

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ICW

Support person present: No

1. My name is ICW. I have always been known by that name. My date of birth is 1959. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Edinburgh Academy

2. I was born and educated in Edinburgh. I lived at home with my mother, father and younger sister who is around eighteen months younger than me. My mother was from England and my dad was originally from Fife. They met and married in Nigeria when my dad was doing his national service.
3. As a family, we mainly lived in the Barnton area of Edinburgh. My mother's name was . She was a housewife and latterly a teacher. My father's name was Dr . He was a Consultant Paediatrician. My mother and father are now deceased. My sister has just retired from public service.
4. My first schooling was at Kelvinside Academy in Glasgow. We moved to Edinburgh after my dad was appointed to a consultant paediatric job. It was at that time that it was decided I would attend Edinburgh Academy. My family had no previous affiliation with the school, but it was seen as the thing to do to send boys to Edinburgh Academy and girls to St George's. The view was, it tended to be those who wanted to be lawyers or doctors who went to Edinburgh Academy and St George's. While Stewart's Melville College, Mary Erskine and George Heriot's were regarded as producing business men

and women. I'm sure that's not the case now, but it was how it was seen at the time I went.

Entrance exam

5. I recall having to sit various entrance examinations prior to my mum and dad deciding which school they wanted me to attend. I sat examinations for entry into Edinburgh Academy, Stewart's, Melville, because they were separate schools at that time, and Watsons. Surprisingly I passed all of them and then my mum and dad chose the Academy. Looking back on it, it wasn't their best choice as I didn't particularly enjoy the school. I attended Edinburgh Academy as a day pupil from 196█ to 197█, from the age of six to eighteen. As was tradition at the time, my sister was sent to St George's, also as a day pupil.
6. I can't recall if I visited the school, other than for the purpose of sitting the entrance exam, prior to me attending as a pupil.

Edinburgh Academy, Edinburgh

7. Edinburgh Academy had, at that time, three geographical locations. Preschool was located at Denham Green which is virtually opposite Golden Acre, the Heriot's grounds. From there, you moved to the Preparatory School which was located at Arboretum Road. The prep school was primary one to six. The Academy was slightly different in that you moved to the senior school, at Henderson Row, in primary seven and went straight into subject teaching rather than having one class teacher. The transition year was referred to as 'Geits' for some reason.
8. When I started at Edinburgh Academy, I initially went into the preparatory school. If I remember correctly, the head teacher of Edinburgh prep, as they called it, was Mr Britton. It was called Edinburgh Academy Preparatory School as they wanted to follow the English system of schooling, as did a number of other schools in Edinburgh.

Preparatory School

9. The education at the Preparatory School was very formal. I remember doing Latin at a very early age. It was all quite strict. That said, there was a fairly pleasant atmosphere in the prep school, despite some of the untoward things that went on. I did very well in the preparatory school, but my educational performance took a nose dive around the time I encountered Ian Wares.
10. The teachers I can remember from the Preparatory School are Miss Bushnell, Miss [IPK], [ICA] and Ian Wares. Mr [ICA] had a reputation for dishing out corporal punishment. Ian Wares was sexually abusive towards a large number of children at the Preparatory School.

Senior School

11. There were some very good teachers in the senior school. I specifically remember [IFP] who was an excellent [] teacher and I give him a lot of credit for my interest in [] which carried on into my teaching career. I couldn't tell you all the teachers I had because there was a different teacher for each subject. I do however remember my registration teachers. In year order they were, Mr Wilcox, Mr Jarmin, Mr Wilmshurst, Mr Bevin, Mr Harris and Mr Bevin again. They were all registration teachers, but they all taught individual subjects too. Mr Bevin for example was an outstanding English teacher.
12. The Academy, at that time, had a mixture of English O Levels, which were set by Oxford and Cambridge and Scottish O Grades. If you failed an O Level in the summer, there were re-takes in the winter. It felt as though we were doing a lot of exams at quite a young age.

Daily Routine

13. The daily routine was fairly similar in both Preparatory School and Senior School. As a day pupil, I would start school at around 8:45 or 9:00 am. We had classes throughout

the day broken up by a morning break, lunch and an afternoon break. There was a mix of day and boarding school pupils in each of my classes of around twenty-four or twenty five. The school day finished at around 3:30 pm and I would often get the bus home which was an experience. The school uniform didn't always go down well when you were getting the number one bus home through Muirhouse.

Mealtimes/Food

14. The day pupils and boarders were served lunch in the dining halls together at all stages of the school. It was back in the days when you would be served food, rather than a cafeteria system. There would be a teacher at the head of each table and they would serve the food from a large bowl. I think the standard of the food was fine and I can't recall there being any issues at mealtimes.

School uniform

15. The school colours were white and blue. In the Preparatory School, our uniform consisted of a white shirt, tie, blue blazer, shorts, belt and a cap. In the Senior School, we wore a tweed like jacket for the first two terms, long trousers, white shirt, tie and a blue blazer in the third term. The school did not provide any of the uniform, it was all supplied by my mum and dad.

Sport and athletics

16. In both the Preparatory School and Senior School, we had PE twice a week in the gymnasiums and sports on the main pitches at Newfield. We would go to the Newfield changing rooms to get ready and there were showering facilities available for after games.
17. At the Preparatory School I remember playing a weird game called 'hailes'. They used a clacken which is like a big wooden spoon, but flat ended. The game is similar to shinty, but they had to stop playing that because kids were getting hurt.

18. In the Senior School, we played rugby during the first two terms of the year and cricket during the third. I remember walking to the pitches at Newfield. I played rugby to quite a high standard, but believe it or not, I was actually too small for the game. I also played a lot of hockey which I carried on playing into adulthood.

Religious instruction

19. The Academy was a non-denominational school so religion was not a primary focus. I think, by law in Scotland, schools have to have a minimum of one assembly per week. I don't remember there being any more than that and there wasn't much to it. I think the head teacher would read something and we would sing a couple of hymns.

Inspections

20. I don't recall any inspections of the school taking place when I was there. That said, I probably wouldn't have noticed at the time. I don't think HMI inspections started until much later, around the early 80's, and even then, they were not a frequent occurrence. I taught for twenty-four years at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they were inspected twice during that time.

Boarding and houses

21. Edinburgh Academy had a large number of boarders and a large portion of that number was made up of service children. I'd say there were roughly five or six boarders per class in the Preparatory School and likely more in the Senior School. Although I never boarded at The Academy I'm aware there were four boarding houses called, Cockburn, Carmichael, Kinross and Houses. While the day pupils and the boarders mixed throughout the school day, the day pupils never visited to the boarding houses.

Discipline

Corporal punishment

22. Corporal punishment was a strong part of the school ethos at Edinburgh Academy. There was fear of it amongst the boys. It wasn't as prolific in the Preparatory School, but I'd say most, if not all, of the teachers in the Senior School used it.
23. My first encounter with corporal punishment was in the Preparatory School. ICA [redacted], one of the teachers, had a reputation for giving it out with the belt and his hands. He was scary and a bit of a bully. I remember he was tall with thick, tight, curly hair. He had a very pockmarked face and was probably in his early fifties, but it's difficult to judge an adults age when you are a child. He was still teaching in the Preparatory School in the early 80's when I started teaching.
24. Corporal punishment was common at the Academy, more so in the senior school than the Preparatory School, but that may have had something to do with there being a fairly large proportion of female teachers in the Preparatory School. There weren't any female teachers in the Senior School, all the teachers were male. It was a daily occurrence within the Senior School and you just had to accept it. It could be for a very minor misdemeanour and sometimes, you wouldn't even know what it was for. There were occasions where a teacher would just line everyone up and give us all the belt.

Prefects

25. In the senior school, prefects, or Ephors as they were known, could give out corporal punishment. It was a form of 'fagging', similar to that of the English public school system at the time. A teacher could send a boy to the prefect room for punishment. I don't remember how this was organised or how the prefect was told when you were coming or what punishment to give. I just remember walking along the corridor to the prefect's room and knocking on the door. A prefect would come out and it would usually be a training shoe to the backside, over your clothing. Some of these prefects were seventeen or eighteen year old rugby players, so it was sore. I wasn't an angel

at school so this happened to me several times, but it happened to most of the other boys too.

Other forms of discipline

26. Other forms of punishment included lines in the Preparatory School. The Senior School had a system that they called the 'red lined punishment' where you were given an A4 page with red lines. At the top of the page there would be a space where the teacher would write what the punishment was for and what you were to do. At the bottom of the page was a space where one of your parents had to sign it before you handed it in. I very quickly learnt how to forge my dad's signature.

Recording of Discipline

27. I'd be very surprised if any of the punishments, corporal or otherwise, were recorded by the school in any way. It seemed to me to be a very ad hoc arrangement often dished out on a whim in class.

Abuse at Edinburgh Academy

Ian Wares – Primary 6 Teacher

28. Ian Wares was a teacher at Edinburgh Academy Preparatory School. He was my class teacher in Primary six. When I first encountered him, he seemed like a fairly laid back character compared to ICA [REDACTED]. He was quite informal with the children. I remember he always wore the green blazer of the South African rugby team, the Springboks, and he had blondish hair which he wore in a side parting.
29. In his class, we all sat at single desks facing the front of the classroom. His desk was in the right hand corner as we were looking at it. On a daily basis he would call one of the boys up to his desk, under the pretence of checking their work. His hand would go up the pupil's shorts and he would fondle their genitals. I have a feeling he was left

handed as he would be writing with his left hand and abusing the pupil with his right. It was so blatant and there was no attempt to hide it. I could see this clearly as I was always sat quite close to the front of class. The desks were arranged in accordance with a mark system. The lower your marks, the further back you sat. I was doing well academically up to that point, but my academic work started to decline around this time. I can't say if it was as a direct result of what I was witnessing.

30. This was a daily occurrence and all the boys talked about it. The saddest thing is that some of the boys would make comments like, 'it felt quite nice' or 'I felt quite warm'. That was probably their first sexual encounter as they were approaching puberty.
31. My friend [REDACTED] and I were among the few in the class who were not abused. We actually thought there was something wrong with us to the point where, when the other boys talked about it, we would say it had happened to us too. It took me years to work out why I wasn't abused like the other children. I believe it was because it was known to Ian Wares that my father was a Consultant Paediatrician.
32. In those days, you didn't report things to your mum and dad or other adults. I think that's how people like him got away with it. We didn't report it to the teachers, but the boys talked frequently about it amongst themselves and it was so commonplace that I believe other teachers must have been aware of it.
33. One of the reasons Ian Wares got the job at the Academy was due to his rugby coaching ability, but I think he lied about his coaching and playing experience. Since leaving the school, I've heard rumours that there were times he abused boys in the sports changing rooms too.

IBU [REDACTED] – PE Teacher

34. IBU [REDACTED] was the PE teacher in the Senior School at Edinburgh Academy. His nickname was IBU [REDACTED]. We always called the showers 'sprays' and hanging around the showers was what he was known for. He was a small man who [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to an international standard, but athletics was more his sport.

35. After PE, he had control of whether the showers were hot or cold. He would come into the showers and flick the boys on the backside and their genitals with a towel. There was also, what I suppose we thought of at the time as, banter. Looking back at it now, it wasn't just banter. It was definitely more than horseplay on his part. I believe he mainly targeted the younger senior boys as I can't imagine he would have tried that with the older boys.
36. Within the shower area, there was a small section that was obscured by a wall. From speaking to the other boys, I believed that things progressed to a higher degree of sexual abuse behind the wall. That was not something that happened to me, or something I witnessed.
37. The ironic thing is, before ^{IBU} [REDACTED] went to the Academy, he taught at [REDACTED] before it became part of [REDACTED] in 1973. After I retired from teaching, we used to have lunches for retired teachers from [REDACTED]. He would be there as a former [REDACTED] teacher. He obviously recognised me and must have known that I knew about his previous behaviour. I believe he is still alive, but very much house bound now.
38. Unlike the conversations between boys about the abuse by Ian Wares, the boys didn't really discuss much of what happened with ^{IBU} [REDACTED]. I think as boys approach puberty, they are more reluctant to discuss these things, perhaps out of embarrassment.

Hamish Dawson – History Teacher and Housemaster for McKenzie House

39. Hamish Dawson was a history teacher in the senior school at Edinburgh Academy. He was sexually abusive towards myself and various other boys. He was very clever about it and tried to make the sexual abuse into something comical.
40. He would have a series of implements on the side of his desk, like a ruler or a stick. He would have a boy come to the front of the class for physical punishment for some wrongdoing. He would make a joke of it by asking the class what implement they

thought the boy should be punished with. Then, he would have the boy lie, face down, across his lap and then there would be fiddling around with the boys genitalia. He would try to hide it with his teachers cloak and turn it into a comical act, but as it had happened to most of us, we all knew exactly what was going on.

41. It was evident that other teachers were aware of his behaviour as when Hamish Dawson retired, the Rector gave a speech and made a joke about it. The scary thing was, Hamish Dawson was also the House Master for McKenzie House which was the younger boys boarding house.

Leaving Edinburgh Academy

42. I didn't enjoy my time at Edinburgh Academy Senior School at all. There was a constant fear of physical punishment and in the early years of Senior School, sexual abuse. Following on from the deterioration of my academic performance, having spent a year witnessing Ian Wares sexually abuse my classmates, my work didn't really improve until the last two years of my schooling. I left Edinburgh Academy in sixth year, at the age of eighteen, with four Highers in English, geography, biology and history.

Life after being at Edinburgh Academy

43. After leaving Edinburgh Academy I went straight into teacher training and started my teaching career at [REDACTED] Junior School in 1980, three years after I left school. I also coached cricket, hockey and rugby at the school between 1980 and 2000.
44. It was quite surreal returning, as a teacher, to face past abusers. I never felt in a position to speak up when I was a boy and even as a young teacher, I still didn't feel in a position to report what had happened. That is one of my biggest regrets.

45. I kept bumping into ICA [REDACTED] while teaching at [REDACTED] as I would take rugby teams down to the Academy for games. He tended to avoid me, presumably because he knew that I knew. This was the case with a couple of other retired teachers from Edinburgh Academy who would come along to watch the school's rugby. It was always a bit of an odd situation and maybe I should have challenged them at the time.
46. I taught at [REDACTED] until 2004, when I retired. I then went on to work with Edinburgh City Council as the [REDACTED]. I did that for around eight or nine years. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1986 and I stopped working when it rapidly declined.

Impact

47. Everything I went through and witnessed as a pupil at Edinburgh Academy stayed with me over the years. It certainly had an impact on my teaching career. I was always very wary. I made sure that I was never alone with either a male or female student in my classroom and I would never go into the changing rooms, even when coaching.

Reporting of abuse after leaving Edinburgh Academy

48. I never spoke to any adult about the abuse at Edinburgh Academy when I was a child. Even as a young teacher, I didn't feel able to disclose what had gone on. The first time I spoke openly about what I experienced was through the journalist Alex Renton who is working with Nicky Campbell. Alex gave me the contact details for The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. After getting in touch with the Inquiry, a police referral was made and I provide a detailed statement to Police Scotland.

Lessons to be Learned

49. Obviously the outlawing of corporal punishment came into effect in or around 1988 which was of huge benefit the education system. I think, since that time, the teaching system is much more child orientated and the teaching itself, much more dynamic.
50. From my experience as a pupil and latterly a teacher, the main lesson to be learned is to properly and thoroughly vet all teachers. In that regard things have obviously improved dramatically and even in the short three year period, between me leaving Edinburgh Academy as a pupil and going to [REDACTED] as a teacher, the difference was night and day. I think background checks are something that shouldn't just be carried out when a teacher is applying for a job. It is something that should be carried out regularly along with monitoring of staff. In my experience, if abuse is happening within a school, teachers, other than the abuser, are aware of it.


General Observations

51. Edinburgh Academy, Merchiston, Loretto and Fettes in particular all wanted to follow the English public school system. Fettes, who called themselves the Eton of Scotland, even came to the point of appointing a headmaster who had previously worked at Eton and was known to have been abusing boys when he was there. His name was Anthony Chenevix-Trench.
52. Ian Wares also went on to teach at Fettes, whether that was because Edinburgh Academy found out about his abuse and moved him on, as was common in those days, I don't know. In any event, he moved to Fettes and was ultimately moved on after continuing his abuse. He returned to South Africa and continued to teach.
53. I remained friendly with some of the boys I attended school with, but we didn't really speak much of what happened. It was almost a taboo subject and there was a stigma attached to abuse. I don't think abuse is something that has been completely

eradicated in any schools, but certainly over the last few years, with so many people coming forward, the stigma is steadily being removed.

Hopes for the Inquiry

54. The schools in which these incidents happened, have to provide something stronger than their regret that it happened. It has taken them too long to recognise their failings. I believe there was a tendency, in the past, to ignore abuse. Then when it got to the point where they couldn't ignore it, they just moved the teacher concerned on. Just because they have put appropriate safeguarding measures in place now, doesn't excuse what has gone on in the past.
55. The Inquiry is obviously shining a light on child abuse. I hope that this issue being brought to the fore encourages schools to educate pupils on issues surrounding abuse, such as what to do if they are abused and how to go about disclosing that information. Teachers also have to be appropriately trained on how to deal with a pupil if a disclosure is made.
56. 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..... 31/1/23