Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Support person present: No

My name is Plant My date of birth is 1960.
 My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before boarding school

2.	My father's name was	. My mother's name was
	. I had a middl	e brother who died, he was run
	down by a car. I have a brother	and a sister,
	. I am the oldest, was three y	ears younger than me,, four years
	younger and seven years younger.	

- 3. I grew up in Edinburgh and lived out at Lasswade near Dalkeith in a little cottage. The first school I went to was the Grange Home Nursery School, which is long gone. I had a very happy time there. It was near to Mayfield Road in Edinburgh and was a big old Victorian House run by a Mrs Burnie. It was superb. I was around four or five years old at the time. I can remember the little bottles of milk and biscuits.
- 4. My father was a businessman and he had a shop in retail. His father had been in the same business which started in 1863 and that's what I do now. My mother helped out a little in the business but we all came along in quick succession, so she was probably the busiest bringing us up.

- 5. My father died at fifty when I was just nineteen. My mother died in 2021 from dementia. She was eighty-four. I looked after her at home for a few years until it got beyond looking after her at home. She then went into a care home. She was a great lady before she got dementia. I remember she took me and a friend to Turnhouse Airport to see the Beatles arriving in Edinburgh. I guess I was eight or nine at the time. My mum had a beehive hair style and I thought she was really cool.
- 6. I had a wonderful upbringing, my parents were great. As the family grew my father bought another house which was at Broomieknowe, just up the hill from Lasswade. It was a beautiful house with a big garden.
- 7. My father had been to Melville College which no longer exists. It became Stewart's Melville College. My father had been sexually abused by a master there. He was sixteen at the time and he punched the guy. My father was not a violent man but I can imagine him doing that. He was thrown out of the school. I learned about that years later as an adult.
- 8. I remember going there and I think I failed the test. I know he thought of sending me there. Then there was a thought of sending me to Loretto but I don't think he was into the idea of boarding. I remember passing the test to get into Edinburgh Academy quite easily.
- 9. I remember my father taking me to the school to sit the test. I don't remember any other boys sitting the test, I think I was in a room on my own. I can remember having to do something in the test which I thought was incredibly ridiculous. There was a drawing of a snake on a page and I had to take a pencil and draw a line within the body of the snake, I suppose to show some skill or other. I thought it was a joke. I remember that vividly.
- 10. I guess that would have been in the spring or summer before I started and I have a feeling I sat it at the prep school and not at Denham Green Junior School. That was the first time I had gone to the school. I was six years old when I started at Edinburgh Academy.

- Both my brothers went to Edinburgh Academy as well. My sister went to St Margarets in the Newington area.
- 12. My parents were given a list of uniform and there were only certain people who could supply it, one being Aitken & Niven on George Street in Edinburgh. I remember you had button up shorts for flies, not zips. My mother disappeared to go and look at something else and this staff member abused me. He touched my genitals. It's quite strange, when something like that happens to you when you are six years old, you don't know that it's wrong. But I do remember it. It was a male and he was quite old but when you're six everybody is old. He was old in comparison to my mum and she would have been twenty-seven at that time.

Edinburgh Academy

Denham Green Junior School

- 13. I started as a day pupil at Edinburgh Academy in 196 and attended Denham Green Junior School. I would have been six years old. From my memory it was a big old Victorian house set in grounds with lawns. I had no problems there. It was an all-boys school when I went there.
- 14. My teacher was Mrs PK She was my teacher throughout my time in the junior school which was two years I think. I remember one day I had a really bad stomach. I kept putting my hand up wanting to go to the toilet but she told me just to put my hand down. I ended up messing myself which was humiliating and everyone knew. They didn't beat you at Denham Green, I don't remember anything like that.

Preparatory School, Arboretum Road

15. After Denham Green you went to the prep school in Arboretum Road. I would have been eight years old. That was quite a new and modern building in those days. The classroom had linoleum floors whereas Denham Green had all wooden floors. I can see the steps going up to the prep school with the sports grounds behind where they had the athletics, the running track. There was a drive from the school out to Arboretum Road where the rugby pitches and the boarding houses were. I was a day boy there, I never boarded at Edinburgh Academy at all.

- 16. The prep school was run by Mr IGG. He was the SNR and I remember him, slightly balding hair. He was always very smart, Prince of Wales checked suits. I don't remember who was although Mr Brownlee was there. Thank God I never experienced his violence. I wasn't ever in Brownlee's class.
- 17. It was at the prep school that I encountered Iain Wares. He taught me maths. He may have also been my form teacher for a year.
- 18. I remember Mrs Baxter, she was also a form teacher at the prep school. She was very nice and I have fond memories of her. Perhaps Wares was my form master for one year and Mrs Baxter for the other year before I moved on to upper school.
- 19. Another teacher at prep school was Mr DO by name and DO by nature. He was a very violent man. I can't remember what he taught me. I can't actually remember what a lot of them taught me. I don't remember any other teachers.
- 20. There weren't a great deal of boys in my form class, maybe between eighteen and twenty. I think there were four form classes so I would say there was roughly eighty to a hundred boys in each year at the prep school.

Upper School - Henderson Row

- 21. I guess I was at the prep school until I was about eleven and a half and then went to the upper school in Henderson Row. That would have been around 1971.
- The upper school was extraordinary. I've always liked old architecture and that was a neo-classical building which had huge pillars and steps. It was a very old building, you

felt like you were in a film set almost. It was a beautiful building actually although I don't look upon it that way now.

- 23. The headmaster of the upper school was ICH. He had a great war record but looking back he had no business to be running a school like that. He used to fall asleep at assembly. I would say he was a very damaged person. Looking back, how was he allowed to run the school? I don't mean he was a bad person, he just wasn't capable of running an organisation like that. He had no respect because everybody just thought he was half dead. Mr McIlwaine was the deputy headmaster of the upper school from memory. He was an ineffectual man.
- 24. The upper school seemed much bigger, although it might not have been in terms of numbers. I can think of the big assembly, the big rotunda. I don't know, maybe there was four hundred, five hundred boys in the upper school.
- 25. From my memory the upper school was the only school that had prefects. They were called Ephors after the Greek word for a senior. They were allowed to beat you when I first went to upper school. They used a clacken which is a bat made of wood. I think peculiar to the Edinburgh Academy, it was a game called, 'Hailes' and they used a clacken as in that book that came out, 'The Clacken and the Slate.'
- 26. I don't know how many ephors there were, maybe fifteen, twenty. You had to be a certain age before you could be made an ephor. I would say in the last couple of years at upper school, fifth and sixth form. I don't know how ephors were selected, I just knew I wasn't going to be made one because of my behaviour. I think if you were very good at sport or very good at rugby then you may well be put forward. I was a really good runner but because of all that went on there, I didn't really bother, I gave up.
- 27. I always thought that was wrong to give seventeen/eighteen-year-old boys that power. The beatings did stop whilst I was there. I have a feeling it was a year or two into my time at upper school. That was something stopped. I don't know why he stopped it but it was the right thing to do.

- 28. I have a feeling the ephors could give you lines and detention but I'm not absolutely sure. The trouble was they could pick on you. I remember thinking that I was being picked on.
- 29. Edinburgh Academy wasn't full of rich kids whose dads had Bentleys. It wasn't like that. I was at school with the kids, the owners. My old man had an furniture business. There was the odd wealthy family but of the friends I have now, none of us were from wealthy families. Mr Hazlet, the school chaplain, just thought we were a bunch of spoilt kids, and he would say that to us. I never felt spoiled and was always aware my father was working extremely hard to pay the fees.
- That was partly why I never bothered to tell him what was happening to me at Edinburgh Academy.
- 31. There were far more day boys than boarders. I would say perhaps a third of boys were boarders, twenty to thirty percent. All I can say is if I suffered the abuse I suffered, God knows what they suffered. The boarders all stuck together.
- Both Dawson and Wares were housemasters. I'm sure Wares was a housemaster when I was at prep school.

Routine at Edinburgh Academy

First day

33. I don't remember my first day at the school. There's a picture of me wearing the uniform and a cap and the satchel. I think I was quite apprehensive but then you meet lots of other kids at the school. Dad used to take us to school before going on to open the business. Mother would pick us up. I vaguely remember she had a red mini. I don't remember if there was an assembly although I'm sure there would have been one.

- 34. I remember my first day at Arboretum Road preparatory school after yet another visit to Aitken & Niven to get a new jacket. I thought moving on to Arboretum was great. There were other people I knew that were moving on. I was full of expectations.
- 35. There was an assembly with religious based hymns and then you would go to your first class. From my memory Mr IGG was the one who took assembly.
- 36. By the time I moved to the upper school, I wanted to get out of that place. I would become extremely difficult, rebellious and then I encountered Mr Dawson.
- 37. At upper school ICH took assembly every morning. I can remember Hamish Dawson taught history.

Mealtimes/Food

- 39. I had lunch in the dining hall in the prep school when I was there.
- 40. I also had lunch at the upper school and the food seemed to be worse than the prep school or maybe I just remember it better at the upper school. It was disgusting, it was shocking. The food was so bad it was inedible. Those spam fritters, we would have been better off with a cheese sandwich, tomato and lettuce than the three course cooked meal they gave us. The catering firm were owned by this ex academical who was on the board of governors. My father fought and fought until I was able to go to his shop and have a packed lunch there. He told them that he wasn't paying for the food they were serving. It was ridiculous and it was expensive. There was no goodness to it whatsoever. By then my father had a shop nearby and I remember going round there and having a packed lunch.

- 41. Was at school with me. His father made a rumpus about it too. There were quite a few parents did because it was just rubbish. I know institutional food is never great but this was unbelievable.
- 42. If you didn't eat it that was that, there was nothing else. Dishwater soup, loaded with salt. The only thing we liked was the pie, beans and chips. The Scottish circular pie. It probably wasn't good for you but that was the best. For my last couple of years I ate at my father's shop.
- 43. All the boys ate at the same time. Staff would be there supervising, ICH would be sitting at the top table with the senior staff. Then at each table where your class was sitting you would have a teacher watching.
- 44. The staff would eat the same food as us. They didn't bring out the roast beef and Yorkshire for the staff.

Leisure time

- 45. At upper school there was a tuck shop, which was just full of sweets. In the winter they used to sell Scotch pies. All at hugely inflated prices. I never had any pocket money so I never bothered with it. I think someone from the catering staff ran the tuck shop. That was open at play time. There were no playing fields in the upper school, it was a very urban environment, tarmacked. We would stand around the playground and ephors would walk around. I used to get thrown out and frog marched to get my hair cut. There was a hairdresser across the road who was obviously in cahoots with the school. He would cut it very short. I hated that.
- 46. That would happen in my free time. There wasn't really anything to do during breaktime. There were no sports grounds. When we went to play sports, athletics, rugby, cricket, we had to walk up to Arboretum Road. We would walk out the back of Henderson Row. That was when we encountered all the guys from Broughton High school. We were known as snobs and they used to beat the hell out of us. It was that class thing, which was ridiculous really. We used to play them at rugby and if we ever

beat them, they would form a tunnel we had to walk through and they used to kick us as we walked back to the changing rooms. That was kids' stuff.

Trips and holidays

- 47. I remember my father paid for me to go to Holland and I remember bringing back Edam Cheese. That was when I was a little kid in the prep school. I'm not sure why we went there.
- 48. I remember going skiing to Adelboden in the upper school. I would have been around twelve at the time. I had learned to ski on Hillend when that first opened. That was a brilliant trip, I remember loving that. It was a very expensive trip.

 BW took us, he was head of but was a keen skier.
- 50. I think Mrs Baxter maybe took us to the Hillman Factory when that opened. I would say that because of what went on, I disengaged from the academy so I didn't get many trips.

Schooling

by the was head of the was very good at the was and a good teacher. He used to let us bring in albums and I remember bringing in Physical Graffiti by Led Zeppelin. He would let us listen to that and then he would have us listen to Mozart, which I still love listening to today.

- 52. Mr IDP was the gym master at Arboretum Road, the prep school. I remember I learnt a bit of judo there. I don't think I was any good really. I used to joke that the only thing I was good at was running and that was to get away from the place.
- IBU was the gym master at upper school. He never encouraged me although I was really good at running. I won a few races. The gym masters were just there. They had no enthusiasm for what they were doing. I don't remember anything untoward about Mr IDP or Mr IBU
- 54. I think we had gym in the afternoon. The gym equipment was falling apart. Broughton High School had far better equipment than we did at Edinburgh Academy.
- 55. The chemistry labs hadn't changed from before the war.
- 56. I think your education starts at home so I learnt to read and write at home. I don't believe the education was great at Edinburgh Academy. I think if you shone, if you were a grade A at this and grade A at that, then they loved you and you would be put into the best sets with the best teachers. If you were not academically clever they put you into the lowest sets with the worst teachers.
- by teacher. What did he know about geography? Nothing, it was scandalous actually. He had no qualifications to my knowledge. I've thought a lot about this. If I had had children I would never have sent them to Edinburgh Academy. The education was okay if you shone, if you didn't they weren't interested and you were made to feel extremely stupid.
- 58. There were teachers who were better than others but they were all teaching the top pupils. My old man was paying the same fees but I was relegated to the third division. Not in everything but in most things.

- 59. We followed the Scottish curriculum but if you were good enough, you could sit A Levels as well. I got two Highers in French and English, that was my claim to fame. I was quite good at English and I enjoyed it.
- 60. Edinburgh Academy did employ quite a lot of Oxford University Graduates. They wanted to attract the best teachers so perhaps they paid them more than other schools. I really don't think it was a great education.
- 61. We got extensive homework. You didn't want to not complete that, which was quite right. The standards were quite high at the academy but if you couldn't get an 'A' then you weren't worth bothering with.
- 62. I remember having a careers meeting and being asked what university I was applying for. I said I didn't want to go to university and wanted to be involved in my father's business. I used to help out in his shop on a Saturday and school holidays and I would go with him to auctions. It had a great fascination to me and I loved it. When I said that in the careers meeting they said that was fine, off you go. They were only interested in how many people they could get into Oxford, St Andrews, Cambridge.

Sporting activities

- 63. Wares took us for rugby. I can see him in his blue shorts. He used to come into the changing room.
- 64. Rugby was the main thing but I wasn't really built for rugby. I was too light. When I was sixteen I weighed seven stone. I'm only ten stone now. I was no good at rugby and there was no football.
- 65. I liked running, I liked cross country running. I liked it because I was good at it. I'm still quite good at it. There was a lot of sports and I really wanted to do athletics but didn't seem to like me. I remember I won a race and all he said was, I can smell nicotine on you." I told him I had won the race and he just laughed. He just didn't like me and yes I had had a sneaky cigarette. Everybody I

knew smoked. That was the dichotomy about me, I smoked and I ran and I used to win all these races.

- Two years ago I did the tough run at Cornbury and I came first in my age group.

 Thinking back to BU he he never encouraged me and I should have been encouraged. He did encourage who was an ephor.
- 67. We also had rugby every Saturday morning. Occasionally there would be an athletics competition. I remember we had a competition I think against Glenalmond.

 [BU]

 told me I was to run in the 10 thousand metre race, which I had never ran before and didn't know how many times it was around the track. My parents were there. I was so far ahead, about half a lap but I stopped a lap early and one of the other runners ran past me. I ended up coming in second.

 [BU]

 came up to me and said, "you total arse." I was in bits and remember it like it was yesterday.

Healthcare

68. I don't recall any health checks or a nurse being in the school. I really don't think that was number one on the Edinburgh Academy's list of priorities. If you were ill at Edinburgh Academy you would just go home. If it was something bad they would call your dad or mother. I don't know about the boarding houses, I would assume they would have some health care.

Religious instruction

69. At assembly there was a focus on religion but I think that was about as far as it went. Mr Hazlet was the school chaplain. I'm not sure if he had responsibility for the entire school but I do remember him appearing when I was at the upper school. He was an Irish guy, big, ruddy faced and well known for his love of beer. In terms of his role as the chaplain, he wasn't approachable. They had parents' evenings and I remember my father saying that he had met Mr Hazlet and that he had been uncomplimentary about Edinburgh Academy, saying he would have shut these private schools down. He said that to my father who worked very hard to send us there.

Birthdays and Christmas

70. There was no acknowledgement that you had had a birthday. I would have a party at home with my friends but nothing at the school. I can't think of anything made of Christmas either. There were no decorations put up.

Family contact

71. My mother and father went to the school for a parent's evening about once a year. I didn't go with them. The only other contact with the school would be through my school reports or if there was a serious issue my father would go in to meet the teacher. The school was never open for parents just to visit when they wished.

External Inspections

72. I never saw anyone coming in to inspect the academy. I certainly never spoke to anyone. If there was, I was never made aware of it or asked if I was enjoying my time at the academy.

Sibling Contact if in care

73. My brother's and were also at Edinburgh Academy. I remember I was banned from talking to I. I was either a bad influence on him or he was a bad influence on me, I can never remember. We were barred from having any contact with each other. My other brother was at the academy but that didn't apply to him.

Running away

74. I don't know about the boarders but I can't think of any of the day boys I was with who ran away. It was very structured so you only knew the day boys in your year. I don't remember hearing of anyone who ran away.

75. I wanted to get away from the place but there was that dichotomy in your mind, you had to think of what your mum and dad were doing for you. I have a recurring nightmare. I wake up and I'm in a sweat. In the nightmare someone is saying to me, "no, you can't leave, you have to stay another year." I still have this nightmare today, maybe I'll have it once or twice a year. I can tell you it was just after Christmas I had the last one. They're quite specific. Not pleasant.

Discipline

- 76. I'm not entirely unsympathetic to the idea that you have to have an orderly class to be able to impart knowledge to the kids. Mr Peter Wilmshurst was a good French teacher. It's interesting I did well at French. He would never have hit anybody. He had gained respect and was empathetic and kind to the kids.
- 77. Teachers would give out lines and detention and you would have to go in on a Saturday for the detention. You would have to sit in a classroom reading something or doing lines. A teacher would be there supervising you. You wouldn't be popular with the teacher who was having to take the detention and you weren't popular with your parents because someone had to drive you to the school.
- 78. I'm not sure if there was any recording of discipline or punishment. There may well have been but it's not something I was aware of.
- 79. I was once taken to CH office. His hair was always everywhere. You just looked at him and thought, get some sleep or retire, what are you doing? He used to have his hands all over his face when he spoke. He said to me that someone had told him that I was smoking. I said, "no sir, not at all." Someone in the room then came over and pulled a box of swan vestas and ten number six cigarettes out of my pocket. I just said, "my God, how did those get there?" CH didn't beat me or anything. I don't remember him ever doing anything like that. He did tell my father but there wasn't the same thing about smoking as there is today.

Prefects / senior pupils

80. The ephors could give you lines but I'm not sure about detention. I think, up until my second year in upper school, they could beat you with the clacken. There was no supervision of the punishments given by the ephors. There was no teacher overseeing what they were doing to you. You were in a room with them alone.

School friends

81. I made some great friends at that school. I laughed a lot with people I met there, like who I still know. I remember my sixteenth birthday party at home. and all the guys I was at school with were there. My dad was handing out bacon sandwiches at 02:00 am. But my lasting memory of the school is of the other side of things that went on there.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy

Mrs IPK - junior schoolteacher

- 82. I remember one day at Denham Junior School, I had a really bad stomach. I kept putting my hand up wanting to go to the toilet. The teacher told me just to sit where I was and put my hand down. I ended up soiling myself which was humiliating and everyone knew. Looking back on that, why didn't someone just let me go to the toilet? I was humiliated and very upset and had to be cleaned up. They leant me some gym shorts and I remember my mother was phoned. The teacher's name was Mrs

 [PK]

 She had blondish hair and a thin face, I can see her face now. She wouldn't be alive today. She was my teacher throughout my time in the junior school which was two years I think.
- 83. That had an effect on how other boys treated me for a while. I wasn't unpopular but they would say I had messed myself. Kids are cruel.

- 84. Iain Wares taught me maths and he abused me from the word go. His modus operandum was to ask you to come to his desk. He would be sitting in a chair and would always be wearing a blue blazer. He was always smartly dressed. He liked to correct my work and would say, "let's have a look at what you've done." He would be slouched in his chair and have one hand in his pocket. His other hand would go up my shorts, cup my buttock under my underpants and he'd press his thumb into my anus. Other times he would touch my genitals. Looking back on it, he was touching himself with his other hand. That happened many times.
- 85. I was eight when it started. I can't remember if it was every day but it was lots and lots of times. He had certain favourites and I think I was one of them. I think he liked the look of me. Little freckled face. He did it in front of the whole class. He would be sitting behind his desk although I don't remember it being a desk with pedestals. It was more like a table.
- 86. I saw other boys being called up to his desk. I couldn't really see what was happening, they were standing quite close to him and his hands were at the back. At that age you aren't looking to see if your friend is being abused by a teacher. You're not conversant with it. I didn't understand, I thought maybe he was just doing it to me. I didn't think it was bad, I didn't know it was bad, that's why it was so evil. They knew this. I never said a word to anyone. I don't think I really ever thought about it at the time. It was normal.
- 87. I can't remember how long it went on but it was day in, day out. Every day I was in his class, he abused me. God knows what he did at the boarding houses, God knows.
- 88. I don't remember any other teacher ever walking in on our class with Wares, it just didn't happen. Unless it was some administrative person, very occasionally, but no, Mr Wares knew he was perfectly secure.

- 89. I don't remember if I spoke about it with my friends. Maybe after I had left school and in the pub we would talk about it but I think that would have been about Dawson because he was more recent in terms of timescale. I think I just buried it. Wares was an utter disgrace.
- 90. I read that Iain Wares sought psychiatric help while he was in Edinburgh working at either the Edinburgh Academy or Fettes College, for his, shall we call it, predilections.
- 91. CCD who is a very good friend of mine today, was at the Edinburgh Academy. He was abused by Wares. His parents moved him away and sent him to Fettes. He was abused by Wares there too along with Chenevix-Trench. There was some sort of group, these people knew each other and I think Wares really got going when he got to Fettes. I think he went off into new levels because Chenevix-Trench was the same. This knowledge is from what I've read about them.
- 92. ccp recently called me about it. Somehow or other, I had just buried all this.
- 93. Wares used to take us for rugby. I can see him in his blue shorts. He used to come into the changing room and he would stand there watching you shower with his hand firmly in his pocket. I didn't have him for rugby for very long but I do remember it. I can see him now, very faded rugby shorts and a purple faded top. He had blonde hair and blue eyes, he was a good looking chap. That's how I remember him. I never saw him abuse anyone in the shower but looking back, he was watching us.
- 94. I don't know whether anyone has suggested this but I really do think there was a paedophile ring operating. I don't know if anyone made a complaint about Wares but he certainly was able to move seamlessly on from Edinburgh Academy to Fettes College and then carry on his abuse in South Africa. Are we really going to believe that nobody knew about this man apart from the victims. I don't believe that.

- 95. Mr was my teacher at Arboretum Road prep school. He was a very violent man. He would get you up in the classroom, get you to bend over and then he would boot you up the backside with the point of his brogue shoe as hard as he could. Like he was going to take a touch kick in rugby. He would do it every time. Not always to me but to someone in the class but it happened to me many times. He would take a run and kick at you, I'm not exaggerating. That could be for talking in class, going over to your mate, giggling, just things kids do. My anus bled once. I found out when I went to the toilet, there was blood in my underpants. We used to put books down the back of our shorts which of course he saw and would remove. When you watched another boy being kicked by
- 96. IDO was my form master and I think my last one before I left prep school. He had dark hair and looked Italian although he wasn't. He was quite young then. He would be roughly the same age as Wares. He could still be alive in his eighties. I don't remember what he taught me. I never told anyone about him otherwise there would have been something done about it. I think in your own little mind at that age, you don't want to get into trouble again by telling anyone. My father wasn't a violent man and he would never have hit me but I think there was just something in my head, I didn't want to tell anyone about it. I can't explain it, I do have a hard job explaining why I didn't tell my father that he kicked me so hard I bled.

Mr Brownlee - preparatory school

97. Brownlee was in the prep school although he never touched me. I was never in his class. If you were in local class you weren't in Brownlee's class. I do believe if you were in his class, he was the 'de rigueur' and he hit anyone. I had friends in the same year as me who were in Brownlee's class. I knew he was very violent because they said he was hitting people on the head and would attack a boy for no reason. It was violence, not discipline and his violence was widely known amongst the boys. I think the answer is that these people should never have been in contact with young people. I don't understand how they kept their jobs.

- 98. The first teacher I encountered at upper school was Hamish Dawson. He taught me history. If you look at the picture of the school with your portico there, pillars and steps and the two wings. The wing on the right, that classroom there was Dawsons.
- 99. He had a raised pedestal, which from my memory his desk sat on. You couldn't see his legs or his bottom half behind his desk. When we went to the upper school our uniform changed. I have a feeling that in the first year we wore shorts and then in the second year were able to wear long grey trousers. That's what I remember but I can't be sure, it may be that you went to upper school and were immediately able to wear long trousers.
- Dawson would get you up and lay you across his lap. He would pull my shirt out and say, "look at this, oodles and oodles of tickly pink pink" or whatever. He would be tickling me and then his hands would slip down to my genitals. If you were standing beside him he would have his hand on your backside. He'd put his hand down your trousers if he could get it down. I was very slender. I remember him saying to me, "does your mummy ever look at you and burst into tears?" I said, "no sir" and he said, "well she must be a saint." That's what he used to say to me.
- 101. He had a big jar of Jelly Babies on his desk. He'd say you had been a very good boy and give you a Jelly Baby. The abuse happened every time I went to his class as far as I can remember.
- 102. I saw other boys going up to his desk and them being tickled too but no one could really see what he was doing. He was very clever. I think he was utterly evil. He could turn. I don't remember him hitting me but he could turn. There was something on his face when he turned but I don't remember him hitting boys. I think he liked to abuse me, a bit like Wares. I had that type of look that they liked. I was attractive to Dawson. How bad is that?
- I don't know how I'm still alive actually. Sometimes I wonder, they were pure evil.

- 104. I was fascinated by history but like Wares destroyed my interest in any arithmetic or maths, Dawson destroyed my interest in history. I failed my 'O' grade.
- 105. I'll never understand why I didn't say anything. I never did. I didn't want my parents to ever know. I don't know why, I haven't worked it out, I just didn't. I actually thought maybe it was my fault, maybe I encouraged it but obviously that's not right. I read somewhere that these people don't think there is anything wrong with what they are doing.
- 106. He also caused me to turn off from that whole place. I'm not the only one. I wanted to get out of the place.
- 107. Dawson once said he was having a few of the boys round for a meal and asked me if I would like to go round. I never went. I would have been around fourteen and he would still have been my teacher. Him and Wares were both sick but there was something even sicker about Dawson. He was pure evil
- 108. I find it extraordinary, certainly with Dawson, that the school could not have known. People made complaints about Dawson. I have read recently that after Mr Dawson left the Edinburgh Academy, he retired to Gloucestershire. He was employed as Father Christmas at a department store in Gloucester.

- teacher, upper school

My little brother was beaten up so badly once at the upper school. One of the masters, Mr Dz , tore his shirt. He completely lost his temper at in front of the class and slapped him across the face. Maybe was doing something really bad but this wasn't discipline like going into detention, this was violent eruption. I wasn't there but I remember and his school friends telling me what had happened. The teacher was known as Dz . How do you get a name like Dz ? My father got in touch with the school and told them they would pay for a new shirt for I remember my father being boiling mad.

- 110. I remember going through my mother's stuff when she was moving in with me. I came across a typed copy of the letter that my father wrote to Edinburgh Academy demanding they paid for shirt. I believe the letter was to headmaster. The letter will still be in the box but in a room full of boxes so it may be difficult to find until I come to go through everything again. I don't remember seeing a reply from Edinburgh Academy but the school did pay for a new shirt. I remember my father going on about it at the time. He was furious. He told me Mr told me Mr told have been eleven or twelve, in his first year in the upper school.
- 111. Mr was evil. He used to throw board dusters at you. That was a wooden thing with the felt. He'd throw chalk at you and shout, "shut up". I couldn't tell you what he taught.

Mr DT - teacher, upper school

- 112. Mr was another one, I think he was literally insane. He was a teacher. His face said what he was, horrible, violent and out of control. He once hit my head onto the lid of my wooden desk so hard that I saw stars. I would have been twelve, thirteen. The way he moved around the classroom. It was very common, you would be sitting at your desk and would hear him coming up behind you and you knew he was going to hit you and then, bang, he would slap you across the back of the head. He hit me more than once but the time he hit my head on the desk sticks in my mind because it was so bloody bad. It's mind blowing.
- 113. He hit and other friends of mine. We were in rows and you would do anything not to be in that class with him. I remember asking him what he had hit me for and he told me to shut up. He was evil. His face was evil. He went on to become a a school in Glasgow, it may have been Glasgow Academy. I only learned that recently.

Ephors - prefects at upper school

114. The Ephors would take you to their room and beat you. They had a room over near to where the rector was. I was beaten quite a few times, I wouldn't know how many times. I can't really remember why I was beaten. I can't remember doing something so terrible that merited being beaten. It could have been just not behaving in the right way. They would have you bend over a chair and then beat you on the backside. I don't remember having to take my trousers down.

Ephor Master - upper school

- 115. There were ephors that abused their power. I remember he was a nasty piece of work. I'm sure he is a delightful guy now. He was probably in his last year at upper school when I moved to the upper school. I just remember his face. He was very good at athletics as I was. I think he beat me a few times. He was quite a vicious sort of character.
- 116. The violence at Edinburgh Academy was equally as bad as the sexual abuse. I mean there is discipline and then there is violence and I don't think the two are quite the same.
- 117. I never told my mum or my dad about the abuse. They were both approachable, it's ridiculous, but I never did tell them.

Leaving Edinburgh Academy

118. I was seventeen when I left the academy, after my Highers. Because of what went on in that place I had disengaged. I had a careers meeting but as I said, because I didn't want to go to university, they weren't interested. The meeting would have lasted two minutes. When I left Edinburgh Academy, I never ever wanted to go near it again. It was a place I just wanted to get away from.

Life after Edinburgh Academy

- 119. I said to my dad that I wanted to go into his business. He told me it was a very uncertain way of making a living. He wanted me to do something else first and worried about our relationship as in father and son working together.
- 120. I went to Napier College and started an HND in catering. I worked in the Consort Restaurant which was part of the Roxburgh Hotel. I worked there as a barman and waiter. It turned out my HND was all about accounts. I wanted to get involved in serving drinks, food and cooking. I remember speaking to the course head and telling him I had a chance of going to Paris to work. He said that he thought I was wasting my time at Napier and told me to go for it.
- 121. I went to Paris. My dad took me to Turnhouse Airport and that was the last time I ever saw him. It was the first Christmas I ever spent on my own. I got a job at the Hilton in the Rue Suffren as a room service waiter. I used to start at 05:00 am.
- 123. My mother was only forty-two when my father died. We bought a flat in in Edinburgh and a house in the Lake District and I converted the barn into a furniture showroom.
- 124. I still work in the same business today. It's never something I'm going to retire from, I love it. I've bought some great things in my life. I've got a piece of French furniture at the moment, it's one of a pair and the other is in the Louvre Museum.

Impact

- 125. I was a very sensitive wee boy. I don't mean weak. I have a great empathy for art and looking at beautiful things. What that school did was semi-destroy part of me. I'm not any good. I can't love people. I loved my mother and I love my brother and sister but it destroyed something in me forever. Maybe it didn't do that to other people but it did it to me.
- 126. I've had huge issues with anger. When I look back, they were most probably rooted in some of the things that happened to me at Edinburgh Academy.
- 127. Relationships have never worked out, which is why I'm on my own at sixty-three. I always had an issue maintaining them. I haven't worked out whether it was down to the abuse at Edinburgh Academy. I don't know, this is the trouble, was it that or was this going to happen anyway? I don't think I'm quite right. Nobody would want me. That's how I sometimes feel. The only thing I have is my antiques and my two dogs, that's all. That's all I have.
- 128. It was a conscious decision not to have kids. I wouldn't have been any good. Especially with a son because I wouldn't have let them go anywhere. Because of what happened to me. There is no question, I wouldn't have been any good to a son, maybe a daughter, but certainly a son. I would never have had an easy moment because I know what can happen.
- 129. I think what those teachers did was make me rile against people who try to tell me what to do. I think it made me a very rebellious person. That started when I was at the school and I don't believe it would have been guite as accentuated.
- 130. It was said whilst I was at Henderson Row that my year was the most difficult year to have passed through the school. One of the teachers said that but I can't remember who. That wasn't just down to the fact we were all bad boys, I don't believe that for one minute. I think it was down to what was going on at that school. The violence as much as the sexual abuse. I don't know which was the worst, they're both really bad.

The violence was serious and normalised. And then they wonder why you don't behave yourself. That rebellious nature I formed at the school has continued throughout my adult life. I have a real problem with anyone in authority.

- 131. I have a trust issue. I don't believe a thing anyone says anymore. I just don't and I never really did. I have very high standards in my business because our business has been tainted for far too long with people who try and palm off things as genuine which are not. That wasn't my father's way and it isn't mine.
- 132. I have had an issue with alcohol but I don't really drink anymore. When I started drinking I didn't stop. It was too much for me.

Treatment/support

- 133. I had a little bit of counselling some years ago up in Kirkby Lonsdale but I'm not very good at it. I was having personal problems at the time. I didn't tell them about what happened at Edinburgh Academy. I should try to sort myself out but I've given up with it really, trying to sort myself out. I just accept this is the way it is, it's not going to change.
- 134. Maybe I should try again. I just feel that I haven't got much longer to live anyway. I don't know why I feel that, I just do. It's amazing how quick it all goes. I wish I had done something like this some time ago.
- 135. Not that long ago I got in touch with Nicky Campbell, he was in the year below me at Edinburgh Academy. He put me in touch with two support groups on WhatsApp. I signed up to them but my phone was going fifty times a day with WhatsApp messages, all of which I was reading. It wasn't doing me any good so I've left the groups. It wasn't a good idea, not for me anyway. There were a lot of broken people on there.

Reporting of Abuse

- 136. I started this process with Scottish Police once my mother was in a care home. The reason I did that was because I knew she couldn't comprehend. I think from what I have shared with other people, that's quite common. They didn't want their parents to know, even now.
- 137. I phoned the Scotsman, way before Covid before all the things were written in the newspapers. I was starting to realise what it had done to me. They got back to me but I chickened out of that.
- 138. I also phoned the Edinburgh Academy and told them what had happened to me. They said I must go and tell the police. I would assume it was a member of admin staff I spoke to. I told them I had been a pupil there and gave my name. They didn't offer any support or contact me again. My mother was still alive in the care home at the time so this would have been two or three years before Covid. I just didn't have the strength, I had been looking after my mother for so long. It was a difficult time.
- 139. My friend cop from the Academy, the one whose parents had taken him out and sent him to Fettes, came to visit me one day. He lives in London. We took the dogs for a long walk. Sometimes when you're walking you can talk about stuff because you're not looking at each other. He told me that he had spoken to a detective in Police Scotland about everything that happened at the Academy. I went home and thought about it. I phoned cop and got the details of the detective and phoned him. I then had a Team's call and the detective and another officer interviewed me. That was a couple of years ago. I was sent my statement and had to sign it.
- 140. I've had letters from the Crown Office about lain Wares. They're about extraditing him back to Scotland and the progress on that.
- 141. Someone sent me a link to Thompson's Solicitors who are involved in taking civil action against the boarding schools. I now have a solicitor called Laura Connor who works for Thompsons. I gave her a statement some weeks ago.

- 142. The reason for this is that I don't think that the Edinburgh Academy can conceive of what they've done and perpetuated for years. It went on year after year and nobody did anything about it. I don't believe they weren't aware. There were two groups of abuse, the violence and the sexual abuse. I don't believe that they weren't aware of both, it's not possible. People made complaints about the violence, my father for one. Nicky Campbell's own mother complained about the violence which was being perpetuated on him. These teachers should have been sacked and not allowed to remain in place. In fact what happened was they moved on to greater things.
- 143. The other reason I am suing Edinburgh Academy is because my mother and father broke their necks to send me and my two brothers there. It is no longer with us. I've tried to discuss it with but he won't talk about it, he doesn't want to know. I think of all the money that my parents sacrificed, they didn't do this, they didn't do that just to send me to Edinburgh Academy and I want some of it back. It's not for me, I've made my own money in life.
- 144. I've read about the platitudinal nonsense Edinburgh Academy put out, "we regret it", "you should go to the police." Some days I wake up and think, let's shut the place down for ever, but that's not logical. The people running it today, I'm praying, have some idea of what's going on. They should get down on bended knee.
- 145. My solicitor sent me an email the other day in relation to us being core participants. She told me that Lady Smith was not going to allow it and said that she was extremely disappointed and that she could not see any reason not to allow us to be so.
- 146. My response to her is as follows and I would like to read it to you from my mobile. "Outrageous and completely illogical decision. I am meeting with SCAI tomorrow morning at 10:00 and will make a strong protest over this decision. I must say that we are up against the establishment. I was brought up in Edinburgh and it was always controlled by a small clique. My father always said that if I ever needed legal advice, never use an Edinburgh lawyer, go to Glasgow. The reason was that Edinburgh law firms have an incestuous relationship. There will be a great move afoot to try and frustrate the actions we are taking. Look at who is running the show, people educated

at the very schools where abuse took place, who are lawyers. Nothing is ever straight forward in Edinburgh."

Records

147. I don't have my school records and have never contacted the school about them. I have however come across some of my school reports which are at home. In one of the reports there is a comment from ICH. He has written that I was a good runner however needed to learn to count. That is a reference to me stopping during the long distance race which resulted in me losing. I think it's such an unfair comment as I hadn't been told how far I had to run. I have also looked for the letter my father wrote to the school. I know it's in a box in the house somewhere however I haven't come across it again as yet.

Lessons to be Learned

- 148. I've thought long and hard about this and I need to do this because it mustn't happen to other little eight-year-old boys. At any institution. How do you stop these people? When you send your eight-year-old to any school, you don't expect them to be abused. You don't expect the rest of their lives to be screwed up by that experience. I really don't care what happens to these schools anymore. I just think places you send a child to be educated should be safe and predatory child abusers should not get a job there.
- 149. How we ensure that, I do not know because they are duplicitous, clever, sick, evil, demonic people and they get themselves into positions where they can abuse. What they know is that the poor little boy with the freckles on his face isn't going to say a word. I think it's still such a taboo subject that it's not discussed. If you're going to speak about the transgender issues all day long, well I think this is more important.

- 150. I think if I had been told when I went to school that if any teacher touched me I was to report it, that may have made a difference. We've spoken about Mr Hazlet the chaplain. Someone like that should be going round the school every week and asking if there was anything we wanted to talk about. That never happened. It needs to be someone who is appointed to look after the wellbeing of children at a school. I'm sorry to say it but I think it should be a woman. I say that because of what happened to me and I understand that woman are far less likely to abuse than men.
- 151. ICH was not fit to be running an organisation such as Edinburgh Academy. What strikes me, looking back at the academy, was the complete lack of empathy or kindness. If I hadn't had the solace of going home to a loving house and a nice family, I would have gone out of my mind. Some did go out of their mind, they committed suicide. I've read the suicide rate of people who were at the academy is quite high. The decision to employ ICH would have been the board of governors. He was too old and was not with it. Like Chenevix-Trench, he was probably very damaged from the war. I get that, but these people shouldn't be running schools.
- 152. Mr Mowby was the biology teacher. What teenagers were most excited to know about was the human reproductive system. In class he said it was "the fusion of two zygotes to form a gamete." That was the Edinburgh Academy.

Hopes for the Inquiry

153. What I hope is that long after I'm dead and gone, other kids don't sit in a room like this one hundred years from now, telling someone else on an inquiry what happened to them when they were eight. That's possibly a forlorn hope. I also think what I suggested needs to be looked into very carefully, that there was a paedophile ring operating. From cases I've read about, paedophiles are known to operate together. I do not believe that Mr Dawson and Mr Wares were not aware of what each other were doing. Both were housemasters and I don't believe that Edinburgh Academy and the people who ran that place knew nothing about it. Maybe the sexual abuse was more under the radar than the violence but it just doesn't add up.

Other information

- 154. Iain Wares is never going to be extradited. He is going to get locked up in South Africa in a nice open prison or something. I think it's terrible he's not going to face justice in Scotland. I think he should be brought back but I don't think it will ever happen. I don't know what you do to someone who has done what he has done.
- 155. 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.

	IPJ			
Signed				
Dated	18	107	2023	