

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Neil DOUGLAS

Support person present: No

1. My name is Neil Douglas. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before school

2. I was born in Edinburgh and lived with my parents. I went to a kindergarten in Blinkbonny Crescent. My first school was Edinburgh Academy. I started in 1967 when I was five. Denham Green, named after the street it was on, was the first two years, then you did four years at the Prep School in Arboretum Road. At the age of eleven, you went to Upper School. I'm told I sat an entrance exam but I don't remember it. I would have been four at the time. I don't remember any visits before starting school.
3. I don't know why my parents chose the Academy. For years, the family story was that I'd failed the entrance exams for every other school and that was the only one that would take me. I believed that. Looking at the copy of my school record, it would appear that my parents had put the Academy as the first choice, with the intention to send me to Merchiston for Upper School. Dad went to Merchiston but there was no junior school there when he was a pupil. I was a day boy at the Academy from Denham Green until I was sixteen.

Denham Green, Edinburgh

4. I have a vague, happy memory of Denham Green. It had a climbing frame outside which was good fun and there was a school Sports Day one summer. A kid soiled himself in the classroom. It was explained he had a medical condition and we weren't to make fun of him. The staff were nice, friendly, smiling, elderly women. That probably meant they were in their twenties. It was a happy, safe, friendly environment with caring teachers.

Edinburgh Academy Preparatory School, Arboretum Road, Edinburgh

5. In 1969, I moved to the Prep School. I had just turned seven years old. I imagine I was dropped off in the morning by my parents. There was a hall we ate in that had a stage at the end of it. That's where school plays were done. There was a curtain and behind the curtain was where the gym was.

Routine at Edinburgh Academy Preparatory School

General Routine

6. I don't remember the structure of the prep day. It finished around 3:00 pm or 3:30 pm. We called the teachers "masters". I hate calling them masters now. It was the culture of the school, it was elitist. Even today, Mark Galloway is the Chair of the Court of Directors. Mark Galloway is a former pupil of the Academy. That is the Head of the Board of Governors. The teachers walked around in their gowns and the school song was in Latin. We had to be proud of the school. It's repugnant now. I was given a Church of Scotland hymn book for use in Assemblies, by my mother. The Prep School had communal lunches in the hall.
7. Uniform in Prep School was shorts, a blazer, school tie, white shirt, black shoes, and black or grey socks. The tie was a blue and white stripey one. You had a cap which

you had to wear and there was a school scarf. We had physical education (PE) kit and rugby kit. There was home and an away kit. One was blue and white stripes and the other was navy blue. There were particular shorts for rugby. The socks had blue and white stripes on them. I played hockey. Parents had to buy your schoolbooks.

8. My first memories of the Prep School are when I was nine. That is principally because Mr Benson was a really nice teacher. He was kind and approachable. He was a science teacher and I was in his class. Mr Benson made science lessons interesting and made learning fun. He made rockets from Fairy Liquid bottles and flew them down the sports field. I made a wooden launch pad. Almost universally with the people I have caught up with, we all remember his rockets. Mr Benson did cool stuff. He drove an MG.

Discipline

9. I remember the teachers IDP ██████████, Wares, and Brownlee using physical punishment in the Prep School. I don't remember being given lines. The art teacher used to send you out the class. Overall, my memory of the Prep School is that it was less reliant on physical punishment than the Upper School.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy Preparatory School

10. Violence happened openly from teachers and it was a violent environment. Looking at the Roll Book of teachers for the Prep School, I run down the list of ICG ██████████, Brownlee, IBL ██████████, ICA ██████████, IDO ██████████ Wares, and feel vague repulsion for each of them. Then you've got Benson who was okay. I have a vague, happy memory of Miss Urquhart and Miss Kerr.

Iain Wares – Mathematics teacher

11. I have since read that Mr IBL ██████████ from the school ██████████ ██████████ and Iain Wares ██████████. The class was VI ██████████ (W). Iain Wares was my

teacher in the sixth form in 1972 and 1973. It was his last three terms at the Academy. Wares was a maths teacher and my class teacher, which meant he taught a variety of subjects as well as maths. I don't remember what the other subjects were, really just the maths. It wasn't a happy class. Iain Wares sexually assaulted me and was physically violent.

12. Wares also taught rugby and hockey. I don't remember rugby but I do remember hockey. I hated rugby and football because I had no hand-eye co-ordination. Hockey, I wasn't as bad. Wares used hockey sticks to punish you. He'd swing it at your backside and connect with it. I have ghostly memories of witnessing Wares physically attacking a child and then comforting them with a sexual assault. I was relieved when you got the sexual assault rather than the physical violence.
13. Wares slammed my head into a wooden thing. I'm certain it was a door. I remember him putting his hand on my head and the connection of the head into a door. Wares wasn't shy of smacking you one way or the other. He smacked on the backside, he threw you into things, or hit you with stuff. I don't remember him doing anything in secret and it was very open abuse.
14. Wares went puce in the face when he got angry. When I think of red with rage then I think of him. I don't know what made him angry. As an adult, you look for patterns but as a kid, you try and find ways of avoiding getting his wrath. I must have moderated my behaviour to try to reduce the incidence, I know I did with the sexual abuse. I moderated my behaviour to try and reduce the chances of him picking on me but that didn't work. You quickly learn not to be the first to finish your course work because, if you do, he'll want to mark your book. You become slower with your work. That didn't work because he would tell you to bring your book out. This was all done in front of the class so there was no hiding it. You weren't allowed to cry or to fidget. You weren't allowed to get out the way. You had to stay and take it. There was no avoiding it.
15. The sexual abuse happened to me in two contexts. Wares favourite was to get you up to mark your coursework. He got you to hold your book on his desk and you had to turn the pages when he asked you to. If you were standing too far then he put an arm

round your leg to pull you in. If you were standing too close then he'd put an arm on your leg anyway. His hand would start exploring inside your shorts and underwear. Wares fondled your private parts and fingered your anus. He fiddled with you until you had an erection. At the age of ten, you didn't understand what that was. It was embarrassing to walk back to your seat. I have it as a constant memory. I don't remember where his other hand was but it wasn't on the desk.

16. Wares repeated that behaviour by tucking your shirt in, in the corridor. He put his hands straight down inside your pants. He had his hands on your genitals whenever he wanted. It normalised it because other teachers and pupils were walking up the corridor. At the time, it didn't seem odd. Now, I know why he did it. Your perspective as a child is different. If I knew then what I know now, I probably would have said something. Wares presented himself as a father figure, as your dad. It was a fatherly punishment because you had been wrong, it was a parent tucking your clothes in and it was a parent comforting you by putting his hands up your shorts.
17. I don't remember what the other kids' reactions were to it. There would be few kids who were exempt from his attentions. We didn't talk about the abuse. It was the unspoken secret. The police were called to the school sometime in that last year and Wares left at the end of the school year in 1973. It was all secrecy and then we were told it was all okay. It might be a coincidence. I don't know. I went to the Upper School so, if there was an explanation, I wouldn't have needed it because I was leaving him behind anyway. Since then, I'm told that one of the parents made a complaint but it went nowhere. I've found out since that Wares went to Fettes.

IDP [REDACTED] – *Physical Education teacher*

18. IDP [REDACTED] was a nasty character. On one occasion, when I was nine or ten, I had to wear boxing gloves and IDP [REDACTED] was telling me to punch another pupil because the kid had done something wrong. It was in the middle of a class. I was not physically strong or tall and I was the youngest in my year because I was born in August. I had a disadvantage and was easy to pick on and bully, so you don't want to

hit another kid. I refused and IDP ██████ said if I didn't smash that kid then he'd hit me. To my shame, I hit the other kid rather than take the punishment off the teacher.

19. I felt uncomfortable. I've only once in my life deliberately hit anybody and that was an emotional outburst many years later. Not only was there the incident where I was required to hit another pupil but we were also required to do boxing classes. They didn't go on for long and were a few lessons or one term. I objected to the boxing class in principle and refused to engage in that, which didn't go down well. There was a lot of shouting and some form of corporal punishment. IDP ██████ had a table tennis bat that he hit kids on the backside with and got kids to hit each other with, on top of gym shorts. A friend told me he named the table tennis bat "Jemima" but I don't remember that.
20. I've since discovered, since speaking to other survivors, that having kids hit another with a boxing glove on was one of his favourite things to do. I remember the shame. I shouldn't have hit somebody else just because I was under threat. I think IDP ██████ was ex-army and they all boxed in the army. He thought kids should learn boxing.
21. Dodgeball is a great, fun game. You can play it with balls that hurt when they hit you or with balls that don't do any damage. IDP ██████ was strong and used balls that you didn't get in the way of. If you did then you had bruises. At the time it seemed alright. Looking back as an adult, you think what the hell was he playing at? If he'd caught somebody in the eye then he could have done real damage. I became very good at dodge ball and wasn't easy to hit.
22. Either IDP ██████ or IBU ██████ insisted that you didn't wear underwear under your gym shorts. IBU ██████ was the PE teacher in the Upper School. They pulled the front of your shorts to make sure. It was a routine occurrence. I think it must have been IDP ██████ because, in the Upper School, there would come a point where you would slap his hand off.

Peer Abuse

23. The Prep School was where I first started to experience bullying. It was in Mr Benson's class. He was late coming into the room. We had chairs with the desks attached and they were set out in rows, all backed against each other. I came into the room and two kids were sat in one at the back, I don't remember who. They managed to kick the desks forward and they caught me in the groin. That was incredibly sore and was my first negative memory from the school. Then there's a host of other memories.
24. I rapidly became the object of bullying at school, as time went by. You got tripped up in the playground, or punched, or shoved. Someone would nick your bag. That made school a somewhat unpleasant experience. There were a few of us. The bullying went on all the way through school and I lived a life of being bullied.

Edinburgh Academy Upper School, Henderson Row, Edinburgh

25. ICH [REDACTED] was the Rector when I first went to the Upper School. I was eleven years old. ICH [REDACTED] was a distant, strange, mumbling character. He was ancient. He [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Laurence Ellis who was a complete change. He was a mathematician. He wrote flowery writing and used black ink in his pen. Ellis encouraged us to switch to black ink. We'd always used royal blue up until then. You had to use a fountain pen and couldn't write with anything else. Ellis tried to be friendly.
26. There is a long list of teachers' names in the school roll book. The school wasn't awash with good teachers. Mr IDX [REDACTED] and Mr McMichael were alright. They weren't bad teachers. Reverend Haslett didn't do anything wrong, he just didn't do anything right. Mr Turvey was a good biology teacher and he did a biology field trip with us. It was a good trip. Mr Stanley was a science teacher and he was good. Mr Bowman was a good art teacher. Mr IKJ [REDACTED] was my [REDACTED] teacher. I was useless at [REDACTED] and he was really kind. He committed suicide around 1982. There was a succession of teachers who did that. It makes you wonder what was going on.

27. Girls appeared in the sixth form, around 1976 or 1977. It didn't impact me because I wasn't one of the cool kids and I didn't get to hang out with them. Girls in school might have changed the culture of the school eventually but it didn't change it when I was there. They were strange people that I never talked to. Some of the more physically dominant boys would, by their actions, say to stay away from the girls.
28. Ephors were always in the First XI or First XV. The head ephor was the equivalent of a head boy and ephors were the equivalent of prefects. They were always sporty and academic. It was conferred on them for their greatness at sport or academic brilliance. They weren't all boarders. There was a small number of boarders and there was no distinction in classes between day pupils and boarders. We were all treated the same and the boarders turned up at school like we did. I understand there was fagging in the boarding houses but I didn't experience it.
29. To fit in at school, you had to be sporty and academic. They are predominantly the ones who are connected to the school to this day. You see them in the school magazine, the *Academical News*, and at Raeburn Place in the bar. The rest of us have run for the hills. From talking to others, the sporty academic ones were protected from the worst of the abuse, like there was a ring of steel around them. I don't think they suffered the abuse.

Routine at Edinburgh Academy Upper School

General routine

30. I went to school by bus, or a friend's parent drove me, or I walked. You avoided the Broughton High School boys because they would beat up the posh Academy kids, although one of my best friends is from Broughton. School was more like nine to five, including sports and after school activities. There was an assembly every morning, normally taken by the Rector. There were hymn books in the back of the wooden chairs and we sang hymns every morning. We had to sing the hymns properly. The music

teacher taught us how to sing it beautifully and we had to sing it back. There must have been boys who were not Christians but I don't remember any optionality for them.

31. The Upper School had communal lunches in the dining room. The dining room was at the back of the school and the Geits classes were above it. The Geits were the first years in the senior school. You sat in long rows. There was a master and two boys at the end of the table to serve the food. The master oversaw the boys serving the food. Food was served from there and passed down. At some point I started hiding in the library the rest of lunchtime.
32. I remember the puddings. There was a lovely gooseberry tart which was unsweetened and completely tart. There were some disastrous main courses, such as steak and kidney suet pudding. If you didn't like the food, you ate it or found someone who would take bits off your plate. You were punished if you didn't eat. I don't remember the punishment. I just ate the food. There was no optionality on eating. We lunched with the Queen when she visited in 1974 and it was very formal.
33. After lunch I usually hid from bullies in the library. The art block was open and you could do art but I wasn't very artistic. At lunchtime and breaks, everyone was out in the playground. Tennis balls were thrown about and clacken and ball was played. The clacken was like a large table tennis racket except it was all solid wood. It was bigger than a table tennis racket and smaller than a tennis racket. There was no common room until sixth form. Some kids would try and find somewhere to smoke. There must have been teachers around but they never caught me smoking and they never stopped anyone from bullying me.
34. Monday to Thursday after lessons, you had Combined Cadet Force (CCF) or games which finished around 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm. CCF was compulsory and kicked in later in the Upper School. I did the Royal Air Force (RAF) section. There was a uniform. It was a blue jersey with lapel bits and a beret with an RAF badge in it. On Friday was after school clubs which went on until 6:00 pm, or later. Saturday mornings were sports.

35. The Upper School uniform was a dark blue summer blazer and a green winter tweed jacket. We wore grey trousers once you were allowed long trousers. Before that, we wore the prep shorts. All school uniforms were from Aitken and Niven. There was a second hand exchange on George Street which was where most of my clothes came from, rather than new.

Sports

36. The only interaction I recall with other schools was rugby or chess and I was no good at rugby. I couldn't catch a ball. You ended up with cuts and scrapes. There were kids who had metal studs in their rugby boots which they used to rake you, by rotating their foot on the back of your calf or your back. If you end up on the ground, it's easy for someone with studs to cause an injury. The school tried to stamp it out but it was ineffective. When found, they replaced the metal studs with plastic but they always managed to get back to metal again. I ended up in the lower teams where most people had plastic studs.
37. Rugby was compulsory for a while but there was a point where they gave up on you and you could do cross country running instead. I found that preferable to rugby. You ended up being the butt of jokes and hostility because, if you were a real boy, you would play rugby.

Combined Cadet Force / Trips

38. There were some good CCF camps, apart from the inevitable bullying at them. Teachers took the camps. We were still close to National Service and many of them had ranks. When I was sixteen, I got to do HMS Montrose. There was a glider base and we went for a gliding camp. I think it was Kirby Cadets. [REDACTED] and I got to do three solo flights each and I was chuffed with that.
39. I had the distinction of writing off the school's Primary glider. It had been used in World War Two for aerial reconnaissance. It was launched with a bungee. Mr [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] and he controlled the movement of the control stick to stop you


moving it too far. I had just come back from doing three gliding solos and he pegged the stick. I said that the stick didn't move far enough forward. He told me to shut up and said it would be alright. The glider went up and stalled at thirty feet. It smacked into the ground. The A frame shattered and that probably saved my back. I was shouted at a lot but that was it. I wasn't checked over to see if I had any injuries. I was the last ever flight. The glider got repaired but was moved to a static display.

40. I went orienteering in the Lammermuirs and there was the prized visit to Blair House. Blair House was the field study centre in Glen Doll. My parents couldn't afford to send me on the other ones like skiing or the steamboat on the Clyde organised by Hamish Dawson.

School

41. The subjects we studied were English, maths, geography, history, Latin, biology, physics, chemistry, PE, and games after school were compulsory. I made subject choices in 1976 when I was fourteen. I went towards physics and I did German O Level. I dropped Latin and did Classics. There was careers advice. I had to take chemistry if I wanted to do physics and biology. I hated chemistry as a subject. There were good teachers and bad teachers. It was a mixed bag. School reports were sent home. You didn't see the report before it went to your parents. Sex education was part of biology in second year. I don't remember a lot about it, other than it was an embarrassing bit of a biology lesson.

Pastoral care

42. The Academy wasn't a nurturing environment. There was the rather useless Reverend Haslett who was the school chaplain and religious education teacher. He had accommodation on the school premises. He was supposed to be around to give what is called "pastoral care" nowadays. I wouldn't have called it that back then. He didn't give pastoral care. I was one of those rare kids whose parents divorced. I went to Haslett to talk about it and get some help because home life was not happy. He told me to run along and gave me no support. I know of someone who was abused by 

IPT and went to talk to Haslett about the abuse. IPT was a teacher in the Upper School. Haslett said not to be silly and to run along. He didn't take a blind bit of interest.

43. There was a shop across the road from the school. A friend of mine, ran across to get some tuck and got knocked down by a car. He broke both his legs. I remember him flying through the air. I was distraught and one of the teachers, it might have been IBU, told me to run along back to my class. I still remember the horror. I had sleepless nights for ages. No teacher tried to support that kind of thing.

Discipline

44. Physical punishment was a common, recurring theme in school. A lot of teachers used physical means to try and control. For some kids, that meant they acted up more and got punished more. Whilst corporal punishment was legal then, it seemed to be extreme. Some teachers didn't hit you but gave you lines. If you got red lines then they had to be signed by your parents. There was a teacher who used a plastic ruler on your hand as punishment.
45. Other teachers sent you to the Masters' Lodge for the tawse. The Masters' Lodge was a common room for the teachers. I can't remember if you were taken in to be punished or if it happened in the courtyard. It was the most feared punishment because it hurt. I can't remember if it was on your hand or your backside. I was on the receiving end of that once. I can't remember there being a limit and it would depend on the seriousness of what you did.
46. The punishment depended on the teacher and the reasons for punishment were many and varied. It was arbitrary and a puzzle to try and work out how to avoid getting punished. I guess talking in class would get you punished, failing to do your homework properly, and not paying attention. I don't remember any bullies ever being punished for bullying. Teachers like Wares in the Prep School and Hamish Dawson in the upper school, would attack you for no discernible reason.

47. The ephors could dole out punishment as well as the teachers, so there was licence for kids to punish other kids. There were class ephors so they could punish you. I have a memory that the ephors could hit your hand with a plastic ruler. I don't know if there were other punishments they could give out. Life was spent trying to avoid getting punished for stuff. I have more memories about trying to avoid being punished than being punished.
48. I doubt if there was a record of punishments. I know I was punished and it's not in the log the school has for me. My parents can't have been informed. If they were informed of the volume of punishment meted out by Wares, they would go, "Hang on a second." My parents were only informed with the red lines because they had to sign them.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy Upper School

Hamish Dawson – History teacher

49. I've gone through the school roll books to try to reconstruct who my teachers were and, according to the roll books, I was never in his class. However, I remember him clearly. I remember his clackens and his propensity to use them. He drew little characters on the board with a nose sticking up over a brick wall. There were dashes underneath and each dash was a word in a phrase. You had to work out what the words were and he gave jellybeans as a reward. The Queen came to the Academy in 1974 for the 150th Anniversary of the school and I met her in his classroom. I was definitely in his class. For him to gain access to my genitals, I would have to have been wearing shorts which would only have been in the year 1973 to 1974. I was age twelve in 1974. I was glad when I didn't have to wear shorts to school anymore. It stopped teachers putting their hands up my shorts. That is a strong memory of relief.
50. Dawson continued in the vein of Wares. He fondled me and he hit me with the clacken on the backside. I was tickled by him. My memory of Wares is that it was from the left and my memory of Dawson is that it was from the right. Dawson put you over his knee

to smack you or to use a clacken on you or he had you standing up and he clackened you. The clacken was always on your backside and over shorts.

51. Dawson was everyone's friend. He was jovial and would make a game of fondling you. He used phrases like, "Here's nice wriggly Douglas," when he had you on his knee. Dawson tickled you, over and inside your shorts. He wrote on children's thighs, or possibly stomachs, as part of a game. He was also capable of turning violent and took pleasure out of punishing kids. He used clackens to punish kids.
52. Dawson had a big jar of jellybeans which were rewards for doing good things. He was a schizophrenic character. He could be a jolly, friendly, nice person or this perverted, nasty person. He switched between the two. That's me putting adult language on to his behaviour. At the time, it was confusing because you never knew which Dawson you were going to get. Was he in a good mood or a bad mood? I was always sad I never got to go on one of his steamboat things on the Clyde. Having now found out what happened on those things, I'm very glad I didn't get to go. Dawson escaped justice when he shouldn't have done.

IHJ [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] teacher

53. IHJ [REDACTED] had a loose false tooth. When he got going vocally, the tooth hinged down over his lip. It was weird. He had a vicious aim with the duster for the chalkboard. The duster was heavy and wooden with a pad on it. If you made the mistake of not paying attention and turning to the front, and you looked away, IHJ [REDACTED] launched it at the side of your head. In my early teens, he threw it at me and it hit me on my temple and it hurt.

IBU [REDACTED] – *Physical Education* / [REDACTED] teacher

54. IBU [REDACTED] was the PE and [REDACTED] teacher. We called him "IBU [REDACTED]". He was a bully and a nasty character. There's a difference between encouraging kids to do something and bullying them into doing it. I couldn't swim and he made me jump in the deep end of Glenogle Baths and swim down to the shallow end. I was so much in fear of him that, knowing I couldn't swim, I jumped into the deep end of the swimming

pool. The lifeguard pulled me out after I'd been underwater for a while. There was no apology or anything from [IBU]. I suppose it was safe because there were lifeguards there but I breathed in water and began to splutter. I thought I was dead and then I was pulled out. I don't remember much after that, for a while. [IBU] had a similar approach in the PE classes.

55. [IBU] stood around in the showers talking to the boys. The showers were around the outside of the room and he stood in the middle. That's perverted. What's an adult man doing in a room full of teenage boys? You are developing at that age and it's embarrassing because everyone develops at different ages.
56. [IBU] said to a friend of mine that he was a bloody liar and he was fat. That really upset the guy. He was overweight but it's not the kind of language a teacher should use towards a kid. If you weren't any good at sports then you were nothing to him. You had to be good at rugby or cricket and, if you weren't, then he treated you like dirt. I was physically slight and not strong.
57. I got my revenge on [IBU]. I got gastric flu. He was also my [IBU] teacher in that first year of Upper School. I sat with my hand in the air feeling dizzy. My hand was in the air for ages before he said, "Douglas." I said I didn't feel well and [IBU] said to go to the Masters' Lodge. I got as far as the classroom door and collapsed. Apparently, [IBU] went white and ran down the classroom. [IBU] picked me up by the shoulders and I threw up all over him. It was after that he tried to drown me in the swimming pool, so maybe he got the last laugh.

[IBP] – *Class teacher*

58. We called Mr [IBP] "[IBP]". It was an unkind name because he was so fat. He lived with his mother his entire life. He was my class teacher. I was vulnerable and would have been an easy target. I have generally positive memories of him but, at Blair House, he showered with us in the communal showers. That is weird behaviour for an adult male to shower with teenage boys.

safe side. The poor kid thought they were about to get a backside full of nails. Watching it happen, it was convincing enough that you looked away. When you looked up you saw he'd turned it. I still remember believing he would connect the nails with the boy.

Peer Abuse

64. I don't remember the bullying stopping. One of the survivors was talking about hiding in the library. That brought back memories that I hid in the library every lunchtime. It was a quiet place and nobody could come in jostle you around or anything. The bullying could get nastier on school trips because you were in dormitories with no teacher there. Even when I was sixteen there was the 'accidental' foot that tripped you up and left you flat on your face on the ground. That was only ever done by the bullies towards kids that they could get away with it.
65. At a CCF camp, I was in the dormitories at night and I was pinned down to the floor. My clothing was removed and toothpaste was spread over my testicles. That turns out to be incredibly painful, as it sets and the humiliation of that. My toothbrush was put in the toilet. I was handed it back and forced to brush my teeth with it. It was humiliating stuff like that. The teachers weren't in the same dormitories as us. They came in to make sure lights out happened and then reveille in the morning.
66. To my shame, I joined in nasty name calling of one kid. That was not a glorious moment in my life. He was disabled as well. How he survived school, I don't know.

Educational achievement

67. My last year at school was 1978 to 1979 and should have been the year I did Highers if I was doing them. The following year would have been A levels. My parent's divorce happened in 1977. My parents decided at the beginning of term in 1978 that they couldn't afford another year, so I did Highers and A levels in 1978 to 1979. The A levels were a year early. Normally you'd have different teaching for Highers and A levels because the A levels are a different content. They chucked me into as much

teaching as they could in that last year. A level is more difficult than higher and the syllabuses didn't overlap. I was a "buggers' muddle".

68. The Highers were in May and the A levels in June. In the A levels I got a B in physics. I failed chemistry and maths. In the Highers I got an A, B, and C and failed the rest. I should have done better but, trying to do them in that last year, the history of abuse and bullying at the school, and the divorce of my parents, wouldn't have helped. By that stage in my life, I was wild. I was demotivated on education. I was disinterested and distrusting of school.

Leaving Edinburgh Academy

69. You got study time off school for your A levels. After Highers, I didn't attend school again until I went back to sit the A levels. I had to leave school at sixteen because my parents couldn't afford to keep me there. At the end of every school year was the Exhibition. It was a grand assembly with invited guests where you said goodbye to everybody. I won the first ever computing prize that year and it was a moment of pride. Mr ^{IBP} had introduced it. It was the only thing I'd won at that stage in my life. I loved computing and Information Technology. Once the Exhibition was over, you left.
70. There was careers advice a year or two before you left. Mr ^{IDX} was the master. I wanted to go to Heriot-Watt University to do Electrical and Electronic Engineering. My exam results weren't that great. I don't know how I got in but I did. The school weren't particularly interested because it wasn't Oxford or Cambridge, or one of the red brick universities. I left school at sixteen, had my seventeenth birthday and went straight to Heriot-Watt University.

Life after school

71. I was too young and demotivated for university. I went to my general practitioner (GP) during that year. I don't remember what for. He said I was the most depressed person

of my age he'd ever met. I took two weeks seriously at Heriot-Watt and spent the rest of the year living wildly. The best way to describe how I was when I left school would be self-destructive. I was exempted from the physics segment of the course because I got my A level physics. That meant the only subject I was good at and enjoyed, I didn't do.

72. I then went to work in a factory and put two fingers up at the whole lot. I realised my mistake after a year in the factory and got a grant to go to Napier College of Commerce and Technology. I was lucky as otherwise, I would have had a very different life. It was the last year you could get a repeat grant. I was more motivated because I'd discovered what working in a factory was like. It wasn't as much fun as I thought it would be, having money and a car. I was coming back towards less dangerous behaviour. By the end of the degree at Napier, I'd settled down a lot and I got married.
73. I've worked in IT. I became an IT consultant. Later, I left the consultancy because there was a manager who wasn't listening. I hated what I was doing and he said he'd get me out if it. Then he said he'd extended me for six months and I told him where he could shove his job. I resigned and found another job. After three years, I returned to the consultancy and a decade later I was elected as a Partner. Five years after that, I trained as a Baptist Minister, serving in three different churches over thirteen years. I have recently retrained and qualified as a Flying Instructor for Microlight aircraft.

Impact

74. It's astonishing, the impact that the abuse by Wares has had. You talk about it and it seems fairly mild. It didn't seem wrong for a long number of years. It's only when you start thinking about it that you realise just how wrong it was. It skewed my behaviour for my teenage years. It is suggested that children who witness abuse have the same life outcomes as children who are abused. Both Wares and Dawson have a lot of direct victims and a lot of indirect victims. I'm lucky because I was a day pupil. Some boys went back to the boarding house every night with Dawson or Brownlee as their housemaster.

75. I became withdrawn and quieter at school. I had a few friends that I got on well with and focussed in on. The one joy of what's going on at the moment is reconnecting with them. When we left school, I described it as "starburst". Very few people seemed to have stayed in touch with anyone else. We wanted to get the hell out of Dodge and leave it behind. I met a survivor in January and another survivor in April, both of whom I hadn't seen since 1979, and it was fantastic.
76. One of the difficulties with all of this is that it is before safeguarding was a thing. The way we look at stuff today is informed by the massive changes in the late 1990s. I've done a lot of safeguarding training because of the roles I've had. It doesn't excuse the behaviour but it maybe explains why there was no holding to account. Nowadays you'd be suspicious of Wares tucking a ten year old's shirt in. Back then, it was probably "nice Mr Wares".
77. The year I went to Heriot-Watt, I was desperate for affection from anyone. I got into any relationship that was going, whether it was good for me or bad for me. I've got a distorted view of relationships. Forgetting intimate relationships, I've struggled with relationships of any nature. There are only two people who know me well and even then, there's lots they don't know.
78. Through life, I've ended up with very few friends because it's hard to make friends when you don't trust people. There are only three friends that I've ever kept in touch with. As an illustration, it's really uncomfortable having a bloke out of sight on my side, after the assaults from teachers. I don't let people be out of my peripheral vision. I don't like getting trapped in a room or being in a row of seats with a wall against me. I have to sit in the aisle in a plane. That's called hypervigilance, always trying to make environments you are in safe. It feels safer talking to women than it does talking to blokes.
79. As I've reflected on it more, some of the bullies have turned up in the survivor's group. They were being abused and they reacted to the abuse by bullying. If I'd been stronger, would I have behaved differently? I don't know. I might well have done. It's hard to

reflect on what your character would have been like. Would I have taken the anger, the shame, and the pain out on others? Very possibly. I did once a few years later when somebody pushed me too far.

80. Being a consultant suited me because we set up teams, did six month assignments, and then moved on somewhere else. There was never an opportunity for anybody to get really close or to make any friends. I've spent a lot of my life shoving people away. I spent years believing people were only being nice to me because they had to be and not because they liked me. It's an incredibly lonely place to end up. The only people who had been nice to me in my life had been wanting something. Through life, I've tried to overcome limitations caused by how I feel.
81. Around 2000 we came to the end of a big assignment at work. Careerwise, everything was looking as though it was going in the right direction. I'd made the grade below partner and the next grade was partner. I found myself yet again in a team, amongst people who talked about childhood fondly and shared stories of childhood with each other. I couldn't participate in that because I didn't have a huge number of positive memories. The ones I did have weren't much fun. I fell apart. My marriage was lucky to survive it. A wave of memories flooded in. The box has slowly opened.
82. Since Napier, I've always been on a mission to prove myself. The prevailing thing coming out of the school was you're no good, you're worthless. I made partner in the firm I was working in but it took a long time. For years, my annual appraisals talked about inappropriate emotional outbursts. I struggled to control my emotions and I don't think I ever learnt to. I learnt to package an emotional outburst in a way that was acceptable, which got me past that hurdle.
83. I've tried to take my own life twice. The first time, I tried to take my life at home when I was twelve or thirteen. It was around the end of the Wares and Dawson bit. Obviously fifty years on, I can't pin the cause of my attempt to that but it would make a credible hypothesis. I can't go back to my childhood self and say definitively what the cause would have been. I didn't make a success of it. I was desperate and didn't want to live. The second time, around 2001, I was given medication with a side effect of a

heightened risk of suicide. A friend stopped me from attempting suicide. I have thought about suicide a lot. More recently, I thought about it one night when I was in South Africa to go to Iain Wares' court appearance.

84. I have used alcohol to self-medicate most of my life. I've managed to keep it within vague boundaries. Looking at their guidelines, the National Health Service (NHS) would tell you I'm a binge drinker. However, it is always out my system so that I am always able to drive in the morning and I don't drink during the day. I'd never touch alcohol and drive or fly.
85. I have massive self-doubt. I find it hard to believe I've done well when I do well. In 2019, I was in a flying competition. It was one of those days I should never have taken off but there was peer pressure. It was a low cloud base and a gusty, strong wind that was probably beyond the performance of all the aircraft that were flying. I had a failure of one of the components of the aircraft on landing which spooked me. I took two shots to land and freaked out. Then I flew back to the base we'd taken off from. The wind was so strong there was no chance of landing on the main runway. On the fourth approach I got it down on the short crosswind runway. If you look at it dispassionately, I flew well but I couldn't fly the next day because I was so scared by what had happened. I couldn't see I had flown well, only that I'd got away with it. I don't think I do things well but I think I'm lucky and undeserved. It's a severe form of imposter syndrome.
86. The survivors' group can be triggering at times. Seeing Wares in court in South Africa was the biggest triggering event I've experienced. I was bouncing off the walls with nervous energy and I didn't know what to do. Situations where I can't control what's going on can be triggering. I need to control things to make them safe for me. I try hard to fight that urge and not be controlling. Some triggering things are disabling and disempowering. They drive me into anxiety.
87. I can think of ways in which triggering was positive. Since becoming an adult, I have stood up to bullies. Someone tried to bully me in a work situation and they experienced a robust Neil refusing to let it happen. A few years ago, I was walking home and saw

a woman screaming. A bloke was in her face and was shouting and shaking her. Folk were just looking on. I marched straight in and said I didn't think she wanted to stay and would he let go of her. The bloke let go and pulled a knife out of his pocket. He put it against my throat. The woman ran off and I persuaded others in the crowd to step forward. The guy backed off.

88. I put on a constructive face to the world, of someone who is grateful when they say well done and appears to accept it, someone who forces themselves to be part and parcel of what's going on with people, and someone who is friendly and interactive. Inside that is not what is happening. It's very different inside. I've learnt how to behave which allowed me to make partner in a firm and be successful with it. If I'd been the real me then that wouldn't have happened. I took those guards down for a Panorama documentary about Wares, his abuse, the systems that allowed him to abuse, and the systems that have covered it up. Trying to put the guards back up again is killing me at the moment. It's really tiring and doing my small bit for the programme has been more costly than I expected.

Extradition of Iain Wares to Scotland from South Africa

89. In January 2023, I was increasingly anxious and struggling to get counselling. I'm in the Justice support group which brings together Fettes and Academy people. Iain Wares' victim in South Africa is known as "Stephen". He joined the group and told us that Wares was being arrested for abusing him at a school in South Africa. Wares is 83 years old and will be 84 on [REDACTED] 2023. The extradition process has been appalling. The Crown Office has done a shit job. Why is he not back in this country? There's no excuse with the number of charges and warrants against him. How has the Scottish justice system failed so badly?
90. The prolonged failure to extradite him means that, instead of getting Wares back, he's now been charged in South Africa. South African law requires that he's tried for that offence in South Africa before any extradition can occur. I went into a flat spin with that. He's never going to be back in Scotland and I'm never going to see him. I posted

in the Justice support group, saying when he appeared in court in South Africa I was going and asking who was coming with me. I wanted to see this bastard answer for abusing children. If it can't be for abusing me then at least it's for abusing someone else.

Travel to South Africa to Iain Wares' court appearance

91. Nicky Campbell and Alex Renton are both well-known journalists and were trying to keep the story alive. Somehow Panorama, a BBC current affairs programme, got involved and were interested in the story. They decided to do an hour long episode on the abuse, the cover-up of abuse, and the systems that have allowed the cover-up of abuse. Panorama were aware Wares was going to appear in court in South Africa on 13th April 2023. In March 2023, one of the producers got in touch with me and asked if I was going to see Wares in court. I said, "Yes" but I hadn't worked out how to, what the hearing was going to be and whether it was worth going to.
92. The programme makers provided a clinical psychologist to talk to before I committed to going and to allowing Panorama to go with me. That was from their duty of care towards me. When I got back from South Africa, I asked for a meeting because I was trying to put myself back together. The psychologist observed that journalists are probably better at supporting people than counsellors.
93. The trip to South Africa was a very positive experience. Crying in court was cathartic. Encountering Wares brought back a lot of memories which was helpful, even the process of journeying out there. I remembered him slamming my head into that wood on the train to Heathrow. I'm still remembering bits around it and I'm sure more memories will come back. Seeing him in court, I started to remember his facial expressions in class. Iain Wares hasn't changed in fifty years.
94. The Panorama crew had permission to film in the magistrate's court Wares was appearing in. We were sat in bench rows. There was a plexi-glass screen which the defendants stood behind. The rest of the court were on the other side, with the defence

somewhere, the prosecutor on a screen, and the magistrate at the end. Wares was at the end of a row and I sat in the row behind him. I could see him side on. I saw him come into court and he had a stoney expression on his face. It was a hard, almost angry expression. I read it as anger at being there. Wares sat there looking increasingly angry about being there. A cameraman went round and filmed him straight on. I was watching him at this point and his expression changed into almost a look of slight regret. The camera came off him again and as soon as that happened, he went back to looking slightly angry.

95. That was what triggered me. I remembered that snarly, angry look which was on his face in classrooms. He was not a pleasant character. I was suddenly a ten year old boy again. I remembered literally being in his hands and where his hands were. I burst into proper crying. It was shoulder heaving sobs. I'd never been able to cry in his classroom. You didn't show emotion and you didn't react. The Panorama guys had said they have a duty of care and if it was too much for me then they'd get me out. I said I needed the day to happen without a safety net, so no matter what happens to let me get on with it unless I was doing something dangerous. I was crying as a ten year boy, scared back in his classroom, crying as a sixty year old man for my ten year old self, and crying for the other survivors. The Panorama guys told me after that they wondered whether they should pull me out because I looked completely broken.
96. Afterwards, Wares went off and the hearing was postponed until 6th June 2023. I stood in a narrow gap near the door in the corridor outside. I was wearing a t-shirt with Fettes boys along the top and, across the bottom, a year photo in Prep School at the Academy. It came out as two photos because everyone was sat in a long, wide row. Wares was in it somewhere and I'm stood behind him with another survivor. In the middle of the shirt, I had some photos of individual survivors of Wares. I wanted to confront him with the faces of the people he'd abused from Scotland.
97. As Wares approached, I said, "Hello." He walked past me and I said, "Hi," and turned round towards him. Wares looked at me, looked at my t-shirt, and gave me a dismissive look. Then he walked off. I followed him to the corridor where his lawyer

shouted at the cameraman about how he couldn't film it, had no right to film it, and South African law doesn't allow it. If Panorama use that then I'll be happy.

98. Wares had made a big thing as he came in of walking with his stick, hobbling along. He made out in court he was a feeble man, nearing the end of his life, who was incapable of doing stuff, and this was all unjust. He walked off up the ramp with his stick dragging behind him. I followed him down the street and the cameraman filmed him walking to his car. I went ahead to the corner of the street and he walked past me as if I didn't exist. He was charging down the pavement and not putting any weight on the stick. We walked down the street quite a distance, about a kilometre. There was a knee height chain link fence. Wares' lawyer hopped over it and put his papers in the boot of his Range Rover. Wares climbed over it, not leaning on his stick at all. Then Wares got into his lawyer's car.
99. I filmed Wares walking and each heel step is evenly timed. There's no favouring one or the other. My dad died in 2020. He was unstable in his latter years and physios told me what to watch for with him. I know if my dad had been at that chain link fence then I would have been stood there offering him an arm in case he was struggling to get over it. Wares' lawyer was so unbothered by his client's mobility that he had his back to him whilst he put his papers in the car. It's a big show.
100. If Wares had pled in April, then the court case would have been next year. He'll plead on 6th June and I can't face going out there for the plea. He's going to plead not guilty. He looked so arrogant. His lawyer is kicking the can down the road. If Wares pleads guilty then the sentencing will happen quicker, the extradition comes forward, and his lawyer won't go for that.
101. Panorama were empathetic and such nice people. I had to make a decision to trust them. I had to assume they were going to stick to what they said, which was they were not going to use stuff if I wasn't comfortable with them using it. It was, in effect, good counselling because I explored areas I hadn't looked at before, with people who were looking after me. We did a lot of filming the day we arrived and I asked them if it was going to be okay. They said it was "gold", really good. I lay in bed thinking it wasn't

working and it was no use. I didn't believe a word they said. The next day, partly because I'd broken down in court, I took all the barriers down and told them I didn't believe what they'd said about it being gold. I told them I'd been awake for hours and thought we'd be going home that morning. They got Neil with no guards if they decide to use it. It allows them to talk about the impact abuse has on people.

102. In South Africa, you can't talk about being abused as a bloke. Men who say they are abused are viewed as failures and damaged goods. The driver we had in South Africa set up the abuse units in Cape Town when he was in the police. Panorama were asking me questions in the car and he heard my answers. The driver said what I was doing was incredible, how difficult it would be for a South African male to talk about it, and how people needed to talk. The South African charity who had supported "Stephen" coming forward wanted to have a bloke in a press conference to say, "I was abused." I only decided to do the press conference the day before we flew out because Nicky Campbell had written an article in The Times and he was trolled by some ex-pupils from the school. I decided to put my name out there and then it wasn't only Nicky saying it happened. Other survivors are trying to find ways of getting their stories out so that there are multiple people in the public domain, taking the weight off Nicky.

Edinburgh Academy's response to the allegations

103. Iain Glen had an article published in The Scotsman in 2001, talking about what happened at the school. My mother posted a copy to me and I wrote to the school. I said everything Iain Glen says is true and it happened to me. I think the Rector was Mr Light. The school responded by phoning me and persuading me to drop it. That was the first of my experiences of the school covering it up.
104. The school told me it was historic and there are good teachers still alive whose reputations would be damaged by association. They said the teachers who'd abused were all dead. That turns out to be a lie because Dawson didn't die for another seven years and Wares is still alive today. Brownlee is still alive today and now suffering dementia, so apparently can't be arrested. They said what good would it do, bringing

it up and it would damage the reputation of the school. I stupidly allowed myself to be talked out of taking it any further.

105. I first did safeguarding training seven years later and realised what a mistake I'd made. I'm really angry about the response of the school back then. If they had done something then all this would be happening twenty years ago. It didn't have to wait until now. People like Dawson could have been held to account before they died. He wouldn't have got to work as a Father Christmas in a department store in Cheltenham. Can you imagine what he was doing with those kids? It beggars belief.
106. The school publish the Academical magazine every year. It goes to Academicals who are people who went to the Academy. I hadn't seen one in years but the contact with the school meant they had my address on their system, so a copy arrived in January 2023. On page twelve, Mark Galloway had a message from the Chair of the Court of Directors reassuring everybody about the historical abuse that had happened. In my view, it was a dreadful and wrong message. It raised in my head a lot of concern about safeguarding in the school today so I sent him a letter about it. I pointed out the concerns and it resulted in a bit of an exchange.
107. It has ended up with a meeting on 23rd May 2023, which is coming up. The meeting is at Henderson Row. At the meeting there will be some survivors, Mark Galloway, Barry Welch who is the Rector, and Samantha Byers who is Director of Development and Alumni Relations. I'm going to talk at the meeting about the narrow subject of how the school could support survivors in coming forward and giving their evidence to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry or other environments.

Former teachers' response to the allegations

108. One of the survivors has been in touch with teachers who were the good guys and who are still alive. They say they are absolutely shocked and have no idea how the abuse by Iain Wares could have gone on. How could they not have known? It was blatant and in public. I suppose corporal punishment existed in those days so the

physical violence was seen as corporal punishment. Maybe it's a bit extreme to use a hockey stick. The teachers who have commented have said they didn't get on with or didn't like Wares. The best man at Wares' wedding was Mr Brownlee, who has attracted a bit of attention in the press recently. Brownlee was a vicious thug.

109. I have found out, since joining the survivors' group, that Reverend Haslett has contacted one of the survivors. There was some article in the newspapers that got him to stick his head up. He is talking about all the "monkey business" that happened. He is calling sexual and physical abuse, monkey business. Reverend Haslett's tone is how he was deceived by the abusers, was totally unaware of it, and if he been aware, how he would have done something about it. That provoked one of the survivors to say that he had talked to Haslett about IPT assaulting him and he was told to run along.

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

110. In the Justice support group, quite a lot of anger is directed at the Inquiry and some of the things Lady Smith has been doing. The frustration with the Inquiry is that Lady Smith has just published a report on Loretto and over half of it praises Loretto. That stinks of minimising the abuse that did happen. What the hell is the job of the Inquiry to say, well done Loretto for being such a great place and having these lovely grounds, and all the rest that Lady Smith said. It is almost the same as Galloway's letter in the *Academical*. It is distancing abuse. The Inquiry is supposed to be uncovering and investigating abuse and not saying what a great school it is today but some abuse did happen in the past. The Inquiry's Terms of Reference were not to give the schools a let out because they are so much better today.
111. I've seen the Inquiry's justification of it and I think the Inquiry has got it completely wrong. If the Inquiry handles the Academy in that way, there's going to be fury. What is that Loretto report doing? I don't know Loretto but I'm wondering, Lady Smith is in the Faculty of Advocates and are other members of the Faculty of Advocates benefactors of Loretto? Is she protecting her friends? It stinks. It nearly put me off

coming to speak to the Inquiry. It was rude not to turn up. The Loretto report has created a massive amount of distrust of the Inquiry amongst survivors. One of the survivors has written to Lady Smith with the word count of the report that was praise for the school and the amount that was negative. They have contrasted it with a report on a much less prestigious set of establishments where there was virtually no praise and a lot of criticism. Very similarly, those establishments had turned around. Why is Loretto getting special treatment? It looks wrong. The optics are really bad.

112. The connections with Fettes between the Faculty of Advocates, which appoints a director at Fettes, and Lady Smith being a part of the Faculty of Advocates mean that the Inquiry should be careful what it publishes. Hell is going to rain down on the Inquiry if it carries on praising schools where abuse happened, especially where there are known connections. I suspect Panorama will be looking closely at those relationships and, if there is anything, it will be part of their programme. If Panorama look at the cover up of abuse, then that Loretto report looks horribly like trying to whitewash something that shouldn't be whitewashed.

Reporting of Abuse

113. I started talking about some of this last year and my mother asked why I didn't tell her. She was gobsmacked when I told her, the day before I went to make a statement to Police Scotland. The answer was that it was just what happened. It was normal and what teachers did. One assumed it was nothing to complain about. That's the insidious thing about sexual assault, at the age of ten you don't know what's happening and you don't have words for what's going on. I wouldn't have understood it sexually.
114. On 27th July 2022, Nicky Campbell was crying on the news, during his Radio Five Live programme. I wrote to the school and, instead of covering it up, this time they told me to contact Police Scotland. I did and it took a couple of months before I was able to give them a statement. I didn't want them wasting time flying down so I was up in Edinburgh in October 2022 and spoke to two police officers. They were based in Livingston.

115. I was in Livingston for a good couple of hours. It was the most detailed conversation I'd had with anyone about what had happened, so it was draining. When I spoke to the police about Iain Wares, I remembered it as a Hall of Mirrors where there are mirrors all around and you see a thousand of yourself in the mirror. The memory of it was a memory to infinity. I don't remember separate instances but I do remember lots of occurrences.
116. I got muddled in my police statement. I was accusing Dawson, who was in the Upper School, when I first made the statement. Dawson was a history teacher and I was accusing a maths teacher, which confused me. It was only later, last year, that I began to separate Wares and Dawson from being some composite abusive character to separate people. Unfortunately, I had them in successive years.
117. I gave a second statement later in 2022 after I'd worked out Wares and Dawson being separate individuals. I could give a third statement now because I'm remembering more than I remembered then. Memories are coming and bits are falling back into place. I've had a couple of letters from the Crown Office in connection with Wares but that's the only updates I've had.

Treatment / Support

118. When I saw my GP at the time I was at Heriot-Watt, he offered me no help. He might have referred me back to the student services. I only once had medication for depression and that was later on in life. It was nearly disastrous. In 2000, I went to the doctor and he gave me some sleeping pills to try and help me sleep. I found out later that one of the side effects was a heightened risk of suicide. Why give someone with depression medication with a heightened risk of suicide? That has defined my relationship with the health service in talking about mental health. If that's how they're going to treat me then I don't want anything to do with them. I refuse to go near them. I don't have much in the way of National Health Service Records about mental health.

119. I've found myself counsellors and I've done a lot of counselling. Counselling has been incredibly helpful. I can think back to the sessions and replay the tapes in my head. I can say it's not my fault and I didn't do anything that caused me to be abused. When I'm anxious, I have techniques to centre myself. My friend, who supported me when I tried to take my life, and I have been accountability partners for a long time. He has his own struggles and we support each other. We meet every week on Facetime. We have ten questions we run through. There is spiritual stuff like whether you have read your bible and about how you are spending your money. My friend is part of my resilience and I am part of his.
120. Recently, I've looked for counselling and was briefly able to access a service provided by the Baptist Union. However, when the counsellor realised that I was dealing with historic abuse and that I'd made a complaint to the police about my abuser, they stopped the sessions. I have since tried a few sexual abuse charities but they have all said that they cannot offer counselling until the trial of my abuser is over.
121. The Justice support group has lawyers in it to make sure we don't say things which would damage court cases. There is no collaboration.

Records

122. I used a Subject Data Access Request to get my school records after I had spoken to the police and realised I was talking about a history teacher who taught me maths, to try to figure it out. I was confused having talked it through with someone for the first time ever. It was easy getting the records. I emailed the school and received a reply. I was sent a copy of my school record. I started asking for copies of roll books because I needed to work out what sets I was in. I constructed a spreadsheet which showed which teachers I had in which years.
123. I have several of the school roll books which have the school rules on the back. The structure of the books is slightly different between the Prep School and the senior school. It is basically a list of all the teachers and what year they started teaching in

the school. For particular subjects it says who was in charge and all the sets. Lessons were set by ability. There were sets One to Four for maths. The roll book sets out which teacher was for those sets. For the Prep School there is a long list. In the Upper School there is a class master, a list of pupils, and what set you were in for each subject, where it was set. You got that book every year.

124. I disposed of all my school reports when my parents gave them to me. I was in my forties. I wish I'd kept them now, with all this going on.

Revisits

125. A very long time ago, I was at a school reunion before all this came up. I was at an Academical Club dinner in London and I was at Henderson Row. I hadn't processed what happened and my brain had locked away all the abuse. I was trying to confront my demons in terms of peers that had bullied. I felt deeply uncomfortable in both environments. I didn't enjoy it at all.
126. One of the guys who had bullied me at school apologised for having done so. I felt suspicious. He connected with me on Facebook and then ignored me ever after, so I'm not entirely convinced it was a meaningful apology. I suspect he was probably trying to make himself feel better about something.

Lessons to be Learned

127. Mark Galloway's letter in the Academical started off roughly saying, "You may have seen in the press a couple of allegations from former pupils against a teacher in school, relating to something that happened sixty years ago." It might be factually true and the press may have referenced only a couple of pupils. However, the school ought to know from statements being gathered by the Inquiry or the civil claims being intimated against them that there's a lot more than two pupils. I don't believe for one minute that they thought it was a couple of people. Before that letter was written, Wares had 82

charges against him on four warrants. They weren't all Fettes. It wasn't sixty years ago, mine was fifty years ago. Dawson didn't leave until 1983, IPT left in 1971, and the latest recorded abuse is about 1985 or 1990, as I understand it. It's not that long ago.

128. Institutions need to stop placing abuse in the past. The Academy is so focussed on protecting its reputation today that it's chucking the abuse in the past. What happens if your son or daughter is at the Academy and they are abused now? If the school is placing all the abuse in the past, how open are they to the possibility of abuse today? That's where I began to fall out with Galloway. The middle of his letter was pretentious twaddle and the rest was about how the school has changed. Possibly it has and maybe they've got decent safeguarding in place. However, you can have the best safeguarding policies in the world but if you're not prepared to believe that abuse could happen, then the policies are not worth the paper they're written on.
129. I've been a church leader for over a decade. I have to be prepared to accept that the people I believe are good people are capable of abuse, otherwise I wouldn't be alert to the risks of it. This cleansing of the Academy's public image, their insurers are probably saying not to admit to anything and their lawyers and public relations company are probably saying dump it all in the past. How is that protecting kids today? Galloway finished the letter by saying, "If however, you feel you may have been affected by non-recent abuse then contact Police Scotland." It's not "may have been affected". I know where Wares' hands were and what Dawson did to me. People are either abused or they're not. It's a distancing tactic again. Also, the phrase "non-recent abuse", I know of stories to the contrary and I don't believe abuse has stopped.
130. A lawyer driven and damage limitation approach to this stuff is where the churches went wrong and it's where the schools are going wrong. They have to own it. They have to open about it happening and not distance it in the past. I realise that has reputational problems but how else can you keep kids safe?

Other information

131. My motivation in speaking to the Inquiry is around wanting to see abuse stop in schools. If part of my story can, in any way, help shape a response to abuse in schools or inform safeguarding practices then it's all worth it. If anything comes out of the Inquiry, I would like schools, care settings, or places where kids are in contact with adults, to be safe places for kids.
132. I'd like to find a way of helping people come forward and say they were abused. I wanted to take the t-shirt covered with faces to South Africa. I could only get five other people out of fifty that I'm in contact with, that felt safe to have their individual photo on my t-shirt in case it ended up in the media. The rest don't feel able to be out there saying, "This happened to me." Not only did this happen to them and they were silenced at the time, but they have been silenced all their life and they're still silenced now. That is more abuse. It's like the trolls and the gaslighters going after Nicky Campbell. They are abusing him further. Part of my story being out there is to say it's okay to talk about it. It happened.
133. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed... 

Dated... 11 May 2023