

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Nicholas CAMPBELL

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Nicholas Andrew Argyll Campbell. I am known as Nicky. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. My name on my birth certificate is Nicholas Lackey, but I was a pre-birth adoption and have been Nicholas Campbell from about nine days old. My birth mother had another baby eighteen months before me, Esther, who, like me, had been born in Edinburgh. Mine was a private adoption and I remained in a baby home for a couple of months while all the processes were completed.
3. After leaving the baby home I lived on [REDACTED] in Newington, Edinburgh, with my adoptive parents Sheila and Frank Campbell and my adoptive sister Fiona. Fiona is their birth child and is five years older than me. Dad was a map publisher and Mum was a psychiatric social worker.
4. Mum gave me the age appropriate narrative that I was adopted from an early age, so I wasn't one of those people who brutally find out that they are adopted years later. I was very lucky. I had loving parents, a loving sister and a dog called Candy, from whom I was inseparable.
5. At the age of five, in 1966, I went to Edinburgh Academy as a day pupil and remained there until 1978. I don't know why my parents chose Edinburgh Academy, but I

suppose they saw it as one of the best schools in Edinburgh and they wanted the best for me.

6. I don't really recall now, but I know that I later wrote of my Dad taking me to sit a test for admission to Edinburgh Academy. I don't remember if there was any other preparation, or whether I was taken for a visit beforehand either.
7. Along the way, a number of years later while I was in the Prep school, there were financial problems because Dad changed his job. I went to sit an exam for another school in Edinburgh, which was cheaper, and I got in. I was on the verge of going, but there was some sort of reprieve and I never did. I remember my teacher in the Prep school, Miss Peterkin, was on the phone to my parents a lot. I think she was fond of me and she seemed to be worried about me leaving and I never did.
8. At seventeen, in 1978, I left Edinburgh Academy and went to Aberdeen University to study History. It was only when I got to university that I found a focus with the drama society there and with radio. I started working for a local radio station when I was twenty and remained there when I graduated at twenty-one. I continued my career in the media, ultimately becoming a broadcaster and journalist on national networks.
9. I was abused at Edinburgh Academy and I witnessed others being abused there too. In 2003 I published a memoir, 'Blue-eyed Son – a story of an adoption', in which I made reference to some of my experiences at the school. At that stage, I thought it was a good way of putting it out there to see if it would gather any momentum. I was very nervous about it and thought it was a really big deal.
10. I mentioned three particular Masters in the book, although not by name, as they were all alive at that time, as far as I knew. I referred to Iain Wares, Hamish Dawson and John Brownlee, but I left IDT out. He was another abuser of mine, albeit physical. I did so as my editor said we didn't want to turn it into a litany. I also, as people tend to do, underplayed my own trauma. I was surprised, because I thought after it was published that things would really kick off, but there was nothing.

11. More recently, having been confronted again with the culture of abuse that existed at the Academy, I presented a number of BBC 'podcasts' about the school and I also spoke about it on my radio programme. The first podcast was released in July 2022 and the reaction, the media attention, has been incredible. It took me by surprise as nobody had been interested back in 2003.
12. We had an unprecedented amount of calls to BBC 5 Live from people from all over the country, from every walk of life and hundreds of them had never spoken about their abuse before. It was an extraordinary day. As I learned more from the people who got in touch with me, many of my own long-suppressed memories were re-ignited.
13. I'm really proud of those podcasts and broadcasts. Lots of people who are in lots of different situations have got in touch with me and many have told me it was really empowering to hear them. I have had many conversations with people who have disclosed many horrible things to me. Some had never spoken of their abuse before.

Edinburgh Academy

14. Edinburgh Academy comprised a junior school at Denham Green, a Prep school at Arboretum Road and the Senior school at Henderson Row. Pupils start at Denham Green at four or five years old and move to the Prep school when they are about eight and then to Senior school at eleven or twelve.
15. The junior school was a lovely old house, that had obviously previously been a very fine residence. I think it's been knocked down and developed now, but I seem to remember it was quite a comfortable place for a kid and I recall being walked around the large grounds, all of us holding hands.
16. If I recall correctly, Denham Green was a bit along Ferry Road, perhaps half-a-mile or so from the Prep school in Arboretum. The Prep school is near the rugby fields and a running track, which were to the right of the drive up to the school. The head teacher had a house on the grounds, which was a late-fifties or early-sixties building and it was situated at the far end of the grounds.

17. The Senior school was on Henderson Row and is the famous fine building with the columns and the parade ground in front, that features in all the publicity photographs.

Staff

18. I can't remember the staff structure of the junior school, but SNR of the Prep school was called Mr IGG and there were various form teachers. The headmaster, or rector, of the Senior school was a man called ICH. He was a nightmare of a man, in that he was uncommunicative and weird. He was an and very old-school, like a Victorian headmaster, and I don't think he was very popular amongst the teachers. The guy that came was called Laurence Ellis. He was a man far out of his depth.
19. There were more female teachers in Denham Green and the Prep school, than in the Senior school. I remember a few, including Mrs Baxter, Miss Peterkin and Miss Reid. There is a picture of the Prep school in which you can see quite a lot of female teachers. The former teacher Iain Wares is flanked by two of them.

Pupils

20. There were quite a few boarders at Edinburgh Academy, but most were day pupils, however both did mix. It didn't seem as if there was a divide. Sometimes the boarders were allowed out at the weekend and we would meet them. I had an extremely close friend, who was in one of the boarding houses. He, sadly, has since passed away.
21. Pupils were split into house groups, but I don't think those groups really meant anything as far as day-to-day life went. Pupils in their first year of Senior school were called 'geits' and wore shorts and 'ephors' were the prefects and had quite a lot of power.

Routine at Edinburgh Academy

First day

22. I recall my first day at Edinburgh Academy, which was at Denham Green, the junior school. I met [REDACTED] that day and by the end of the day we were firm friends. He remained my best friend for the rest of his life. It was a big adventure when we moved on to the Prep school, but I don't have any particular memories of starting in Senior school.
23. I don't remember how we were welcomed and I don't think the school ethos was ever explained to me. We were certainly never made aware whether any sort of reporting mechanism existed if we had any concerns about anything. It seems ludicrous now to suggest there might ever have been a possibility of some sort of mechanism.

Schooling

24. I didn't get a particularly good education at Edinburgh Academy. There were a couple of good teachers, but on the whole it was pretty average. The school didn't account for difference. It wasn't caring and there was no premium on being kind.
25. All my friends were interesting, but we were considered difficult by the school. We were seen as rebels and very few teachers saw any worth in us at all. In one lesson we had to indicate on a map where Newcastle is and I put it where Manchester is. The teacher, Mr [REDACTED] humiliated me relentlessly in front of the entire class, trying to encourage everyone to laugh at me. He made me cry and I cried on the bus home feeling useless.
26. There were some exceptions, although they were few and far between. Good, decent teachers and well-adjusted human beings were such a rarity, that it is worth mentioning some who broke the rule. Teachers we still talk about: Mr Harris, Mr Bevan and Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] took me aside after I submitted an essay on 'Oliver Twist'. He asked me if I'd ever thought about being a journalist or a writer because he thought

I'd had some amazing insights. That had been the best thing anyone had ever said to me and it was the first time I felt any sense of pride.

27. Another exception was an English teacher called Andy Leslie, who came to the school when I was a bit older. He was a young, modern teacher and I think he was quite rebellious. I went to the drama lessons he took on a Friday with my friend [REDACTED]. We did improvised drama and I really loved it. I told my parents that I wanted to be an actor and they spoke to him about it, although I can't recall what he said.
28. I don't think he was employed by the school because there was any sort of recognition that there was a need for change, I think he was just young. A different generation. He was inspirational and more like a decent human being and, consequently, he stood out.

Sporting activities

29. The school was all about rugby and cricket. Boys that made the 1st XV were considered the heroes and so if you weren't good you felt a bit inadequate. They were lauded, they were the head boys and the ephors and they were treated like demigods. Without wanting to be too unkind, some were just blocks of wood, but despite that, they tended to be the ones in the school plays and the school never explored or sought to harness the talents of anyone else.
30. As my friend [REDACTED], who is now a writer and historian, pointed out, because he was good at that "stupid game rugby and that stupid game cricket" he had a moat around him. He and the other boys who were good at rugby and cricket, were protected. Other boys, who weren't good at such sports, were square pegs in round holes. We never got any plaudits for anything and there was never a thought that boys such as my friend [REDACTED], who were performers, could have their talents channelled. [REDACTED] went on to be the [REDACTED] of his generation. The school merely saw him and us as troublemakers.

Free time

31. At the upper school we had some free time at lunchtime when boys would play football with tennis balls and that sort of thing. I often would walk around the school grounds with my friend [REDACTED], chatting.

Trips and holidays

32. Hamish Dawson, a History teacher, and Mr [REDACTED] IBP, who taught [REDACTED] used to take boys on trips. I once went to Blair House up in the hills, where we went climbing and hillwalking. There were also trips on a steamboat down the Clyde and other excursions, but I never went on them.

Clubs

33. We all had to join the 'CCF' (Combined Cadet Force) and dress up as soldiers. I couldn't abide it, marching up and down, and eventually my friend [REDACTED] and I got thrown out.
34. We were on an orienteering exercise and all had radios and I passed a message instructing everybody to return to base as the exercise was over. I could impersonate Major Wilmshurst, the teacher who was in charge of the CCF, and mayhem ensued. A few more messages were passed back and forth, with Major Wilmshurst becoming increasingly more irate. On another orienteering exercise we hitched a lift and came in first, until they realised we had skipped all the staging posts and so they had enough of me.
35. As our punishment, [REDACTED] and I were sent to a local hospice every Monday afternoon to play board games with the residents there. It was terrific, far more useful than the CCF. We learnt so much from these lovely people. It was a good thing to do. In fact, it was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.
36. That CCF incident was typical of my memory of how I was at school. I was always committing acts of anarchy, causing trouble, anything for attention.

Religious instruction

37. God was a given at Edinburgh Academy, it was a very religious school. There was a chaplain called Howard Haslett, who was ostensibly a jolly chap, although he was incredibly disrespectful to kids. He used to describe boys as “rich and thick”.
38. They used to have one of the [REDACTED] ECG [REDACTED] ECG [REDACTED], come in [REDACTED] occasionally. I think he was a former pupil of the Academy and I think he was later exposed as a paedophile. We were told how lucky we were that he was coming. It was a school steeped in religion, in sharp contrast to the ‘unchristian’ behaviour of so many of the staff. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED], IDT [REDACTED] for one, had created God in his own image as an unforgiving bully and a sadist.

Visitors

39. I don’t recall any visitors or any inspections. I’m not even sure they had inspections in those days. Certainly nobody spoke to me and asked how I was getting on, or what I thought of the school.

Discipline

40. I think we were made aware of what the rules and the code of conduct were by osmosis. We knew that being cheeky for example, or talking when we weren’t meant to be, would be punished. I was once caught with cigarettes in my pocket and was given a written suspension from the school for it.
41. I don’t remember the ephors being able to beat us, but they could give you lines and they could physically punish us in other ways, such as making us go for runs on a Saturday morning and giving us lung-bursting exercise.

42. We got the ruler in Prep school from the female teachers, but if we did it was as a consequence of some misdemeanour and by way of punishment. It was not nice, but it was legal at the time.
43. I remember getting the ruler on the hands from Mrs Baxter. She was alright. She could enrapture us and I remember her telling stories about Mary Queen of Scots. She was strict, but she was of her time.
44. The ruler was uncomfortable, but it wasn't a big deal. It was not like your bum stinging for two days after being beaten on the backside by the male teachers.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy

Peers

45. Some older boys would pick on you whenever they saw you. Those who somehow knew I was adopted would call me "Oliver Twist" and "bastard" and some were physically violent. There was one boy who would regularly give you a dead leg for example every time he saw you.
46. Fagging did not exist in my experience, but we were brutalised by the teachers and I think that, as a consequence, some boys weren't very nice to others. If the teachers weren't being nice to us, why should we be nice to each other? It was a feral environment. It was a struggle to be heard because no one was listening. Much of school life was about self-defence.
47. In everything that has come in more recently, there are many good examples of boys who were messed up and had been abused. Boys who were internalising so much and lashing out. It is a vicious cycle.
48. I was taken for a run by an ephor called [REDACTED] as a punishment the time I was caught with cigarettes in my pocket. He was an American and was about sixteen or seventeen, perhaps one or two years older than me. In the shower afterwards I was

naked and he got me to face him and I think he was wanting to take advantage, but I was too old by then and forcefully told him to go away.

49. More recently I have spoken to people who were boarders and it was brutal in their houses. I think it was relentless. My friend [REDACTED], who was in one of the boarding houses, also told me he had his problems, albeit he never specified what they were and he is now dead. He had been taught by Iain Wares too. I wish I could talk to him again.
50. That tells its own story. These raging, angry kids who were all put in the boarding houses together. We were all subjected to abuse from the teachers, but at least the day pupils had an escape. The boarders were there 24/7.

John Brownlee

51. I think John Brownlee was my form teacher; he certainly taught me very regularly when I was between about eight and ten years old. I'm not sure what subject he taught, but he was an absolute sadist.
52. He would pick boys at the beginning of class who were to be punished at the end of the lesson. The only reason might be that he thought you had spoken, or something like that. It was always for nothing or he found some pretext. You would sit through the whole class absolutely terrified if you had been picked, knowing the pain you were going to experience. You would be crying with fear.
53. You didn't need to have done anything wrong, it was the slightest excuse. He had a weapon called a 'clachan' and he would make us line up in front of the rest of the class, tell us each in turn to bend over and hit us as hard as he could on top of our shorts. It was so painful. You'd be crying and your backside would be red. Some boys used to put on extra underwear for his class, to try and cushion the blows a little.
54. There were a number of occasions that Brownlee beat the living daylight out of me with the clachan. I was no exception. On the slightest of pretexts or for no reason at

all. I remember what was possibly the last occasion when he couldn't find his clachan and instead all he could find was a ping-pong bat. As we all lined up I was first. I bent over as he hit me, however it was nothing like the clachan and wasn't terribly sore. I was facing the class pulling faces, pretending it was sore and simpering and the class were covering their mouths and looking away trying not to laugh. It was a real sense of defiance. Getting one over on authority. For good or ill, I've never lost that triumphant feeling and the inner-need to do it.

55. There was another occasion he beat me for no reason other than his own enjoyment. I was in the corridor outside his class with another couple of people, I'm not sure who, when Brownlee came along the corridor and seized me by the scruff of the neck. He never said anything, but as he held me, he started pummelling my head with his knuckles. I started to cry and he just walked off.
56. If Brownlee was coming down the corridor, my friend [REDACTED] literally used to hide. [REDACTED] is a very sensitive, artistic, guy and it was boys such as him that Brownlee would often pick on. Boys who might seem more weak and who he clearly didn't like. I think [REDACTED] and many others got the brunt of that.
57. Since my podcasts, a lot of boys have mentioned being abused by Brownlee. There have been a lot of discussions about him. What Brownlee did was wrong and was way beyond the bounds of what was legal at the time and we should not have to accept his behaviour.
58. I spoke to a chap recently who had been a boarder and he told me he had once felt someone push him down the stairs. When he looked up from the bottom Brownlee was at the top and all he said was, "What happened to you?".
59. [REDACTED] said that when the Queen came to visit the school, which she did while I was there, he thought she had come to rescue him from the torture he was going through at the hands of Brownlee. He thought she would take him away.

60. The other thing about Brownlee, that I haven't really broached with other people, is that he could be funny as well. I guess it was a form of grooming, because you felt grateful that he wasn't hitting you. He was quite anarchic and did impressions of the other teachers. There was a teacher called Mr IBL and I recall Brownlee impersonating him. He enjoyed performing and I think he enjoyed the reaction of us boys. Brownlee thought a lot of himself.

IDO

61. Another man prone to gratuitous violence was IDO who used to kick boys hard up the backside for no reason. A lot of people have been in contact with me about him. Although I do not recall experiencing that myself from him, I do recall the fear of seeing him coming down the corridor.

Hamish Dawson

62. Hamish Dawson was quite strict and was, to be fair, a decent teacher of History, who was at the school for decades. He sexually abused boys who were in their first year at Senior school. Boys who were geits, who were eleven or twelve years old, and who were still wearing shorts. After first year and when we were no longer wearing shorts, Dawson's sexual abuse of us stopped.
63. Dawson's modus operandi was quite 'Savile-esque', in the sense that it was quite jokey. He was clownish and funny. He used to do this theatrical thing where he would point to a boy during his class and say, "Come here now" and he would draw the words out. He did it as a jocular reprimand for some mild misdemeanour and it happened to lots of people, including me. It was a centrepiece of most History lessons during our first year in Senior school. It seemed like a comic interlude.
64. He had a big old-fashioned desk that was elevated on a plinth at the front of the classroom. When boys were summoned they had to step up onto the plinth and walk round the back of the desk towards him. Consequently, they weren't in full view of the rest of the class, except from the side.

65. When you were round the back of his desk he would tell you to lie face down over his knees and he would tickle you all over. As he did he would say, "Acres and acres of pink, tickly, Campbell, everywhere", or whatever the boy's name was. He would then draw on you with a felt pen, often in intimate areas, such as the inside of your upper thigh. You would be laughing because he was tickling you and everyone else would be laughing too.
66. It was almost a relief for everybody in Dawson's class when he did this, because it showed he wasn't strict all the time. Afterwards he would give you a jelly bean sweet, or a fun-sized 'Mars Bar', which he kept in his desk. It was almost like he was giving you a reward.
67. At first, because I was wearing shorts, his hands would go right up my leg, right to the top and near my genitals and he would draw a cartoon face on my inner thigh. I knew it was wrong, but it was funny and I would go home and wash it off without saying anything to anyone.
68. This happened to me on two or three occasions before he swooped. His hand went right up my leg and inside my shorts, under my underpants, and he started playing with my penis while he was tickling me. His hand was rubbing up and down my penis and he was playing with my testicles, but, because he was tickling my ribs at the same time, I was laughing, but I was confused and felt horrible at the same time.
69. I was reminded recently of another occasion when another boy was over Dawson's knee and he was tickling him. As he did, there was a knock at the door and Mr **BXK** the **██████** teacher, walked in because he'd left something in the classroom. He saw what was going on, immediately apologised, turned round and walked out again. I cannot understand how Mr **BXK** would not then go to the staffroom and mention it to other teachers. There is no way. **BXK** was a garrulous rugby-playing, pint-drinking blabbermouth, so it must have been the talk of the staff room or the Academical Club bar.

70. I have limited recollection of this, although several people, including my friend [REDACTED], have told me about pornography being found in Dawson's desk. [REDACTED] said I was there, but I don't remember clearly.
71. Dawson was late coming to class one day when we were perhaps fourteen or fifteen and we were all waiting for him. The Masters' lodge was at the far end, next to the road and from the windows of the classroom you could see the long walk from the lodge to his classroom. I have been told that someone was looking out for Dawson coming, while my friend [REDACTED] was up at the front, trying to steal the jelly beans.
72. As he was hunting, [REDACTED] found a whole lot of pornography in Dawson's desk and it was reported by someone. [REDACTED] told me that he was later summoned to the rector's office by another teacher, Mr McIlwain. I think the rector was Laurence Ellis by that stage and he listened to [REDACTED] and told him that he wasn't in trouble.
73. I was reminded, and I do have a sense of a memory of this, that shortly afterwards there was an announcement in the school hall that "Somebody has planted some pornography in Mr Dawson's desk. We are going to find out who it was and they will be punished". This was a cause of barely suppressed amusement.
74. Seemingly there were two other occasions when pornography was found as well, but I don't recollect them specifically.
75. Dawson also had what he called his 'implements of correction', with which he used to hit people. They were 'Heath Robinson' contraptions such as a clachan that had a nail in the end with its head protruding. I don't recall him hitting me with it, but he must have because I was pretty badly behaved. I was loud and insolent and inclined to answer back.
76. He would raise the clachan over his head as a boy bent over so that all the boy could see was the nail heading for his backside as Dawson brought it down. At the last minute Dawson would turn the clachan round and hit the boy with the flat side. He did that sort of thing to terrify boys.

77. I remember at the time being told that Dawson beat people in the boarding houses when he was a housemaster. He did other stuff too and I remember being told that he used to make boys go naked into the shower, spin round and sing nursery rhymes.
78. Towards the end, I very clearly remember seeing Dawson walking like a zombie along the path between the Masters' Lodge and his classroom. He was looking into the far distance and he looked as if his whole world was falling in. I remember thinking they were onto him.
79. The Reverend Howard Haslett got in touch with me when all this came out about Hamish Dawson and said that he never suspected anything untoward about him. He then went on to say that Dawson confided in him that he was having an affair with a prostitute. He remembered that Mr Dawson went into his pocket and showed the chaplain a photograph of the woman. The Reverend Haslett then said to me "Nicky, she had a face that would kill a thousand peeping Toms", but then he re-iterated that he didn't remember anything untoward about Dawson.
80. He also, in correspondence with me recently when referencing the paedophilia, said that he didn't know about any "monkey business".

Mr **IBP**

81. Mr **IBP** taught **IBP** and was known to be a paedophile as well. He was a big, fat man, who always had soup stains on his jumper. He was always sweating and you could smell him a mile off. I was aware at the time that he used to take showers with boys and I remember thinking then that he shouldn't have been doing that, but by then there was a kind of acceptance that these men were on the staff. It was a part of school life.
82. I never experienced him rubbing himself up against me or sitting on me, which was his big thing, because he never taught me, but lots of people did. Several people have

told me about him coming up to them in class and rubbing himself up against them. His mild punishment was to sit on boys and rub himself on them then too.

83. I know that some people who went on trips away with him had some horrendous experiences with him. Since this has all come out a friend of mine told me that on a trip to Blair House, IBP [REDACTED] lay next to him in his bed. IBP [REDACTED] was naked and he masturbated himself while lying next to this boy.

84. IBP [REDACTED] is dead now, he threw himself off [REDACTED]. He had a sad life in many ways and it was a sad end.

IDR [REDACTED]

85. IDR [REDACTED] the woodwork teacher was also, at the time, known to be interested in teenage boys, or 'dodgy' as we put it. I never experienced anything myself, but people have since told me about incidents with him and I know that in his will he left his house to a pupil.

Mr IDZ [REDACTED]

86. A [REDACTED] teacher called Mr IDZ [REDACTED] was a horrible man. He was psychopathic and violent. I remember in class one day he approached a boy who was wearing a woollen hat because he'd had brain surgery and his head had been shaved. IDZ [REDACTED] roared, "What the hell are you wearing that for?" and ripped the hat from the boy's head. He quickly realised what he'd done, but it was horrible.

87. IDZ [REDACTED] lost it with me one time and started whacking me over the head after he asked the class to name a great work of fiction and I said the Bible. The whole class laughed, but he tore into me and slapped me over the head several times. In Jesus name. It was worth it though because I got a good laugh out of the class and that was one of my missions in life. It was something I was good at and that was a validation.

Jeremy Fenton

88. The last time I was taken for a beating by a teacher was by a guy called Jeremy Fenton. I think I must have been fifteen or sixteen at the time and I was very rebellious and hyper by that stage. I have since been diagnosed with Bipolar II disorder and ADHD and there is a high co-morbidity with the two.
89. Fenton was alright, but he took me into his study and told me to bend over. I refused and he kind of shrugged and said, "Okay". Corporal punishment wasn't officially over at that time and he was part of the system, but it was ridiculous for a man in his late twenties to be expected to beat a teenage boy like that.

Iain Wares

90. Iain Wares never taught me, but he was a psychopath and a violent person, as well as being a serious sexual predator. We called him 'Weirdo Wares', which is also the nickname he was given when he later taught in South Africa. His violence is kind of underplayed a bit because of all the other stuff, but he was known as someone to steer clear of if we could. His face would go red and he was known to fly off into tempers and hurt people badly.
91. We used to use a horrible, homophobic word to describe him because his liking for boys was well known. I remember he frequently used to stand on the periphery of the showers and as you went in he would flick you with a wet towel for no reason. It was very sore, but that was the extent of my direct experience of him.
92. I did, however, see Iain Wares abuse my friend [REDACTED] in the changing rooms. I was perhaps only six or eight feet away from them as we all changed after games. The room was crowded with boys and I saw Wares crouching over [REDACTED] from behind. It looked as if Wares was tucking [REDACTED]'s shirt in, but in fact he was pulling [REDACTED]'s shorts and pants down and his hands were touching [REDACTED]'s penis. They were both giggling, but it was clear that Wares was trying to give a nine-year-old boy an erection.

93. I have been in fairly regular contact with probably eight guys over the years, including [REDACTED], who is my oldest friend still alive. We have spoken in fairly oblique terms about various teachers over the years, but we have done so without saying, "What happened to you?" It's only recently, when it all started to come out, that we have talked more about it and I now know that three of my eight friends, the three who had Wares as a teacher, were abused by him.
94. [REDACTED] emailed me with a long account, beautifully written, about what had happened to him. He wrote about Wares, saying that he could remember standing beside him in the classroom, in front of the whole class. He could remember Wares pulling him towards him and he could remember his breath. He said that he could remember his hand and he could remember Wares' fingers being inside him.
95. He didn't write it in his email, but he told me that he could remember enjoying it. He was only nine years old and he'd never felt anything like that before. He said he could remember it feeling warm and he said he could remember it felt good.
96. It broke my heart reading what [REDACTED] had written and I read it out on my podcast, although the BBC lawyers took some stuff out, for instance the description of Wares. I couldn't understand why, but I was told it was because he might be identifiable and we had to be very careful.
97. When it all came out, a guy called [REDACTED] messaged me on 'Twitter' and told me he was the year below me at school. We later spoke on the 'phone and he asked me who 'Edgar' was. I told him and he dropped his 'phone and all I could hear was him sobbing. Once he gathered himself, we cried together and he told me that he had suppressed it for all these years and he had never told anyone.
98. Many people have told me that Wares not only played with people genitals and penises while he marked their jotters as they stood up at his desk, but also that he frequently inserted his fingers up their backsides. One of them was a chap who went out to South Africa for Wares' criminal court hearing there, Neil Douglas. I spoke to Neil after the

hearing and asked him what it had been like. He replied "it was really weird being so close to someone whose fingers had been inside me when I was nine years old".

99. I met an old friend of mine, [IDL], recently, who has also made complaints about teachers. [IDL] says he remembers me telling him about what I'd witnessed at the time. He also said that, because Wares' behaviour was so common, he remembers when we were about nine or ten, a group of us standing outside after games and playing a game of 'tag', but the game was that you touched your friends testicles and this game was based on Iain Wares.

[IDT]

100. [IDT], one of my teachers in the upper school, was [REDACTED] and he had a hair-trigger temper. He was an absolute nightmare of a man. He was a big guy. [REDACTED] was in my year and he was in the 1st XV rugby team.
101. I recall a time that I felt unwell during one of [IDT]'s classes. I had a terrible stomach ache and needed to go to the loo. I had these cramps, but [IDT] wouldn't let me go. He was a horrible man and, as a result, I slightly soiled myself and felt awful for the rest of the lesson.
102. Since I've been reconnecting with people following my podcasts, several have mentioned [IDT] and how he was. Quite a few of them have told me about [IDT] attacking them as well. I was chatting to a friend [REDACTED], who is a writer and historian, recently. He and I both remember [IDT] throwing a chalk duster and it going flying past his head. [IDT] was renowned for that. I saw him throw one once. It could have hit you in the eye and seriously injured you.
103. I recall a guy in the year above us had been tied to a desk by some of his peers and the desk was pulled into the yard outside. This poor guy couldn't move, however when [IDT] saw him he went over to him and started whacking him for being tied to the desk. He was a brutal physical abuser.

104. IDT beat me up once at exam time, when I was about fourteen, or fifteen. A number of my former classmates have mentioned it to me more recently. I had been with a friend and we didn't know what class to go to because everything was higgledy-piggledy due to the exams being on.
105. We were in the yard outside, trying to work out where we should be from a timetable on the noticeboard, possibly five minutes after the bell had gone, when IDT saw me. As soon as he did, he went for me. He never said anything, he just came right up to me like a guided missile and started heaving me about, whacking me around the head with his fists, kicking me and pulling my hair. He was throwing me around like a rag doll and I might have fallen on the floor at one point, I'm not sure. He was demented.
106. Afterwards, when he had calmed down, the three of us sat in the sixth form common room and I was sobbing. My friend was crying too, because, although IDT hadn't touched him, like me he was clearly really shaken. I think IDT realised he had gone too far and I went on the front foot and told him that what he had done was illegal and that I could call the police. I could see him start to panic a bit at that.
107. We had a long talk, whereby he tried to talk the situation around and claw it back. That's what he was good at because ultimately he became ██████████ Glasgow Academy, but Edinburgh Academy must have known what he was like. Lots of my contemporaries remember this incident because it was the talk of the school at the time.

Reporting of abuse at Edinburgh Academy

108. We would never go home and say anything about what was happening at Edinburgh Academy. We knew it was wrong, but we didn't know it was right to tell. You wouldn't go home and tell your parents about getting beaten by people like John Brownlee, because your parents would think you'd got into trouble. We also wouldn't want to tell our parents about the sexual stuff that was going on. Perhaps we thought that was just what happens. That's what some adults do.

109. You couldn't say anything to anyone at the school either, because if you did, with teachers such as Brownlee and Wares, you might get the living daylight beaten out of you. A friend of mine who was in one of the boarding houses was so miserable about what Brownlee was doing to him that he wrote to his parents about it. Brownlee, however, was intercepting the mail and censoring it and those letters were rewritten.
110. I didn't know what to think after Dawson rubbed my penis. I went home and never said anything to my parents or anybody and just tried to kind of brush it off. I knew it was wrong and I was ashamed, but I knew that if I had said anything all hell would break loose. I used to be a very tactile little boy, who would play-fight with my sister Fiona and who used to hug our Mum and sit on Dad's knee, but my sister has since told me that I stopped doing that almost overnight.
111. I was very close to a few boys at Edinburgh Academy and have remained close friends with three or four of them. We got up to all sorts, but we never, at any time while we were at school, mentioned to each other anything about the sexual abuse. It is only now that we have started talking about it. We have wondered what would have happened if we had said something. We came to the conclusion, which is well evidenced, that nothing would have happened.
112. There were, however, some boys who did speak to their parents about Wares and their parents complained. I know a couple whose parents did so and nothing was done, however the parents of a friend of mine, ██████████, did. ██████'s Dad, ██████████ was a journalist and his mother ██████████ went on to run ██████████ and so they were prominent Edinburgh liberal establishment. They complained to Mr IGG ██████████, SNR ██████████ and asked what was going on and it was following this that Wares was officially moved and went to Fettes.
113. After getting beaten up by IDT ██████████, I sobbed all the way home. I was so distressed. It was terrible. I didn't have any physical injuries, only soreness, but as soon as Mum saw me and I told her what had happened, she was furious.

114. Mum got straight on the 'phone to the school and [REDACTED] 'phoned the following day and gave a grovelling apology to her. He never apologised to me and she told me it was a very mealy-mouthed, grudging apology that she received. Mum was very unusual, in that she took it to them, because I don't think a lot of parents would have, but I suspect it was because of her line of work as a psychiatric social worker.

Leaving Edinburgh Academy

115. I and a lot of my old school chums were considered troublemakers, but if we were, it was for very good reason. I think I'd been in the bad books since I had been beaten up by [REDACTED]
116. I've subsequently discovered from speaking to three or four of those old school chums that we were all actually expelled from the school by Laurence Ellis, the rector, but it was done on the quiet. He got us each in his office and told us that he thought "we'd come as far as we could. You've got your grades, don't you think you should go to university now?". I don't think Ellis wanted it on record that several pupils had been expelled.
117. I had already got the grades to go to Aberdeen University, but I had been considering whether to stay on and do A-levels. A lot of my reports had said that I had 'unrealised potential' and I think Mum and Dad thought it might be worthwhile giving it a go, but instead Ellis told me I had to leave.
118. That said, I felt good leaving. I was going to Aberdeen with my friends [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and later [REDACTED] and I started to find focus in my life.

Radio 4 programme, 1993

119. Around 1993, while I was on Radio 1, Radio 4 were doing a programme about going back to your old school and speaking to your favourite teacher. I was asked if I wanted to do it and I agreed. I wanted to get John Brownlee on and confront him. The

programme makers got in touch with Brownlee, but they then told me that Brownlee had said he didn't remember me and he didn't want to do it.

120. I knew he was afraid. I was in the public eye and he would know who I was. He must surely have realised I had been a pupil of his. If I had been he and had nothing to hide, he would have done it.

'Blue-eyed Son – a story of an adoption'

121. My book 'Blue-eyed Son – a story of an adoption', was published in 2003. I reference some of the abusers in it at Chapter 2, however nobody paid a blind bit of notice. In writing about them I just thought I'd tell it like it was, but I really softened the hierarchy of abuse that existed.
122. It was a shot in the dark, but I thought there would be some pick up in the media and that there would be some momentum behind it. The abusers were alive at that time and I thought it was a good way of talking about the abuse, rather than doing an interview.
123. I was far too kind about Edinburgh Academy and I also said that my abuse was not as bad as others had experienced. That's what you do though. I didn't want to seem self-pitying. I mentioned three people specifically and I showed the passage to the police recently and they told me they knew immediately who they were.
124. Some years later, I happened to be speaking with a guy who was an Edinburgh Academy teacher and, out of curiosity, I asked him why the school never asked me to do any stuff, not that I wanted to. He told me it was because of the book, which came on top of the Iain Glen stuff: an interview Iain had given to a newspaper about his sexual abuse. Clearly the school had picked up on the passage in my book, even though nobody else did.

'WhatsApp' group

125. I am a member of a 'WhatsApp' group called 'EA Survivors', in which a number of us share some of our experiences. Someone had posted a picture of Iain Wares on the group and for some people that had been a real trigger.
126. One chap in the WhatsApp group said that he saw one particular boy abused every day by Wares, and yet this boy now says nothing happened. It's horrendously traumatic and I think some people just close it all down.

Podcasts

127. I came home one day and my wife Tina told me there was a program on the radio by the journalist Alex Renton about sexual and physical abuse at Edinburgh Academy. She asked me if I wanted to listen to it, but I couldn't. I went upstairs and started to weep after attempting to play the electric upright piano in my study, however, after some thought, I realised I had to speak to Alex Renton and I 'phoned him the next day. I told him I had to tell him about one of the teachers at my Prep school who was called Iain. He immediately replied "Wares" and he knew exactly who I was talking about.
128. I decided to do a podcast to bring it all out and I asked Alex to come on and talk about the school and Iain Wares. We called that podcast 'Edgar' and it came out in July 2022.
129. We got lots of reaction to it. Alex said that it was like "someone had told the grownups at last." That really resonated with me. We realised there were so many and that what happened to us when we were nine, or ten years old, mattered. It has mattered to all those boys and it has had a hell of an effect on their lives.
130. In October 2022 we did another podcast and in January 2023 I went on Alex Renton's Radio 4 programme, 'In Dark Corners'.

131. More recently, I asked my friend [REDACTED] how often his abuse by Wares had happened and he told me it was about three times a week for two years. I asked another friend how often it had happened to him and he told me it was every day for two years. We realised that, if you work it out, Wares must be one of the most profoundly evil and prolific paedophiles in British criminal history. Given the regularity with which he offended over the five years he was at the Academy and the six years at Fettes, the number of his offences is in the thousands.
132. Before we spoke about Hamish Dawson on the podcast, we knew that we needed to find out from the Academy if there was any family, so that we could forewarn them. My producers wrote to Barry Welsh, the rector of the school and asked if the school had any contacts, but heard nothing. We couldn't do any more and so the podcast was put out.
133. Jenny Pearson, Hamish Dawson's daughter, found out about it when a friend rang her about the podcast and, as she later told me, she complained to the school about not having been forewarned. Jenny said that Barry Welsh had apologised to her verbally, but that he had refused to give her a written apology when she asked for one. When she queried why not, he said "because you might give it to Nicky Campbell and we don't know what he'd do with it".
134. In February 2023 we did another podcast during which I spoke to Jenny. I found her to be a lovely, sensitive, woman, who had an horrendous childhood herself. The difficulty for me was that she looks like him. Seeing his profile brought it all back and gave me the chills. It was hard, but worth it. She was so brave.
135. In addition to the podcasts I did a thing on the radio with four other guys who were Wares survivors. Wares is currently the subject of an investigation in South Africa after a guy called 'Steven' reported having been abused by him there and I had 'Steven' on that show as well. This man's pseudonym was 'Steven' in 'Dark Corners' and he told me that Wares had shown the whole class of twenty boys the film 'E.T.' when it came out in 1982. He turned the lights off while it was showing and went round

every boy and put his hands down their shorts. 'Steven' says that when he hears the E.T. theme now he has a panic attack

136. Edinburgh Academy have not been in contact with me since my book was published, nor since my podcasts. It was following the podcasts that Neil Douglas, who had gone out to South Africa to see Wares appear in court, tried to get in touch with me via the school because he wanted to speak to me about stuff.
137. Neil asked the school to forward his contact details to me and Barry Welsh, the rector, forwarded it to one of the producers of my radio show, Alison. Alison had gone to Barry Welsh for a statement after we'd spoken to the four guys on the radio and the school had responded to the effect that they fully supported all the survivors. However, in his email forwarding Neil's contact details, Barry Welsh said 'despite the reputational damage that will be done to the school, I think it is the right thing to do to pass these details on'.
138. I was outraged by that and got in touch with Neil and we had a good chat. I wrote back to Barry Welsh and told him I was not concerned with the reputational damage to the school, but I was concerned about the lifetime of damage, the scarring, that many boys were suffering. I also said that I was willing to meet him and speak at any time. I didn't hear anything back.
139. It is from speaking to all these men who were abused as small children by Wares, who have been so scarred and affected, that I have found the fire to pursue this. It has, however, been difficult hearing everything. I'm not trained for that sort of thing. It has been relentless and my wife tells me I must step back, but it's not easy.
140. At the height of it all I didn't sleep for two weeks. I was having all these conversations and I was taking sleeping tablets, but I knew it was the right thing to have done. One guy phoned me up and said he had heard two words on the news and those two words had changed his life. The two words were 'Hamish Dawson' and he said that hearing those words was a turning point in his life and were the beginning of a recovery. He realised he wasn't alone.

Newspaper articles

141. A number of years ago, [REDACTED] Iain Glen gave an interview to one of the newspapers referencing his abuse by Iain Wares. I think it was possibly for 'Scotland on Sunday'. After he did so, all hell fell on his head from the Edinburgh establishment. He was accused of making it all up, or criticised for bringing it up. He got a lot of flak and he was informed that sort of thing wasn't talked about. I know that he subsequently regretted it.
142. Out of courtesy I emailed Iain to let him know about the exposure of 'Edgar'. He replied asking who Edgar was and I told him it was Iain Wares. He replied, 'That figures' and that has been his only communication on the matter with me.
143. The Times carried an article about John Brownlee and there was a bit of kickback afterwards from a couple of former Edinburgh Academy pupils. One was a guy called [REDACTED], who said Brownlee was a fine man. [REDACTED] had been in the 1st XV and had been a head prefect and he wrote 'all these people want to do is fill their pension pots'.
144. A lot of people were really upset about that. It is victim-blaming, it is gaslighting. A couple of the guys taking civil action are extremely wealthy. These people are not in it to fill their pension pots, they just want some acknowledgement and some justice.
145. A couple of guys on the WhatsApp group said they had seen [REDACTED] being abused by Wares. One said he could recall seeing [REDACTED] being abused most days and that he could remember seeing [REDACTED] was aroused, because that's what happens. This guy told the journalist, who then put it to [REDACTED] and his response was that Wares was a bit "touchy-feely, but it didn't do me any harm".
146. Sometimes the best way of dealing with childhood trauma is just not to think about it. Another guy called [REDACTED] was playing golf with one of the people who has come to the fore in all this, a chap called [REDACTED], and he asked him what he thought about it

all. [REDACTED]'s response was "well Wares fiddled with me, but I think I'm alright". The next day [REDACTED] rang [REDACTED] and asked him what he could do about it. He'd thought about it overnight and realised there had been an impact on him.

Contact with teachers and Edinburgh Academy

147. I wrote about [REDACTED] and I think I mentioned him on the radio, or something like that. He had been quite an 'Accie' man, part of the establishment, but he was a good teacher and afterwards I got a nice letter from his widow.
148. Recently I've been following George Harris, who is called the 'History lecturer' on 'Twitter'. He had been my History teacher at school and had written a lot of the goodbyes, including one of the goodbyes for Hamish Dawson. I've had a private 'Twitter' exchange with him, within which he has commented about how upset he is to hear all the reports of what went on at the school. I can only conclude the teachers who did know just stared at their brogues.
149. When I was writing my book I returned to Edinburgh with my birth half-sister, Esther, and we went to the Prep school. I had already told her some of the stuff about Wares and Brownlee that had been going on. We drove around the school and on the way out we were stopped by a man standing beside a house at the gates. I'm not sure, but I think he was a deputy head, or something like that, however he recognised me and invited Esther and me in for a cup of tea.
150. I told him I had mixed memories of the school, to say the least, and we started talking about [REDACTED]. He said "I don't know about you, but if somebody touches you there you tell them to go away". I told him [REDACTED] had been nine years old at the time and described what I had seen. I told him Wares had tried to give [REDACTED] an erection by massaging his penis and it was like the guy had been given an electric shock. It had all been in the abstract for him, but I thought it was worthwhile telling him the reality.
151. I have passed the school a few times, however I did go back once, a number of years ago. A debate about the environment was being held at the school in the assembly

hall and I was asked to go. I don't think the debate had been organised by the school, but it was really weird going back. The school staff who were there were welcoming, but there were lots of ghosts. I had a maelstrom of feelings: fear, disappointment, anger, sadness, guilt and a lack of comprehension why we didn't report these people. I think we were groomed not to.

152. Since my first podcast on these issues and coming out about my own abuse on the radio I have had no contact from the school, which I find surprising. In a reported conversation to another survivor the Rector said "we have had a lot of trouble from a certain BBC employee." One wonders in terms of denial and passing the blame how much has really changed.
153. Recently [REDACTED], a prominent and active Academic close to the school hierarchy was playing golf with a survivor. He didn't know his golf companion was a survivor who was in touch with me and he started talking about the abuse at the school, confirming he knew it went on and that his late father, a teacher at the school in the 70s and 80s had told him the staff knew. For talking about my own abuse and trying to help others he referred to me as a "fucking snowflake". This was hard to hear, especially as his father Mr IFN [REDACTED] was the one who had humiliated me in class all those years ago. And it says a lot about the prehistoric attitudes of some in the Edinburgh establishment. When it comes to understanding the impact of sexual abuse, I think some people have a way to go

Valedictories

154. I've done a lot of soul searching and I've done a lot of 'Google' searching and I think I've probably read most of the valedictories written about the various teachers and abusers at Edinburgh Academy.
155. I only saw them fairly recently, but the teachers used to write peculiar things about each other. Reading them now, in the light of everything, there is some strange stuff in them. They are written as if the author knows what each teacher they are writing

about is like. Wares' valedictory is very short, but John Brownlee's said something like he didn't suffer fools gladly and that he was 'strongly confrontational'.

156. I think Dawson's departure from Edinburgh Academy was sudden and his valedictory is quite knowing. It was a very curious goodbye. There was a comment that his 'life at the Academy wasn't always easy'. I wondered if that remark was concerning the porn, or the fact that the school had rumbled him. There is a lot that can be read between the lines.

BBC 'Panorama' Investigation

157. I am aware that a BBC 'Panorama' investigation is ongoing and that the thrust of the programme is Wares. The programme will be looking at the failings of the Academy and of Fettes and how Wares was even taken on in the first place. It is known that he had come from South Africa for treatment for a problem. It will also look at how this man was passed on between the Academy and Fettes and then sent back to South Africa to continue teaching there.
158. It is an incredible story and inevitably Panorama will be asking for interviews with the Academy and with Fettes. I think the Academy got wind of that and have since recruited a new PR company and tough new lawyers.

Impact

159. I am now diagnosed Bipolar 2 disorder and ADHD, although nobody knew what that was when I was at school. I can hyper-focus on something I am interested in, but it is a high bar and I have difficulty following film plots and that sort of thing. I also had issues with my identity because of my adoption and all those problems are made worse by environmental circumstances. Scenarios such as I was exposed to at Edinburgh Academy cause me ongoing difficulties.
160. When I left, I took a lot of drugs at university and in the early stages of my career. I was obsessed with radio and I hyper-focussed on it. Certainly Dawson had an effect

on me. I have had disastrous relationships until meeting my second wife, because I was emotionally all over the place.

161. Ever since Hamish Dawson abused me I have had a problem with touching people. Even my Mum. I panic if I haven't seen someone for a while and have to give them a hug. I think that relates directly to that abuse because it was an intense, uncomfortable experience.
162. I have the image of Iain Wares abusing my friend [REDACTED] in my mind a lot. It is disgusting. I know that [REDACTED] himself wants to be someone else. I can still feel Dawson touching my penis. Probably every day I think about Brownlee playing a golf shot with his clachan on my backside frequently and pummelling my head with his knuckles. And [REDACTED] demented and out of control, beating me up with no thought for the consequences. I will never forget those experiences, the pictures and feelings cross my mind every day. It haunts you.
163. I'm very easily right back in Dawson's lap, or I'm right back in that changing room, seeing Wares bent over [REDACTED] or I'm right back in Brownlee's classroom, seeing him coming and waiting to be hit. I still experience the fear.
164. I know there shouldn't be a hierarchy of abuse, but I do consider that in some ways I'm really lucky that Wares wasn't my teacher. I did experience some things that no child should have to experience, but those guys who did have him as their teacher and who were abused by him every day are so brave. They have incredible fortitude and strength and courage.
165. Tina, my wife of twenty-five years, has said that she considers my abuse and the abuse I witnessed, has informed my whole life. I agree. Were it not for me being a day boy and returning to a loving home, I would have gone down the path of many of the people I speak to who have had their lives ruined. Tina believes my Mum and Dad saved me and gave me my inner strength.

166. I have mental health issues, which I have spoken about in the media and written about and I have had two breakdowns, one comparatively recently. Everything contributes and I know that breakdowns such as I suffered can be exacerbated by experiences. I didn't, as a nine year old, need to see Wares abusing [REDACTED] and I didn't need to have all that stuff happen to me.
167. Looking back now, I know that I suffered from depression at school and also some manic episodes. I didn't realise that's what it was at the time, but I remember black times, when I thought the world was a terrible place.
168. I get great comfort from my three dogs. I couldn't live without them. All my life I've felt an incredible affinity with animals, their beauty and innocence, their majesty and their gentleness. I have worked very hard on a number of animal welfare issues, including campaigning on the ivory trade and wildlife crime. I see these things as an attack on innocence. A few years ago I was awarded an OBE for services to children because of my work with children's charities. Throughout all this I have been trying to live up to that, if I can.

Treatment/support

169. When I had my second breakdown about ten years ago I went to see a counsellor and it was then that I was diagnosed Bipolar. I've not had any counselling more recently, but I do intend seeing the counsellor I spoke to at that time again. I appreciate it is something I should consider.

Reporting of Abuse

170. In 2015 I was sent something in the paper by my friend [REDACTED] that mentioned Edinburgh Academy and Fettes and it all started coming back to me. It was boiling up inside me so I rang an English police officer whose name had been given me. I told him about some of my experiences and what I had witnessed happening to [REDACTED], although he didn't ask me for details over the phone. The police officer told me that to pursue any charges they would need the victim to come forward so I got in touch

with [IOU], but he was reluctant. At that time nothing was joined up. We didn't know about all the other stuff that had been happening.

171. There were murmurings about Fettes and there had been some mention of Edinburgh Academy at that time, but it didn't seem to go anywhere. Thinking about that now, if it had been a Scottish police officer I'd spoken to, who knew about all the other stuff, perhaps more might have been done at that time.
172. I recently reported to the police the incident when John Brownlee grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and pummelled my head with his knuckles. I gave a statement and was given a crime number. I am aware that others have spoken to the police as well and in total I think there are eighteen charges against John Brownlee.
173. More recently we were all called by the police who told us that Brownlee has Alzheimer's, but that the files had all been passed over to the Procurator Fiscal and a decision will be made on how to proceed. Colin Moffat, the head of the police investigation, said that it was not over and that they might make the decision to have an examination of the facts, rather than a court case. There has been a lot of consternation about that, though. Several people have commented that Brownlee will get away with it, but I think some guys just want acknowledgement that these were crimes.

Records

174. I don't know if Edinburgh Academy will have kept any records. I believe punishments books were kept, but I only heard about them recently. I wasn't aware they existed at the time.
175. [IDT] assaulting me affected me deeply, but it was the resistance of the school that was so difficult to understand. When Mum died and we were clearing out her house, I came across a box that was full of reports and stuff like that from the Academy. Mum and Dad had kept everything.

176. In the box was all this correspondence between Mum and the school about IDT IDT. I think she had been worried about me, even after IDT had given her the grudging apology, and she wouldn't let it lie. I found them years before I made the podcasts about Edinburgh Academy and I couldn't stand reading the stuff.

Lessons to be Learned and hopes for the Inquiry

177. Edinburgh Academy should have been an environment that taught us empathy and self-respect, but it did not. It taught us antipathy, loathing and self-loathing. It was a cold-hearted place with all that stuff going on, unfettered, in every class that started each year.
178. There was no-one for us to talk to. Edinburgh Academy was a male-dominated environment in the upper school. There was the chaplain, but he was not someone we could have confided in. I suppose there is safe-guarding now and children would go to the police, but the school knew at the time I was there and they should have gone to the police. These men were committing crimes and, like the familiar and sickening tale of the church, whereby priests were passed on from parish to parish, teachers were passed on from school to school.
179. I know that a lot of people have questioned how there could have been complaints about Wares to Edinburgh Academy, how his behaviour had been known about and yet there was seemingly no mention of it in the Masters' lodge. They must have known about the history of these men if they have any curiosity at all and they must have had curiosity because they are intelligent, educated people.
180. It's interesting now hearing various teachers speak of the tensions that existed in the Masters' lodge. They had so much hatred and jealousies for each other. I remember hearing an interview on 'YouTube' with a gym teacher called IBU who was talking about the hatreds that existed and what a dysfunctional character ICH, the rector, was. I've also heard discussion of the disgusting and lewd comments made by teachers when girls started at the school. Given that, I find it inconceivable that

they wouldn't talk about Dawson tickling somebody, or about [redacted] s behaviour, or about Wares.

181. I got an email when it all came out from a guy called Mr Benson, who had been a teacher at Edinburgh Academy Prep School. He was a nice guy and made some comment about how terrible it was. He asked me if Edgar was "the South African" and, if so, he told me, he had never had anything to do with "the South African". He said he always thought there was something not quite right about him, or words to that effect.
182. I think mandatory reporting is important. I appreciate there are interesting arguments on both sides, but ultimately, if there had been some sort of rudimentary reporting, whether statutory or by individual conscience, a lot of lives would not have been blighted. On balance, mandatory reporting would have stopped a lot of suffering.
183. I think Edinburgh Academy should have owned the abuse. They should have reached out to the survivors from the beginning. I know that the school Wares taught at in South Africa wrote a letter to every single pupil. Edinburgh Academy should have done so too. They should have told everyone that what happened was terrible and that they were there for anyone who wished to contact them. They could have come out smelling of roses, but instead they have taken the defensive route.
184. I am aware that Lady Smith has commented on the fortitude, strength and courage shown by the people Wares abused. She also said that I had every right to talk about the abuse because I think the other side were arguing that I shouldn't have been exploiting my profile. She said I had every right to do so because I had experienced it. I found that quite moving and empowering.

Other information

185. It has been a really weird time since the summer. In my life I have done good things and I have done bad things and I have done indifferent things. I have done good professional work and I have done terrible professional work. Like all of us, I have

been a good human being and I have been a bad human being, but I know that this was the right thing to do. I am, and always will be, proud of those broadcasts and podcasts. I think they have helped people. I know they have helped people.

- 186. Since all this came out in August I have been in contact with dozens of survivors and it has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to have in some way helped, encouraged and even emboldened them to come forward and talk about what happened to them. And for some to begin, at least, at last, the next steps in their lives to hopefully a better place. Understanding the past and explaining the present. I have been at an epicentre. I've never known anything like it and some the things I've been told will haunt me forever.

- 187. This has come at a considerable cost to my own mental health and my wife has been persuading me to take more of a backseat. That's not going to happen anytime soon. I want justice for these extraordinary men - from every walk of life. Some are very successful in life, whatever your criteria are for success, some are less so, but all have carried so much inside. There is so much damage. This is about healing. I wouldn't change a thing. I was right to speak out, however much they may continue to attack us.

- 188. 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..... 05 June 2023