sure that my parents got on with the teachers.
4. I went there from five years old and I think I was there from about 1971 to 1980. It was day pupils that went there. It was a horrible school. There were some rather rough lads at. I got picked on and there was lots of corporal punishment for the whole school. There was a board that the teachers kept with red and black marks and I got lots of black marks. The gym masters, Mr and Mr and others used the back of a gym shoe on boy's backsides. They would also smack boys on their bare

bottoms with their hands. This would happen to boys who were being stupid or silly as a reprimand. As an example if boys were incontinent and or ill and soiled themselves through some psychiatric illness they were taken away to be washed. Other boys, including me who followed to try and see what was going on would get hit with the gym shoe for being curious.

5. One day we were sent out on a cross country run in Derbyshire and I gashed my knee on a dry stone wall. This was on the outward part of the run and Mr [REDACTED] made me continue all the way out and back on the run with this injury. When I got back I was hysterical and he slapped me on the face to try and stop my hysteria. I'll never forget that. He is still active in [REDACTED] School.
6. I was bullied regularly by two older and bigger boys from my year called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who tried to make me unpopular with the rest of the school. Between the ages of 5 and 10 I had to drop down a year because I had to take a year off to convalesce from surgery on two hiatus hernias on either side of my abdomen. One time when I was about 7, 8 or 9 years old I got punched in the throat by [REDACTED]. They were both out to get me and I got [REDACTED] on his own to try and get my own back. [REDACTED] came to help and protect his friend and punched me in the throat.
7. One day when I was somewhere between 8 and 10 years old I was walking home when a much bigger boy from the senior school and wearing a [REDACTED] uniform the same as mine punched me hard in the face two or three times. He then took my school cap off and threw it in a garden. I wasn't far from home so I had to get help from my family to get into the garden to get my hat back. The fence and hedges were so big that I couldn't get in.
8. As a result I suffered bruising and the pain of the injuries stayed with me for a few hours at least. They were hard thumps he had given me. I don't know why he picked on me. I didn't go to the doctors or hospital. My family wouldn't think of that. They weren't ones for that.

9. One day in the main school hall, that doubled as a stage for theatre productions, I saw a big senior boy walking up the steps that go up the side of the stage and Mr [REDACTED] literally kicked him down the stairs. He pushed him with his hands and kicked him with his foot. The boy was coming to get him presumably. It was like a teacher pupil fight and he knocked him right back down the steps.
10. Again one day when I was between the ages of 8 and 10 years old two boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to the toilet and one of them did a number two. They brought it back and put it in a Jewish boy [REDACTED]'s bag. I didn't actually witness this but everybody got questioned by the teachers and the two of them eventually admitted it. That was just the kind of bad behaviour and atmosphere at the school that existed.
11. The school was very dysfunctional. Some of the teachers there had very short tempers and lashed out at boys verbally. There was also an incident of a boy accusing two teachers of inappropriate touching. I think one of them had a nervous breakdown and through the old boys network they got asked to leave quietly. It was widespread knowledge amongst the school. These things have stayed with me all my life.
12. I didn't feel my parents gave me the love growing up that I saw other families get. There was a lack of affection. They had different upbringings with my dad being at boarding school in Scotland whilst his dad worked in Malawi. My mum's dad did not allow my mum to go to college so she failed her exams.
13. There was an incident where my mother lost patience with me when we were in the house in Ranmorr, Sheffield. I left the lounge and the door must have banged a bit too much as I went up the stairs. She came running up after me and grabbed me by the hair. She pulled me around a bit and then started hitting and slapping me a bit. I sat there on the stairs just suffering and then I went to bed that night. I actually wrote a history of what she did to me overnight.
14. I will never forget this. That affected me and has affected my relationship with my mother ever since. It has broken the trust. I have forgiven her but it is hard to get that trust back and she has never been the mother that I would have wished for. She had

a temper and she found it difficult bringing up three children on her own. My dad was a lecturer and he left all the disciplining and care of the children to my mum. He tried to discipline me once but instead of a decent whack it was a sort of limp whack with no real force.

15. My dad was relying on promises of a pay rise which never materialised to pay the fees for my school and my sisters. When he died of cancer in [REDACTED] 1980 I left [REDACTED] and went to King Edward The Seventh School in Sheffield because we couldn't afford the fees.
16. The same year my father died my mother's mother died of Parkinson's. My mother's brothers tried to get her to take in her dad and look after her. He was a bit of a tyrant and my mum didn't want to take that responsibility, so my sister [REDACTED] suggested we moved to Edinburgh where she was at university and that I went to a Scottish school. My other sister was at Leeds University.

Edinburgh Academy, Edinburgh

17. My sister and mum chose for me to go to Edinburgh Academy because we could not afford to go to Merchiston Castle School where the Edinburgh side of my dad's family went. None of my family or my dad's family had ever gone to Edinburgh Academy. We had considered me going to Wolverhampton Grammar but when we went to visit I didn't like it because it was raining that day.
18. In late summer 198[REDACTED] I went for a visit to Edinburgh Academy, had an interview with them and sat an entrance exam to get in. I passed that just in no more. I found the teachers a bit aggressive and I could tell they had a temper. My family had a chat with them about my difficult circumstances around losing my dad. I had a look around the main school and it was quite impressive. It felt like I was going on a great adventure and that I was just getting away from a bad experience.

19. I started at the beginning of the school term in September 198█ when I was 13 years old. I think we drove up from Sheffield but I have no clear memory of it. It was either my mum or my sister █ that took me there on the first day. I had to board in Mackenzie House for the first term because my mum was staying down in Sheffield until she sold the house. Once she sold the house and moved up here she got a house in █, Edinburgh. I moved in there and became a day pupil.
20. The actual school was in Henderson Row, Edinburgh and there were pupils from all over. Some of them came from abroad, from all round the world.
21. It was mainly boys but latterly there were some girls in the 'A' level year who came from St George's girls' school to Edinburgh Academy for the final year.
22. There was a junior school for the 'Geites' and they had a separate building near the Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh.
23. There was a rector, a deputy rector, then there was the senior masters and the rest of them were junior staff. However because I was having to survive on a daily basis I never really recognised anybody other than the rector, Mr Ellis. He was the headmaster of the whole school and Mr ICL █ was the █ for the third year of the senior school. I was in class 3█. There was Mr David Standley who took an interest in senior matters.
24. Mackenzie House where we boarded was situated somewhere between the school and the junior school. It was about a ten minute walk from the school. The house was an old fashioned Victorian building and had probably been adapted to house the pupils. Everything about my one term there is a bit of a blur really.
25. The housemaster and mistress there were Mr Lister and his wife Mrs Lister and they stayed there. They were very nice people and when I was ill once they gave me this very nice minced beef food.

26. The maths teacher Mr Buckley and the matron also stayed there. I never knew her name but Mr Buckley and the matron got on rather well.
27. The staff were really quite unassuming people but didn't take much interest in the boys. I don't remember them having kids of their own.
28. There was about twenty or twenty five boys at most in Mackenzie house. They were about my age and some a bit younger. It was a mixture of boys from the senior and junior schools. There was another house for older boys but I can't remember what it was called.
29. Mackenzie House had at least three floors. The staff quarters were on the top floor and the dormitories were on the one below them. On the ground floor we had a central room where we had our meals and we did our studies in the evening. It was like a lounge and dining room. There was also a sick room. There was also a back garden and I remember having bonfire night out there.
30. When I started at the school I had a Yorkshire accent but not a strong one because I had gone to [REDACTED] and it was a bit of a non-descript accent.

Routine at Edinburgh Academy

First day

31. On the first day I met the housemaster and his wife and I was showed to the dormitory at Mackenzie House.

Mornings and bedtime

32. We had to get up early, have a wash and then go down for breakfast. At bedtime we slept in the dormitories which had a bay window and the beds were set up like an army

camp or a prison or hospital. I felt there was always an atmosphere of fear and threat in there. It was quite an intimidating atmosphere.

Mealtimes / Food

33. We just went down to the dining hall. I suppose they had to have a way of controlling things and I think they must have had supervisors in with us. I think there were long tables joined up and long benches. I can't really remember if it was set out like a buffet or not. The food wasn't the best but I think we got enough. I think there was cereal for breakfast. We had all of our meals in Mackenzie House apart from some Friday afternoons when we'd have a High Tea of fish and chips in the school dining room. I was sometimes ill from the grease after it.
34. There were never any real problems at meal times although I do remember once a boy with the surname [REDACTED] chasing another boy [REDACTED] who was from the states, about. I tried to intervene and protect him. I had a go at [REDACTED] and his friend then had a go at me.

Washing / bathing

35. There must have been a bathroom but I can't really remember it other than it being very basic. I was never attacked in there.

Clothing / uniform

36. I suppose we must have made a trip up to Edinburgh to buy the school uniform from Aitken and Niven the suppliers. I got a blue blazer for the summer and a sort of brown rough tweed jacket for the winter. We wore long trousers. I suppose we were allowed to wear our own clothes at weekends as I can't imagine we wore uniform the whole time.

Schooling

37. The school wasn't very good with me when I was young and they weren't interested in teaching me anything that was meaningful. My school reports were mainly negative but I did do higher and 'A' levels exams whilst I was there.
38. I got put down two sets in maths and I said that I wanted to do 'A' level maths and all the teachers and other pupils all laughed at me. I went home and told my mum and she complained to the school that they weren't treating me very well.
39. There was a teacher in the chemistry department Mr Evans who sort of adopted me. He helped me to do as well with chemistry as I have done over the years. I got my 'A' level and got a 2:1 in Chemistry at UCL (University College London) after I left. In sixth year I was sitting with others who were making a fool of Mr Evans, calling him names and making noises and he took it that I was joining in because I was sitting with them. He wasn't friendly to me after that. The chemistry teachers were good and so were the English and biology teachers.
40. I was a depressed sort of boy and maybe my academic side was affected. When you are depressed, you are abused, ill-treated in all sorts of social ways and being ostracised that depression can turn into psychosis. That was the way I was being pushed in the aftermath of my father's death. You can tell when you are becoming psychotic because your thinking changes.
41. There wasn't any mental health support at the Academy. [redacted] who was [redacted] [redacted] was a kind person who you could get more sense out of but that was as good as it got.

Sporting activities

42. We had sporting competitions and sports days at school and I think it was a different house system, not Mackenzie House. I never really got involved in this because of the risk of meeting violent boys so I just sort of stayed out of them. The culture of the

school was mainly sporting achievement with a bit of academic achievement as well. I did soccer but I didn't do rugby because someone tried to take my head off in the scrum once. I was in third form when three or four boys tackled me. One boy put his arm round my neck in the scrum and tried to get my head off. I gave him a gentle uppercut and he never came near me again.

Leisure time / clubs

43. I was in the CCF (Combined Cadet Forces). I chose the naval section because it was the easiest one and I thought the people in there were the easiest ones to get on with.
44. We used to go out on the canal boats and the teachers taking this did not follow the proper etiquette for being on the canals. They used to over rev the engines and cause the banks of the canal to be eroded. The way they manoeuvred was not a good example to the children.
45. I also did my Silver DofE (Duke of Edinburgh Award) but didn't do my Gold. Mr [REDACTED] ran the scheme, asked me to do it and was angry when I refused. I had reached a level of stress and didn't want to do it. It was beginning to affect my mental health and I wasn't going to risk making it worse. If they had been nicer to me at school I wouldn't have felt that way and would've done it.
46. I never went out with the school whilst I was boarding as I was such a young boy and was petrified.
47. I would never go to Princes Street or anywhere like that, as that was too frightening. I would go out with other boys but just to local areas.

Trips and holidays

48. Mr Lister would sometimes take us out on little tours of the areas. A lot of the time he would just take us out for a walk around Arboretum, The Botanic Gardens or Inverleith

Park. I can't remember if there was school transport or if he would just take us out in his car sometimes. I have no strong memories it's just sort of a mist and a fog.

49. We went away once with the CCF on a tug boat from Campbeltown to the Naval base near Faslane. We went out on to the lochs up on the west coast of Scotland and practiced steering the tug boat. At night time we played cards. There was no abuse when we were away.
50. I once went to a ceilidh at St George's School for girls because they were paired with Edinburgh Academy. There were nice girls there but I didn't meet any. We were told to do as we were told and we weren't allowed to do very much, just observe and not get involved.

Work / chores

51. The only thing we had to do was make our beds and keep our lockers tidy.

Pocket Money

52. I think we got an allowance lodged at the beginning of term and would get money every week. I can't really remember buying sweets or anything.

Healthcare

53. There was a sick bay or room where you went if you were ill. Matron was always very sweet. That was her nature.

Religious instruction

54. I was brought up with religion but there was nothing to do with the church at the Academy, it wasn't very religious. The only thing there ever was, was a carol service.

55. We moved from [REDACTED] up to near the Braid Hills area in Edinburgh and there was a church at Braidburn. I asked the minister there to let me join in but he told me to go away. He never gave me a reason.

Birthdays and Christmas

56. My birthday wasn't celebrated when I was boarding and I wasn't there at Christmas time.

Visitors / Family contact

57. I didn't have any visitors in the period I was a boarder. You weren't encouraged to phone and I didn't phone any family as it was a sort of a trapped environment. It turns you into such a troubled individual that you can't really find the words to express what is really going on. I don't know if I wrote letters. I did receive letters but of course boys were intercepting them and keeping them from me. My sisters later said they wondered why they weren't getting any replies.
58. I had my Scottish family but I don't remember visiting them whilst I was a boarder.
59. My sister [REDACTED] had a boyfriend [REDACTED] and I went to where she lived. He called me a little shit so I picked up a glass of wine and threw it at him.

External Inspections

60. I don't remember any inspections because good things like that would have made an impression on me and I don't remember that.

Running Away

61. I never ran away or even tried. I felt as if I was trapped and had to tough it out. I was too scared to. There wasn't any thought of leaving the school to go elsewhere. My family had decided to come up to Scotland after the situation with my father dying and

I just wanted my mum to sell the house in Sheffield and get up to Scotland so I could move in there and out of the boarding house. I did tell her how bad it was without going into detail and they got me out.

Discipline

62. There was never any discipline or deliverance that I saw. It was all kept very private and secretive if someone was disciplined. Any instances of lack of control or anything getting out of hand they tried to keep it quiet.
63. There was the cane getting used but the only one I knew that got caned was a boy who was friendly and I don't know why he got it when it seemed like all the boys that were bad didn't.
64. I think there was detention but I never got it. I was too scared after [REDACTED] to do anything wrong. The teachers at [REDACTED] were vindictive to me and that was what caused my fear. The teachers at the Academy weren't personally vindictive to me.
65. Pupils did get suspended or expelled but it was kept quiet and you didn't hear about it until much later on. I think it was all done in a polite way where they would get in touch with parents and basically say your boy isn't wanted at the school anymore and they would be taken away quietly.
66. Mr ICL [REDACTED] did once get me and [REDACTED] and grabbed us by the scruff of our neck when we had a disagreement.

Prefects / senior pupils

67. Some of the senior boys were known as 'Ephers' who wore different ties and they administered justice. They were basically prefects who reported any bad behaviour to the teachers. The 'Ephers' were only in the school and not in the boarding house.

68. To be an 'Epher' you had to be good at rugby and in the first fifteen or a top sportsman, be at the top in the cadet forces or excel at school. I never saw them doing much to be honest. If there was a fight they would break it up. I don't think they gave out punishments, they just reported to the teachers.
69. I was never an 'Epher' as I was never good enough at the different things. I was only good at chemistry and you had to be a sporting and academic superstar. It was the teachers who picked them I suppose but there was a secrecy around it.

Culture

70. There was a culture in the school where people weren't supported very well and if they were a bit different they didn't get the proper support. There were two American boys [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who weren't treated well and their parents removed them from the school before they even got to sit their exams.
71. David Standley who was the physics teacher always loomed large in pupils psychology. His presence threatened against telling tales and giving away anything about the school. He was a malevolent and dominant figure in the school for years.
72. At one stage he headhunted a boy to the Academy from Dundee High School because he was a very good cricketer. His name was [REDACTED] and he was Indian. He was brought to the school and didn't live up to expectations both at cricket and academically. He was a very nice lad but people didn't like him and he didn't fit in. You could say it was racist.
73. He didn't get the support from Mr Standley or anybody else when he needed it and by the end of the year he was very down about it. I had tried to be friendly with him and he told me how he felt he had been treated. He felt that because he was a low class in the Indian caste system it put him off making friends with people and he didn't feel he could be friends with me. That was when he needed support from the teachers and didn't get it. He ended up leaving and going back to Dundee.

74. There were two Africans at the school as well but they were treated well so there was an imbalance in the way they treated people culturally.
75. There was a real lack of supervision and discipline where the teachers allowed boys to be unruly.
76. In the fifth form Mr McIlwaine was the French teacher and I felt very sorry for him. One day he was out of the room and the boys had a bit of a riot. One boy threw a chair at the whiteboard and put a dent in it. The rest of the class started rocking the wooden lockers that were against the wall and deliberately breaking up the plaster. When Mr McIlwaine came back in I think he noticed what had happened but he never did anything. He was such a gentleman and he couldn't really cope with such violent boys.
77. There was another couple of teachers who taught physics and French and I suppose the boys would have called them weedy. There was bullying and threatening towards them and they got no support from their teaching peers. They just had to give way to the bigger boys and play second fiddle to them. The physics teacher didn't last long at all and left very quickly to go to Europe to do a physics job at The Hague.
78. The French teacher actually witnessed an assault by [REDACTED] on a boy called [REDACTED] and never did anything about it. Unfortunately [REDACTED] had terrible acne and when he was hit it broke the skin and [REDACTED] had blood on his hand. He actually asked permission from the teacher to go to the toilet to wash his hand. The teacher just let him go as if everything was normal. He wasn't able to control the class and was easily influenced by the boys.
79. I never witnessed this as it happened after I left but I was informed that the gym master [REDACTED] had been beaten up by the boys. He was small in stature and it is another example of how unruly behaviour wasn't stopped and the teachers were vulnerable when boys wanted to have a go at them.
80. There was a culture of drinking amongst the pupils. There was a chemistry conference at Stirling University where some of the older pupils were drinking and [REDACTED]

got drunk and was sick. Other incidents included boys who were out on canal boats in the evening would just tie up the boats at a mooring and go to the local pubs. There was a lack of supervision from the teachers that allowed this to happen.

81. There was consensual sexual activity going on amongst the pupils. A girl called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was a year older than me with one of the senior boys who was of age and was maybe an 'Epher.' This had seemingly happened in one of the classrooms and somebody had walked in on them. Word spread quickly but I don't know if the teachers were aware. If they did it would have been kept quiet and dealt with in a secretive manner.
82. There was a rather unpleasant culture in Mackenzie House which is why they closed it down. The boys even harassed Mr Buckley and matron and they made her cry once. They were picking on her and bullying her. Matron and Mr Buckley once went on a trip to the beach and boys followed them. They went to extreme lengths to make life unpleasant for them. On bonfire night they even aimed fireworks at Mr Buckley's window that faced onto the garden. They were out of control. This was other boys but [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] might have been involved. They were never far away from it all.
83. I was trying to keep a low profile and keep away from it all but there was a threat of reprisals at every stage to be honest.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy

84. Whilst I was boarding my family were sending me letters and they were being stolen and intercepted by boys in the house so I never got to see them. They were also stealing my personal belongings including a pen I got from my father from his university.
85. There were boys from the year below me with the surnames [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and a boy [REDACTED] who was in my year. They were the ones that would be at the pigeon

holes, muck about with my mail and steal it. They ridiculed me when I made mention of it being missing. They would steal stuff from my desk or from my personal belongings like the pen and just say I'm having this and just take them.

86. I sort of tried to get at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I caught [REDACTED] chasing the boy [REDACTED]. I thought this was an opportunity to get him for stealing my letters so I chased him and when we were in the dining room I gave him a bit of a thump. Unfortunately his friend [REDACTED] came by fairly quickly, he hit me quite hard and beat me up in the study area in the boarding house.
87. [REDACTED] was younger than me but very violent and very aggressive and he could have been a boxer. I tried to fight him but he beat me up worse than I beat his friend [REDACTED] up. There were other boys there but they weren't going to interfere. When there were fights there was always an audience and they used to enjoy the prospect of a bit of a fight.
88. After he had beaten me up [REDACTED] came along. I thought he was rescuing me from being beaten up any more but he sexually abused me. He gripped my testicles, sort of held on and told [REDACTED] to go away. I was left alone in the study area with him and the intimation I took from it was that I've stopped you getting beaten up but I will sexually abuse you instead. After that I got left on my own feeling bruised and bashed. I don't know if he ever did this to anyone else because some of these people are quite private about what they do.
89. I had severe bruising on my face and that was noticed by Mr Lister but he never bothered to do anything about it. He asked me what had happened. I was too scared to say as there would have been expulsions. There was strong peer group pressure not to tell tales. I just told him it was nothing to worry about.
90. The boys in my class gave me a rude nickname which was 'Faeces' and that was horrible. They gave me 'wedgies' which meant they put their hands down your trousers and pull your pants up. It wasn't just to me. It was common and one boy that used to

do it was called [REDACTED]. He was a very angry boy and I think he had issues with his father. He later joined in a full sexual abuse on me when we were at school.

91. This happened when I was about sixteen or seventeen years old and was in sixth form in class 6. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were in the same year as me jumped me when I was in the classroom and put their hands down my trousers and groped my testicles. [REDACTED] was the same [REDACTED] that had grabbed my testicles in Mackenzie House. I suppose by this stage I was a bit numb, oppressed and suppressed not to disclose these things and I didn't tell anyone because some teachers just thought that you were not telling the truth or that you were just causing trouble and they just didn't want to hear it.
92. I noticed some boys from my class got beaten up rather a lot. There were some little boys [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in our year in the least academic class. They had to put up with being regularly ill-treated. They called them 'Sweaty' [REDACTED] and Peabrain. There were lots of nicknames in the school but these two just had to put up with the ill treatment because they were short in height and stature and were not very intelligent so couldn't get themselves out of difficult situations. They were picked on by anybody and everybody in the year and the teachers just turned a blind eye.
93. When I was in the CCF, one of the officers, [REDACTED] kicked everybody up the bottom during parade because we weren't marching properly but that was standard probably. [REDACTED] is a captain of a ship in the Royal Navy now.
94. There was a younger [REDACTED] and an older [REDACTED] and the younger one and [REDACTED] threatened me on the way to a carol concert once. They then sat behind me in the church and were shaking the wooden panels on the bench I was on but they never got into trouble for it.
95. The older [REDACTED] who was the same age as me was a lot bigger than me. He was a rugby guy and had big muscles and he decided to fight with me and he whacked me on the head. Mr [REDACTED] the form master broke us up and he got very angry. He was

an angry man because he had a disabled daughter. Mr [REDACTED] used to shout a lot. He never did anything just told us to get on our way.

96. I tried to be friends with [REDACTED] after. He had a lot more friends than me and they were mocking me saying 'friendies, let's be friendies.' [REDACTED] was one of the pupils who mocked me.
97. In the fourth form one day between classes a guy [REDACTED] was sitting behind me and trapped my legs against the back legs of the chair using his legs. He started attacking me from behind. He was a vicious lad and had quite a bad temper on him. Mr Davis the form master blamed me for that one, gave me a harsh word and ticked me off.
98. One day a boy called [REDACTED] kicked me in the biology department. He was a big lad, over six foot tall and it was unprovoked. One of the female pupils [REDACTED] saw this and asked why I had let him do it. I told her I didn't want involved in a fight because I wanted to keep on good terms with the biology teachers and thought I just might get ticked off for being in a fight. The teachers developed an attitude towards you if you were involved in fights. They took a dislike to you and became more prejudiced against you.
99. I witnessed the [REDACTED] technician one day trying to push [REDACTED] into a metal cupboard that is used a storage. [REDACTED] was just walking past it and the technician made body contact and tried to push him inside and close the door on him. I felt he was being a bit amorous and fancied [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] didn't like him. [REDACTED] pushed him away. It was the sort of thing that went under the radar and if it was reported would have made you unpopular so nothing further was said or done. I don't know the technician's name.
100. I saw the boy [REDACTED] who had hit the boy with acne, chase a girl in the school yard into a portacabin which was the females' common room. He was showing off later that he had molested her. There was something of a sexual nature, something like what had happened to me but I don't know if it was consensual or not. He just made

out that it was sort of satisfactory to both of them. I never heard her version of what happened from her or anybody else. He was actually alright apart from these two incidents and was quite popular amongst everyone.

101. Mr Dawson who had the nickname 'Doey' Dawson was a teacher when I was there. He was a history teacher and I heard on the television and read in the papers what Nicky Campbell recently said about him. I knew he had a temper because one of the first days I was on the canal boats I made him a lukewarm cup of tea and he wasn't happy. He made make me another one.
102. He never abused me physically or otherwise but I witnessed him striking pupils with bits of wood and throwing the board rubber at them. He was the most overtly violent teacher I saw at the school when I was there. I only had him as a teacher for one year when I was in year three. He left me alone but I had to get out in case he had a go at me. I dropped history because I didn't like what I was seeing.

Reporting of abuse at Edinburgh Academy

103. I didn't report any of the abuse I suffered at the school to them because the teachers weren't very pleasant. They would have just assumed it was lies. I had no trust in them and nothing would have been done.

Leaving Edinburgh Academy

104. I left Edinburgh Academy in 198█ and it was a big relief to be finishing. At the end of the year there was a ceremonial type game for leavers with a Clacken which is a wooden bat and you hit a ball with it. I missed it as it was big boys with a few scuffles and it wasn't for me.

Life after being in care

105. After I left the Academy I went to do a chemistry degree at UCL (University College London) and then did my PhD in Durham. When I was in Durham I suffered a lot of social abuse. I later tried to explain to my Scottish family about the difficulty I was having. They were a bit insensitive and ignored me when I explained about my mental health issues. I don't think they wanted me to progress any further in life and they had me lined up to marry a cousin.
106. When I had been at school only two people really spoke to me. One of them was [REDACTED] and the other was [REDACTED]. One went onto be a scammer and went into pyramid selling and the other got into religion and treated me worse after I introduced him to the church. He wanted to be a lord and have slaves. I was his friend and he treated me like a slave.
107. This friend [REDACTED] wanted to be a GP and went to university in Aberdeen and then was a Trainee GP in a hospital in Newcastle. He was looking for accommodation so I invited him to share my accommodation in Durham where I was doing my PhD. I invited him into my church and he found his wife pretty quick and literally got married. He turned his back on me and pushed me out. He got accommodation and I moved in with him. He got me to sell all my photographic and hi-fi equipment to help him out with his rent because he was short of money.
108. He then passed me onto another landlord who was equally unfriendly and these were meant to be church people. They took advantage of me and that's when I started to suffer from psychiatric illness because of past cruelty.
109. Durham pushed me over the edge. I wouldn't have complained about the Academy if things had gone better for me in Durham and afterwards. Durham just made it a whole lot worse. This friend who I'd helped in Durham had actually tried to invite me to have a homosexual kiss when I was at school and we were out rambling in the Scottish borders.

110. So you can see the confused picture. He tries to give me a kiss which I refuse because we're not homosexual but then he does all these horrible things to me later in life and he's just quite an unpleasant person. He was twisted and told my mother that I was an evil person. His mother turned against me as well because she thought I was standing in the way of him getting married.
111. In the early 1990's in Durham I got assaulted in a chemistry lab by another student and reported it to his supervisor but they hushed these things up in universities.
112. I was in Durham between 1988 and 1998 and I was looking for something a bit more but the people there weren't very hospitable. I was hoping for social involvement with Christians in Durham which was different to when I had been in London.
113. I was suicidal in Durham and I did self-harm. I was already carrying a lot of pain and suffering and the people of Durham made it a whole lot worse by not being friendly to me.
114. Unfortunately when I was in Durham my mother touched me inappropriately. She touched me in the midriff and then moved her hand down the way. She must have been ill at the time because that was very unusual for her. I did challenge her about it. I reported this to some of my Christian friends and we challenged her. We recorded the challenge and she left Durham and never came back for a few years. She had stayed in Scotland, moved to London and then ended up in Durham. This incident caused me a lot of stress.
115. I was also attacked by a female couple from the flat below me when I was living in Southampton between 1993 and 1994. They were trying to break into my flat to attack me and I had to literally push them out. The police dealt with it.
116. After I left Durham I came back to Sheffield where I have worked for NHS as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Mental Health Psychiatry for the last twenty years reading data about patients in crisis.

Impact

117. The horrible, repressive homosexual abuse, the sense of abuse, being ill-treated and people getting away with it has affected my trust of people. I didn't trust the people from the church anymore.
118. I think because of what happened, when work colleagues are rude, unkind or insensitive I tend to over react and I don't show them much patience. I will stand up for myself more than most people would. What has been put on me has manifested itself in some sort of reactions.
119. My life has been stuck in the 1980's quite a lot because I don't know what the people who did what they did think about what they did even now. I don't know if they enjoy the memory of what they did or what their view of it is or if they even remember it. I wonder how they reflect on it? I still remember. Did they enjoy it? I wonder if they think back that it was them at school having fun as I think some of them positively gloried in it at school.
120. A long time ago I went back down to where the school was and it just felt bad. There was a bad energy and bad vibes.
121. Some people didn't recognise me at events that had known me when I was younger. I have lost my hair. When I was in Edinburgh though my face became very distorted and I was a very different boy from what I had been before that in Sheffield. It changed again when I went to London because I was smiling again.
122. The only girl that I ever got to know was when I was an inpatient for three weeks at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. I had gone back to Edinburgh to see Professor Eve Johnston there to change my medication. This was a good thing because she was a very good consultant even although she didn't think I was going to ever get a job. I was with her from 1996 to 2001.

123. In there I met a girl [REDACTED] who was pregnant and suffering a bit. She told me about how she got pregnant and who the father was. We went for hot chocolates in the cafes in Morningside. We went to MacDonalds in Princes Street and she told me about Scottish people. We went to her flat at the east end of Edinburgh and listened to CDs. She washed herself up because these wards don't have good facilities for washing. I just chaperoned her and then we went back to the hospital again. She was nice. When we met her on the bus one day my mum was there and my mum didn't like the look of her so put us off each other and that was sad.

Treatment/support

124. I tried getting help and support through several churches in Durham and one of them referred me for counselling but their advice was to try experimenting and gave me no guidance.
125. I have sought out psychological counselling for myself. I have been on medication for thirty years and they just keep changing it. Changing psychiatric drugs is traumatic, time consuming and risky because you never know if they are going to work. It is very upsetting with the nasty side effects and unpredictable if you are not given the correct drugs. It is dangerous to change these drugs. One of the side effects that I believe I have is stiff man syndrome which causes muscle paralysis and I have had that since 2018. I had pneumonia and it has affected my voice box. I now see a speech therapist.

Reporting of Abuse

126. I never reported any of the abuse I suffered at Edinburgh Academy to the police. We were burgled when we stayed in Edinburgh and I didn't find them very approachable.

Records

127. I have some of my old school records in the loft at home like yearbooks and maybe I have a scrap of school uniform, maybe a blazer, a tie and my DofE badge.

Lessons to be Learned

128. Teachers need to be kinder and more observant. They should be going in and out of classrooms and making sure that nobody is doing what they shouldn't be doing. People shouldn't be allowed in classrooms during break time unless it's raining and if they are they should be supervised.
129. Most of the teachers I experienced were unkind people and slightly unhinged. They just weren't the right temperament for teaching lots of rather awful boys. Lots of them were too soft. They need to be tough, you know tough love and they need to be strong to be disciplined but need a kind side as well. They've got to be perceptive and notice what is going on.
130. Boarding houses have got to be specially regulated. They've got to have their own act of parliament to regulate them and very strictly regulated because Mackenzie House was a complete disaster.
131. The boarding staff need to have proper training and qualifications for working in Boarding Houses. I will never forget Mackenzie House, not in a million years. I believe it has been closed down anyway.
132. I hope the Inquiry can help get new laws for Scottish schools, private, fee paying and boarding schools. As far as I know these physical aspects are still going on in the boarding houses. In England there is a lot of establishment people against bringing in such laws. I think a lot of these schools are doing all sorts of legal things to stop such Inquiries happening there.

Other information

- 133. When I got my hernia operations when I was a young boy the consultant Mr [REDACTED] touched my testicles inappropriately. It was the manner in which he did it. I don't feel it was a proper clinical examination and was a bit to gropey. He seemed to be taking an unwholesome and unsavoury pleasure in what he was doing.
- 134. Immediately after that he produced a pistol which he said was a German luger world war two one. He was handling and caressing it in what looking back now I would describe was a seductive sexual sort of way as if he was displaying power in an intimidating way.
- 135. At least one of my parents were present. It was in his consulting room somewhere in Sheffield but was not in a hospital. I think he was in his forties or fifties at least at that time. He was narrow faced, a bit gaunt and reminded me of Jeremy Thorpe. He had dark hair, going a bit bald.
- 136. I was overwhelmed by what had happened and didn't say how I felt to my parents or anybody else.
- 137. 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..... IBR [REDACTED]

Dated..... 30th August 2022

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