

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is [REDACTED]. That was the name that I was known as when I went to boarding school. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1974. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to boarding school

2. My mother's name is [REDACTED]. She grew up in the Balerno area of Edinburgh. She was a legal secretary initially part time before becoming a full time legal secretary then an estate manager in later life. My dad's name is [REDACTED]. He is from Edinburgh. I have one older brother called [REDACTED]. He is approximately three years older than me.
3. During my early years my father was in the [REDACTED] army. We lived in lots of different places because of that. The first real place that I remember living in was a place called Bulford which is just outside of Salisbury in Wiltshire, England. It is near to a big army base. Whilst we were there my father was part of a small arms specialist corps training people how to do mortars and so on. I later discovered that my father had left [REDACTED] so that he could take up that role. I remember whilst living down there going every other week to go and watch Southampton FC play at The Dell.
4. I enjoyed school and life down there, however, for some reason I knew that my parents were going to get divorced. At some point in around about 1981 my mother, father and I did what felt like a midnight flit in a transit van up to Edinburgh. My mother and

I then moved in with my maternal grandmother who lived in a one bedroom council house in Balerno. My father disappeared the next day and went back to the army. I didn't see much of him after that. Because my mother was either in the process of getting divorced or was divorced we were instantly offered accommodation elsewhere in Edinburgh by the council. However, my grandmother wouldn't allow that because she wanted us to stay in the same area as her. It was because of that that we stayed with her for a period of time until a house became available in Balerno.

5. After settling in at my grandmother's I started school at a school called Dean Park Primary School in Balerno. I attended there for about two or three years. I fitted in to a point but having a different accent and having red hair led to some bullying. I would get into fights and get into trouble. I think I was quite quick to lose my patience and fight back. Looking back, that might have been the path I would have continued on were I not to have gone to boarding school.

The lead up to going to Queen Victoria School

6. My brother started as a boarder at Queen Victoria School in 1981 when he was about nine or ten years old. In 1984 my mother asked me whether I wanted to go to the same school as my brother or whether I wanted to continue going to school in Balerno. My choice was that I wanted to go to a school where my brother was going to. I think my mother was grateful for that because by that time she was working full time as a legal secretary and I was being looked after by my grandmother. I remember seeing it all as an adventure at that time. I remember reading all these army comic stories when I was younger and that made me feel it might be fun and that a boarding school with a military background might be for me.
7. I don't think I ever visited my brother at Queen Victoria School before I attended. I don't think he told me much about the school before I started there. All I remember about my brother's involvement with the school before I attended there was myself and my mother catching a train from Salisbury to London to collect him from the train station during school holidays. I remember him wearing his kilt and tweed jacket. I

believe my grandmother collected my brother at Waverly to put him on a train to Dunblane when he returned after the holidays. Looking back, it seems unusual to allow a ten year old to travel such a distance on a train on his own but it was different times back then.

8. Like all these sorts of schools Queen Victoria School required you to pass an assessment before you were accepted. I don't know whether they did that to see if you were suitable or whether it was because they wanted to see if you were academically able. The assessment day happened between February and April 1984. During the trip I did some assessments and met the Commissioners. I was given a tour of the school. I remember bumping into two boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. After the assessment the Commissioners got in touch with my mother to say that I was suitable and could attend. [REDACTED] got in on his assessment but [REDACTED] didn't. [REDACTED] subsequently joined the following year.
9. I remember that I was quite excited before I went to the school. Other than the assessment day there wasn't anything further done to prepare me for attending boarding school. I'm not sure what further could have been done. I can't remember it happening but I must have gone to get sports kit either in Dunblane or Stirling because I wasn't one of the boys whose kit arrived after starting at the school. I remember taking that all to school with me when I began.

Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

10. I started as a boarder at Queen Victoria School in [REDACTED] 1984 when I was nine years old. I stayed there until [REDACTED] 1993 and left when I was eighteen years. I don't recall the school having an ethos that was made clear to us. There was a school motto "In Defens" which was born out of a time when the school had boys who had been orphaned following the Boer War. Having said that it was an all-boys boarding school so you would expect it to be pretty hard.

11. My mother paid something like £150 a year for me to attend Queen Victoria School as a boarder. It probably would have cost the same again every month in food had I stayed at home. The MoD subsidised everything for pupils over and above what their parents paid. I think my father came out of the army just before I started at the school but that didn't affect my ability to attend.

Layout of Queen Victoria School

12. The school was built in the nineteenth century. It was an impressive looking place. It was a big school that had massive grounds. You could certainly disappear if you wanted to. There were plenty of places to hide. There were sports fields and loads of different buildings. There was a church by the junior house, a hospital and a square which eventually ended up housing a science block. Compared to Dean Park Primary School in Balerno it was like comparing chalk and cheese.
13. At the very front of the school was the Porter's Lodge. Behind and above that you had Haig House. That was where boys who were between S4 and S6 stayed. Beyond that was a grand entrance. To the right firstly you had an academic block then further on the junior part of the school, Wavell House. That was where all of the youngsters in P6 and P7 lived. There was separate block where there was a dining hall. Above that was Trenchard with Cunningham on top of that. That was where boys in S1 to S3 stayed.

Houses and colours

14. In the junior part of the school you were divided between whatever dorm you were in within a building called Wavell House. There was an even distribution of boys across each dorm. The names of the dorms became the house names. The house names were Lyndoch, Moore and Hopetoun. They were all names of famous generals. I think I was in Moore. I don't know whether I was moved houses during my time in the junior part of the school. That could have happened because I ended up repeating P7.

15. The house system was just a way of dividing everybody up for sports, drill competitions, cross country or whatever else. There was one of three colours, red, blue and green, attached to each house which would be the colour of the sports tops we wore. I think houses were selected at random when you were in the junior part of the school. I couldn't say what house my brother was in when he was in Wavell.
16. Once you finished P7 you went into S1 or first year. At that point all the boys were split into two houses. One was called Trenchard and the other was called Cunningham. I was placed into Cunningham which was the same house as my brother. Other boys whose brothers had been in Trenchard went to Trenchard and so on. They kept siblings together and all that type of thing. After Cunningham I went to Haig. That was for the beginning of S4. That was where I remained until I left the school when I was eighteen.

Academic years

17. The years ran P6 and P7 in the junior school. After that it ran S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 and S6 in the senior school. The years in the school ran approximately between the ages of nine and eighteen years old. I ended up having to repeat P7. I don't really know what went on there. I was reasonably young when compared to the other boys in the year when I joined. I certainly wasn't one of the oldest in the year when I repeated P7. There were other boys who repeated that year. I thought I was going to win the [REDACTED] in my first P7 so I must have been doing ok. I went on to win that during my second time in P7. It could be that my mother was involved and felt that I was quite young but I don't really know. Looking back, I do think that repeating P7 did benefit me.
18. There were two classes in P6 and P7 with twenty children in each. There were roughly forty boys in S1, S2, S3 and S4. After S4 there was a big culling of boys who weren't academic or sporty. There were about fifteen boys in S5 and in S6 when I was there. It could be less though. I remember that when I was in S5, S6 only had only five boys in the year.

Staff

Staff structure

19. The headmaster was the person who was in charge over the whole school. Below the headmaster was a deputy headmaster. Below the deputy headmaster were the housemasters. I don't think there were deputy housemasters. All the housemasters were also teachers. I don't think there was anybody who was just a housemaster and not a teacher. There were teachers who weren't housemasters though. I'm not 100% sure what the housemasters did in terms of their role. They all lived on site. Some ran a tuck shop in their houses where others didn't. I remember that when I became a house captain in S3 one of the roles of the housemaster was to give me a list of all the boys who weren't supposed to be leaving that weekend by way of punishment. I would have to make sure that they didn't leave the school. It was an all-boys' school where the vast majority of teachers were male. There were no female teachers on the junior side of the school but there were a few on the senior side of the school.

20. There was a house matron attached to Wavell. There were other matrons attached to the other houses in the senior school. They were always female. Their role was to make sure boys had baths and things like that. I don't think their role was to be there if you were unwell because you would take yourself off to the hospital on the grounds were that the case. Inside the hospital was a sister and a nurse who would see you after you arrived.

Staff

21. Julian Hankinson was the headmaster when I was there. He seemed ok to me.

22. IUR [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED]. I believe he had been at Queen Victoria School for quite some time. I think he had been SNR [REDACTED] Julian Hankinson [REDACTED] so I assume he never wanted SNR [REDACTED]. He was from the Borders. I liked him and he liked me. He had had trials to play rugby for Scotland. He was a great monster of a bloke.

23. Alison Hailey came in as a deputy headmaster in 1992 when I was in S6. I didn't have a lot to do with her as she arrived not long before I left the school
24. OLB [REDACTED] was my housemaster during my time in Wavell. He also taught [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He was my teacher [REDACTED]. Looking back, although OLB [REDACTED] was housemaster, I don't think he was any more of a senior teacher than the other three teachers who took [REDACTED] classes. He had a flat that he lived in in Wavell House.
25. Graham Beattie was a teacher who taught [REDACTED]. He had a flat in Wavell.
26. QYL [REDACTED] was a teacher who taught [REDACTED]. He lived on site.
27. Ben Philip was a teacher who taught [REDACTED]. He lived on site. He was my housemaster later on in Haig when I moved there in S4. He remained my housemaster until I left the school when I was eighteen. He refereed football and rugby games when I was in Haig.
28. There was a house matron attached to Wavell. I don't remember her name but the boys used to nickname her "battle axe."
29. QTQ [REDACTED] was initially the housemaster of Cunningham when I was there. I don't remember his first name. I'm not sure what his role was in doing that. I remember that he didn't run a tuck shop in his house whereas Trenchard did which meant he wasn't particularly liked. He also taught [REDACTED].
30. Glenn Harrison was my housemaster when I was in S3 and in Cunningham. He took over from QTQ [REDACTED]. He also taught electronics in the school.
31. Bill Webster was the housemaster in Trenchard when I was at the school. He was also in charge of the Navy part of the Combined Cadet Force at the school.

32. QUH [REDACTED] was a teacher who taught [REDACTED] He was in his forties or fifties when I was at the school.
33. Jill Howie was a German and French teacher on the senior side of the school.
34. There was a female art teacher who taught on the senior side of the school. I can't remember her name but she was nice.
35. "Veggie" Kelling was the computer teacher. I can't remember his first name. He took a while to settle in. However, people liked him and there were no issues.
36. Clive Bruce was an economics and history teacher.
37. IYE [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] attached to the school.

Siblings and other children

Siblings

38. My brother was between three and four academic years above me when I was at the school. The number of years he was above me varied because I repeated P7. When I was in S1 he was in S5. I would see him about the school. Sometimes I would go and watch him play rugby on Saturday afternoons. I would catch a train with him to and from the school at the beginning and end of term. I didn't see him that much in the school itself. If I wanted to catch up with him at the school then I could have. It was probably more our relationship then that we didn't see much of one another than anything else. We are very different individuals with different types of interests.

Background and composition of children who came to the school

39. When I was at Queen Victoria School it was only boys. There were no day pupils. There were roughly between 250 and 260 boys in the school in total across the junior and senior sides. When I started I knew a lot of the boys in my brother's year. I got

to know quite a few from the years below him too. By the time I was in S6 I got to know everybody in the school. Everybody in the school was white. It was only by the time I was in S6 that I got to know someone who wasn't at the school. I remember that boy joined S1 and, I think, was in Trenchard. I don't remember his name but as far as I know that boy got on alright at school. I only saw him in the dining hall.

40. Boys I remember being at the school at the same time as me include [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], a boy whose surname was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

Routine at Queen Victoria School

Early memories of being at Queen Victoria School

41. I remember I was looking forward to going to boarding school. As far as I was aware my brother didn't have any issues with the school. I remember being taken to the school by my mother and my grandmother. When you arrive you are allocated a 'Second Year', or P7, pupil. It was someone from the year above. They looked after you and made sure you knew where your dorm and bunkbed was. I knew in advance who my Second Year was going to be because my brother had made sure that a boy called [REDACTED] would be selected. He was a really nice guy whose dad was also in the [REDACTED]. I remember being shown what to do with the laundry and shown where my pigeon hole was. When I got to P7 I looked after a boy who had just arrived called [REDACTED]. When I repeated P7 I looked after a boy called [REDACTED].
42. I remember knowing some of the other boys when I arrived. I knew [REDACTED] because I had met him at the assessment day but there were other boys there who were also [REDACTED] children too. I remember that they would look out for you as well. I don't remember anything else being done to settle you in. It was all just a big day with lots of new children all kicking about. There weren't any initiation ceremonies amongst the boys. I think the only other thing I remember is that we all had to go

across to the hospital to check whether both our testicles had dropped. That was more part of a medical than anything surrounding initiation.

43. The school didn't allow parents to come and visit, and you weren't allowed out, before the October break. I think that was right because it allowed boys to settle in. I guess the adults and staff at the school wanted that to happen and took control of letting parents know if something went wrong during that period. You could write to your parents during that period. I do remember fairly early on writing home and saying that I wasn't enjoying school. I wrote home to say how miserable I was. I think that was for no other reason than it was different and I wasn't at home. My mother wrote back to me. It must have been difficult at the start otherwise I wouldn't have been writing home. However, you did soon settle into it.

Daily routine

44. At certain times you would have to listen out for a bugle which would tell you what time it was or where you needed to go. When you first started your Second Year would tell you or take you where you needed to go. They would tell you when you needed to stand still, needed to pay attention and all that kind of thing. You soon got into the rhythm of heading to the dinner hall or whatever else. I think I settled into that routine fairly quickly.
45. The days were quite structured. An alarm bell went off at about 7:00 am to get you up. By 7:30 am you would make your way across to the dining hall for breakfast. After breakfast you would go back into your house to get ready for the day. At 8:30 am you went to church for assembly with the entire school. That happened every day Monday to Friday. We went to church on Sundays for a more religious service. I think they used the church for assemblies because that was where they could get everybody in the school in the same place. The assembly was run by IYE [REDACTED] who was the [REDACTED]. There would be a hymn followed by a reading then any messages and communications. Those would be read out either by IYE [REDACTED] or one of the teachers.

46. You went from assembly over to the school at 8:50 am. Lessons were held until lunchtime. You then had about an hour to have your lunch in the dining hall and some time to yourself to do what you wanted to do. After that you were in lessons until about 4:25 pm. Between S1 and S3 there was sports or athletics on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Between S4 and S6 it was a Monday and a Thursday. After your lessons or sports you had dinner. After dinner at 5:50 pm you had what was called 'trades' which was either practising with the pipe band or doing highland dancing. Prep was held at about 7:00 pm and ended around about 8:00 pm. If you were in S4, S5 or S6 you did prep until about 8:30 pm. During prep you would do your homework. Between P6 and S3 prep was done in your classroom supervised by a more senior student. There weren't teachers around to help you. Between S4 and S6 you would be in your own dorms or bunk rooms. There were desks so that you could do that. After prep you would go for supper in the dining hall before returning to your dorms. Lights out was maybe around about 9:00 pm or 10:00 pm.
47. We would play rugby on a Saturday morning or afternoon if you had a match. If you didn't have a match then the afternoon was your own. On Sundays everybody had to go to church. Sunday afternoons were your own time.

Sleeping arrangements

48. In the junior part of the school you slept in one building but the children were evenly divided between various dorms. Those dorms were called Lyndoch, Moore and Hopetoun. We slept in bunkbeds. There were over fourteen boys in each dorm on the junior side of the school. I can't remember whether you moved dorms between P6 and P7 when you moved between years. You slept in single beds when you moved to the senior side of the school. From S4 onwards you had something more like a cabin bed with a desk underneath. There were around about twelve boys in each dorm in the senior dorms.
49. Teachers had a role in supervising boys during the night. There would be what was called a 'duty teacher.' They would supervise the boys in the houses up to a certain point in the evening before they disappeared. I couldn't say what time that was. There

would always be someone available, whether that be the housemaster or otherwise, after lights out because they would live in flats within the house. You would occasionally see the housemaster kicking about the house before lights out. I assume that they came in early to allow the duty teacher to leave duty early. I'm sure I would've spoken to the housemaster through the night after lights out. People did go and chap on the housemaster's door from time to time. I remember that happening when I was in P6 and P7 with OLB I can't remember what that was about.

Mealtimes / food

50. Mealtimes were all held in the dining hall. All the senior school had their meals at the same time. I think the junior side of the school got to go in first and left by the time the senior school arrived. You were allocated tables by dorm at the start then, as you moved up the school, it was done by house. You tended to sit in the same seat but I'm not sure whether the seat was allocated. I don't think that was the case but I could be wrong. In S5 and S6 there were tables and you just sat where you wanted.
51. You had to go up and join a queue to receive your meals. I quite liked the food and there was always enough. You could have as much as you wanted. Breakfast consisted of cereal with a cup of milk that you could just put into your cereal or divide to have a drink as well. There was always a little bit extra milk available at the table and it rotated who got that. You then had a full cooked breakfast. There might have been tea and coffee. I think that might have started in the senior side of the school. There was always a choice at lunch. There wasn't a vegetarian option. It was always things like pies, sausage rolls and mixed vegetables. There were always chips available at lunch. Supper was things like sandwiches, milk and so on.

Washing / bathing

52. Most of the time you had showers in an open shower. In P6 and P7 there was an open shower room between every two dorms. S1 upwards there were shower cubicles with a curtain. You wouldn't have a shower first thing in the morning like people would now. Showers were had more after sports and activities. You wouldn't just have one

if you fancied one. I remember us all running in quickly to get that done as quickly as possible. One day a week in P6 and P7 you were allocated a bath night when you had to have a bath instead of a shower. One the roles for the matrons in P6 and P7 was to enforce that. After your bath the matron would inspect you to make sure you had washed properly.

53. The showers and baths in the school were all open in P6 and P7 but they were more private by the time you were in S1. The lack of privacy in P6 and P7 didn't faze me. It was what it was. Looking back, I guess it was unusual.

Clothing / uniform

54. The uniform was the same throughout the school. Day time wear in the school consisted of corduroy shorts that came down to your knees, black knee length socks with yellow, red and green trims, a grey shirt, a tie and a blue corduroy jacket. The jacket was changed to a jumper some time into my time in the school. The day wear was called 'blues.' Later it changed to green trousers with a shirt, jumper and a tie. During the summer you could lose your tie and maybe roll your sleeves up. If you were to leave school to go into the village you wore your kilt and tweed jacket. It was the same socks, shirt, tie with a kilt and tweed jacket. If you were going out on parade or to perform we wore what was called a 'number one uniform.' That consisted of a red jacket and a glengarry. It was much smarter. You had to place your pants, t-shirts, shirts and socks in your pigeon hole so that they could be taken to laundry. All those got washed every couple of days.

Personal possessions / pocket money

55. You had a locker and a small bedside locker where you could keep your possessions. Those lockers were quite safe and I don't ever remember things going missing. My grandad would send me £10 pocket money from time to time but we did receive regular pocket money over and above what was sent in. My mother would have sent in £30 to cover 'x' amount of weeks. You were allocated 70p every Thursday to spend out of that amount. You could keep any money that was sent in to you or given to you as

part of your allocation. If I was ever sent any money then I was straight off to the local shop on a Thursday to buy sweets. Everybody had a space in their lockers where they kept a stash of crisps and chocolate. That would become a kind of currency for boys until the following Thursday.

Schooling

56. On the junior side of the school you tended to stay with the same teacher throughout the day. On the senior side you would move from subject to subject. Both the junior and senior classrooms were in the same building with a door separating the two. People didn't open the doors between the different classrooms for each side of the school. You just didn't do that.
57. I did ok academically at Queen Victoria School. If, when you got to S4, you weren't academic or sporty or both then you weren't allowed to come back for S5. That was decided by the school after you did your O Grades. A lot of the boys who left at that point went to join the army or something else. The army was in some ways a natural progression from the school. I'd say there was a fair chunk of people who went on to join the forces. To provide a perspective on how many left after S4, when I was in S5 there were five pupils in S6 in total and when I was in S6 there were about fifteen pupils in total. I would have been in the minority who went on to go to university after leaving the school. That was reasonably rare for boys who left the school back then. I'd say about 30% or 40% of S6 boys went to university. The percentage would be even lower if you looked at all the boys were in S4.
58. Looking back at the lower number of boys in S5 and S6, it was great for those who remained. I remember being in a S6 French class where I was one of two boys in the class. There were only four of us in Higher Latin. You would be in a world of trouble if you didn't do well with that sort of size of class. I don't know whether I placed enough focus on my education when I was there. I distinctly remember finishing my O Grade Maths exam early because I had finished and there was a football game going on outside. I'd done enough to know that I was going to pass then left early. Perhaps I

just wasn't mature enough back then to realise that getting a higher grade was more important than playing a football match.

The Grand Day / prize giving

59. At the end of the academic year there was a thing called 'The Grand Day.' Parents were invited to that day. Dignitaries, and occasionally royalty, would turn up and we would parade in front of them on the school fields. There would be prize giving either at the dress rehearsal for The Grand Day or on The Grand Day itself. People would get awarded prizes for various things. The more academic awards would be given in the morning in the church and the more sporty stuff was awarded on the parade ground later on. I remember winning a book voucher for something one year. That wasn't a great return for nine years being there.

Religious instruction

60. Both Catholic and Protestant boys attended assembly in the church on the grounds during the week. On Sundays the Protestants attended a service at the church in the school grounds and the Catholics went to the local Catholic church. Attendance at church on Sundays was compulsory. There was the odd occasion when a boy might hide in a locker to avoid doing that. That became more difficult as you grew older because where you sat was right next to the teachers and your absence would have been obvious. The only other religious element to the school was having to do RE once a week. There was one year where I had a confirmation, if that is what Protestants do, but I can't remember what year that was. My mother and grandmother came up for that. I remember that we went to the Fourways restaurant for lunch afterwards.

Chores / Inspections of dorms and kit

61. You were allocated various chores to do in Wavell House. I can't remember what the other chores were but I remember sweeping the dorm. There were cleaners who

came in to do a lot of the cleaning. I think the company used was called OCS. I remember cleaning ladies doing things like the shower block and so on.

62. You had to keep your dorm neat and tidy and they, alongside your kit, were inspected from time to time. Inspections were undertaken every Monday by your housemaster. They were done with the assistance of the dorm leaders. I remember everybody would have to barrack their beds and make them look all nice. You would fold your duvet up and put your blankets and pillows on top all neat and tidy. [REDACTED] the P7 who was allocated to me when I started, would have been the one who showed me how to barrack a bed when I first got to Wavell. You would also put out a display of all your sports equipment using a chair at the end of your bed to show that you hadn't lost anything during the week. That was certainly the case when it was Ben Philip. Everybody had to stand by their bed and there was an inspection undertaken to see whether everybody still had all of their kit.

63. I don't believe my kit or bed ever didn't conform to what was required. However, I remember there always being a mad rush to get it all done. I remember always feeling that dread in P6 and P7 whilst watching the Sunday night film in the school hall, like some people do with work, of having to go back to school the subsequent Monday morning. I remember not enjoying that movie quite as much as I should have because I would be thinking that I had the inspection first thing the following day. You just knew you were going to have to go away and dig out this kit from somewhere to put it out. I think if you couldn't find something or you had something of somebody else's you were just tasked to find the item after the inspection or made to go to matron to explain why you had a red item when it should have been green.

Leisure time / trades / other activities

64. There wasn't much downtime because there was always an activity you were doing. You would maybe get that on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Every Sunday night they put a film on for the whole school in the main school theatre during my time in P6 and P7. That seemed to stop by the time I was in S1. There was a common room for boys between S1 and S3. There was a television room but that didn't come until later

on when I was there. I don't remember reading. In Haig we had things like a pool table and dart boards.

65. 'Trades' was held after dinner and before prep each day. That involved either practice with the pipe band or practicing highland dancing. That started in P6 and was compulsory. I was a drummer in the pipe band. You could drop your trade in S1 if you didn't want to do it. Instead you could attend after school clubs. I dropped the drumming then but picked it up again in S2. The school went out and would do events with the pipe band. I presume that the school was paid for it. The highland dancers would sometimes come to shows and charity events. Sometimes boys who played the bugle would go out to remembrance services at churches and other places to play 'The Last Post.'
66. I was lucky enough to play during all the home internationals at Murrayfield and also took part in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1990. I remember that during the summer we did the Tattoo we stayed at the school and commuted to Edinburgh Castle each day. All the other performers stayed at Redford barracks. I remember during one of the shows that wasn't the Tattoo that one of the boys fainted. The drums were adult drums and there were S1 and S2 boys carrying them in full kit. One of the spectating audience members, who I could see was ex-military from what he was wearing, mentioned to me that I shouldn't give the boy too much of a hard time for it. I wouldn't have but I can imagine some boys might have.
67. When you were in P6 and P7 you were taught drill which involved marching, coming to a stop and so on. We had different [REDACTED] who would come in. One of the [REDACTED] was a friend of my dad's, [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED]. After he passed away we had [REDACTED] called Mr ^{ZQTR} [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] instead. They made sure that everybody knew how to march. Once a month on a Sunday the pipe band would perform and everybody would march into the square in front of the church. I'm not 100% sure what the purpose of that was. It might be that we did that for visiting officers who were invited in to take the salute.

68. There was Combined Cadet Force, or CCF, every Wednesday afternoon. Involvement with the CCF was compulsory otherwise you didn't have anything to do on Wednesday afternoons. I was in the Navy CCF. The teacher in charge of the Navy CCF was called Bill Webster. He couldn't really be bothered running it and because of that it was a bit of a doss. More often than not we didn't do an awful lot. If you joined the RAF CCF you got the opportunity to go out and fly planes by Turnhouse. The Army CCF boys would go out marching through fields and stuff like that. I went on some CCF camps during the summers. I chose to go on those camps. A list would go up for all of them. I went on one RAF CCF to a place in Norfolk one year. For three years on the trot I went to a camp at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth. I would be bought my ticket then had to make my own way down there with other boys from S1 onwards. We stayed on HMS York which was moored at Whale Island. HMS Temeraire was basically a sports camp that we were bussed to and from each day. We used the camp to catch up with all the other cadet forces.
69. There was a pipe band element to CCF too. I remember that the school pipe band performed with other bands at Holyrood Palace and Edinburgh Castle for an event called 'The Beating of the Retreat.' By that time I was a drum major and out in front of the other boys with the mace. I remember an occasion where I attended an event with all the other boy drum majors from other schools at a barracks located near Penicuik. The event was to decide who would be the lead drum major for all of the pipe bands.

Sport and athletics

70. Sport played a big role in the school. We had great big playing fields and good facilities within the school. There were tennis, squash, badminton and basketball courts and plenty of rugby and football fields. The school was big on cross country and athletics. There was the option to do shooting on the shooting range that they had at the school. We had sport two afternoons a week every week. There was also PE during the week on top of that.

71. Rugby was compulsory during the first two terms of the academic year. There were no other options. That was ok for me because I enjoyed rugby. During the summer term you either did football or athletics. We would organise the football teams amongst ourselves then if we were particularly organised we would ask Ben Philip to referee a game. There was a school football team between P6 and P7 and S4 upwards and we would play against other schools. For some reason between S1 and S3 that wasn't the case.
72. I was one of the boys who played in the First XI for football and first XV for rugby from S4 right through to S6. There was a school minibus or coach that took us to away games. We were ok at home but we quite often got torn apart when we were away. It must have been a numbers thing. I really don't know what it was about playing at home that meant we won more. The rackets sports, shooting and basketball were more of a recreational thing so we didn't compete against other schools. I played tennis in a competition in Perth but it wasn't representing the school. I also did shooting. Those sports were more an after school recreational thing than part of the sports afternoons.

Leaving the school grounds during term time

73. You were only allowed to leave the grounds outside of certain set times. In P6 and P7 that was only on a Thursday afternoon after sports. You were only allowed to go into the village if you wore your tweed jacket and kilt. You'd tend to go to the local shop just down the road to buy sweets. You could go unaccompanied but you tended not to and usually went with another boy. You'd always have someone to chum you. Very rarely would there be one boy kicking about by themselves. We did stand out when we went into Dunblane because of what we were wearing. That sometimes led to getting into fights with other children.
74. Things became more generous when you got into the senior school. You could go out on Thursday and Saturday afternoons. As time went on you could go into Stirling and Dunblane wearing casual clothes. I think that change came when you started S3.

Trips / Holidays

75. There was a P6 and P7 walk to somewhere. Those were a day out hiking followed by some time jumping about between rock pools. I didn't go on a holiday or a tour abroad when I was there. There wasn't anything like that when I was there. There were ski trips but I didn't go on them as I knew we didn't have the money. I think my paternal grandad asking my mum if I wanted to go skiing on the school trip.
76. Two or three times a term you were allowed a weekend pass. Those weekends were called 'exeat weekends' during term time each term that ran from a Thursday through to a Sunday. I'm pretty sure I could take a weekend pass without telling my mother. That was certainly the case when I was older. I remember going to stay with my friend [REDACTED] sister's house in Edinburgh. He was eighteen and had left the school by that time. I remember not going home sometimes for the exeat weekends during the February break. One of those weekends I spent the weekend with a friend called [REDACTED] and his cousins. We went to see a Fife Flyers versus Murrayfield Racers ice hockey match. It was good fun. There were times when I would take other boys back to my house on those weekends. Those were boys who had parents who lived far away and it wasn't practical for them to go home.
77. I went home for the all the main school holidays. By the age of fifteen upwards I was pretty independent and self-sufficient. By that time my mother had sold the house that she lived in Balerno to my brother. She lived in Pentcaitland or elsewhere. During the holidays I would go and live with my brother. She didn't need to worry about me and wasn't too concerned. My grandmother was just up the road if need be. I think there were boys who stayed at the school over the exeat weekends. I couldn't say who they were or say what happened.

School dances and socials

78. Scottish country dancing was part of the school. We would partner up with St Margaret's School in Edinburgh which was an all-girls' school. We would either troop through to them or they would come to us during the dancing season. We would also

go to some of the dancing events that the Royal Scottish Dancing Society hosted. St Margaret's would sometimes host discos or balls that we were invited to too.

79. At the end of the summer we would host the highland ball. The school would invite girls from St Margaret's. I remember that, because the number of girls wanting to come would exceed the number of girls, we would invite boys to come from schools like Merchiston Castle School. They were good social events.

Birthdays / Christmas

80. My relatives would send me money for my birthday. I remember my grandad sending me £10. It might have only been £10 but when sweets were only 10p it could go quite a long way. The only thing you ever did at the school for your birthday was that you got to read something out at church. I don't know how much of a celebration that was because you would be reading in front of 250 other boys. I think that was something done to build up your confidence.

Letters / telephone

81. In P6 and P7 you were allocated some time once a week to write a letter home. I can't remember whether that was compulsory or not but everybody did write home. If you didn't write home then you wouldn't get any mail in return so I think that was why we all did it. I remember we received our mail on a Monday because I remember making my bed after lunch, lying on it before sports and having my mail, a comic, or whatever it was, laid on my bed. That time period was called "quiet time." You looked forward to that. I remember my mother sending tuck parcels full of sweets to me.
82. You didn't have access to a phone until S1. I think because of that you tended to call home rather than write home from that point onwards. There was a payphone outside of Porter's Lodge which you could pay to use when you wanted. If you had no money you could get 10p to phone someone and they could call up the school on a phone that was located further down the corridor. I don't remember contact with home being either discouraged or encouraged by the school. It was all sort of left up to you.

Visitors / inspections

83. I didn't have regular visits from my family or from anyone else at the school itself. I would have occasionally invited my mother up for a rugby match. My father would sometimes turn up unannounced to rugby games. By that time he had left the army. We didn't go out afterwards. He would come up, watch the rugby then disappear again. That was fine because I wasn't looking to be taken out.
84. There were officials who came to visit the school. Prince Andrew once came up to the school to present colours. Colours were new flags. There were Commissioners who would come up to maybe take the salute. That was part of the monthly parades that we did. I don't remember anything like inspectors coming in to watch classes or speak to the boys.

Pastoral care

85. There wasn't anything formally in place regarding pastoral care. You weren't told what to do or who you needed to speak to if you wanted help in that sense. I don't remember housemasters having a pastoral role in the school. They were there and they would be kicking about the office. The only thing I remember is that Ben Philip came into our dorm in S4 on the eve of exams to wish us "all the luck you deserve for your exams." You might possibly have gone to speak to IYE the [REDACTED] if you wanted to speak to someone but I don't remember ever needing to do that. I think it was more likely that boys would speak to their matron if they wanted to talk than anyone else. That would be more the sort of person you would speak to in the school. I remember hearing, and watching on TV a documentary about Queen Victoria School, [REDACTED] talking about doing that once. He was in Trenchard. He spoke to his matron because he was having girlfriend trouble. Whether that was true or not I don't know.
86. I don't remember having ever to speak to someone in that way myself. I was homesick at the start but I don't remember ever going to see someone in the school for comfort. I overcame my homesickness by myself. I don't remember homesickness continuing to be an issue for other boys and leaving. It was just something we all got through

and it turned out to be pretty good. All of that created the sort of independent people we are now. I remember even when I was in P6, and at home during the holidays, my friend [REDACTED] would come into Edinburgh from Dunfermline and I would come in from Balerno on my own for the day. That might not be something I would allow my ten year old son to do now but things were just different in those days. I think that just shows how independent we all were from an early age.

87. Towards the end of my time at the school a female deputy head teacher came in called Alice Hailey. That would have been in about 1992 when I was in S6. I don't remember anyone in S6 having anything to do with her. I think she was developing pastoral care at the school and it is something that has now developed and flourished.

Preparation for adult life

88. The only thing I remember surrounding preparing us for adult life was what Ben Philip did. When I was in Haig Ben Philip would occasionally take us out to the theatre in Edinburgh on a Friday night. He took us to various other events as well. He would put up a notice about a particular show, or whatever, and boys would ask to go. You would get dressed up for it, attend the show then stop for a chippy on the way back. If you didn't stop for a chippy on the way back it would be a bit of a rubbish night. I remember Edinburgh predominantly but I think there were also trips to Glasgow. I can't remember why we went to Glasgow but I remember going to a chippy on the way out of Glasgow so it must have been. I presume it must have been the theatre. They were all good fun events.
89. In S5 and S6 Ben Philipps would occasionally ask prefects and monitors to go down to his flat. There was never anyone younger than that. We would have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat about whatever was going on in the world. That was more of a social gathering than anything else before you disappeared again. I think the trips to the theatre and having tea and coffee in his flat were all Ben Philip's attempt to try and give us a broader education about what normal people did.

90. It was odd not having that much contact with girls. When I was younger I had friends who were girls that I played with during school holidays but as you got older there was a slightly different slant on it. I don't know whether the Scottish country dancing was an attempt to maybe introduce boys to girls during their time at the school. Those events were social events too. You didn't really know how to deal with the opposite sex. Certainly by the time I was at university it was strange to all of a sudden have to learn how to chat to girls.

Drinking / smoking

91. From S4 upwards there was alcohol around. I think there were drugs about but I was only interested in drinking. We would get drink from the first shop on the way into Dunblane. By the time you were in S6 you were either old enough, looked old enough or had fake ID to purchase it. Plenty of people drank within school grounds. That was something I did and was never caught. I don't remember anyone else being caught. I remember a number of occasions being at school discos after being out during the day drinking. There would have been alcohol at the highland ball itself. I know from speaking to a friend called [REDACTED] who attended them that he had drinks with one of the admin ladies at the school in the offices. He was S6 at the time.
92. On one occasion my brother took me out drinking in Stirling. I would sit and have pints of cider then go back to school afterwards. There was a curfew for when you had to be back. At a guess that was about 9:00 pm. The school were aware that you were of an age where you would go out drinking but wouldn't respond unless you went over the top. If, for example, you came in and you were making a bit of a clown of yourself kicking about the communal areas you would be sent to bed. I saw Ben Philip on a number of occasions saying to boys who were doing that "I think it's best if you took yourself off to bed." He couldn't be seen to be doing nothing about it and would have a quiet word with the boy the next day.
93. Plenty of people were caught smoking at school. I really don't know what happened to the boys who were caught smoking. They were probably gated for the weekend which meant you lost your privileges and weren't allowed to leave the school grounds.

Healthcare

94. If you were ill you could go to the hospital that was located on site. It was part of the school grounds. You wouldn't go to your matron. It would be up to the hospital nurse or sister to then determine what was wrong with you. People sometimes stayed overnight in the hospital, myself included. I can't remember what that was for. You could see boys entering and leaving the hospital in the mornings. They would be going to receive medicine from the doctor and all that type of thing.

Bed-wetting

95. There were boys who wet their beds in P6 and P7. I remember a boy called [REDACTED] who had that problem. I don't know whether that carried on into S1. The boys gave him a hard time and nicknamed him "[REDACTED]." He got into fights more than most maybe would have done. I think he was a bit of an easy target. I don't know how staff dealt with the bed-wetting beyond the sheets being taken away to be washed every day. There was none of the "this is normal and happens in general society" messaging going on. It was pretty hard for a boy in that situation. [REDACTED] was never going to lose that nickname and had that nickname until he left the school.

Discipline

96. There was no guidance or guidebook on what things you could be disciplined for. I don't remember reading any rules about what you could and couldn't do. If that was something that was available I don't remember seeing it. It was all learnt from others. I think you just knew what certain sanctions were for. You would have learnt from your time in S1, S2 and S3 from getting things like 'Days' what they could be issued for.
97. There was more leniency where a boy was good academically or athletically. I had a friend called [REDACTED] who wasn't that good academically and should have left after S4. However, he was very good at sport and was a key rugby and football player. He was

a nice guy too so he got to stay on for S5. If he hadn't been those things then I have no doubt he would have been kicked out after S4.

Dorm Leaders / Prefects / Monitors

98. There were dorm leaders in each dorm up until S5. There may have been deputy dorm leaders as well. I was a dorm leader for a while. The dorm leader role was really just to make sure that the dorm was tidied before dorm inspections. There only happened in P6 and P7. After that individuals were responsible for their 'area.' As dorm leader you would call everybody to attention when the housemaster came round to undertake the inspection of the dorm every Monday morning.
99. When you got to S5 you could become a prefect. I think you could become a senior prefect in S6. I remember one boy called [REDACTED] who was a hospital prefect for a while. I can't really remember what that entailed. It may have involved getting a list of who was in hospital and who would be coming out. I really don't know for certain what that involved though. I was a prefect in S5. You could also become either a monitor or a senior monitor in S6. Three monitors sat at the top table in the dining hall in S6. I was a monitor in S6 but didn't have any extra responsibilities because I was part of the pipe band.

Days

100. Prefects could put other pupils on what were called 'Days.' Teachers could also issue Days if they wanted to. It wasn't just a pupil led thing. Days could only be issued to boys in S1 upwards. Days essentially involved boys being made to do cross country around the fields at 7:00 am. The circuit was pretty much around the entire school. It might take the average person around about fifteen minutes to run around. I'm sure there were more sporty boys who could complete it in a much shorter time.
101. Days were issued for things like not following the dress code. It depended on what the misdemeanour was if there was a warning before the Day was issued. If it was a repeat offender then there may not be a warning before the Day was issued. Some

prefects were more likely to issue Days than others. I guess that is just human nature and some boys would enforce things differently.

102. As a monitor it was your job to go down to the gym hall at 7:00 am and make sure that people turned up for their Day. I would have a list which had been added to by prefects to do that. If the person turned up I would remove their name from the list. If the individual didn't turn up then the next day they would have two Days to do on the list and so on.
103. There weren't really staff who oversaw what the prefects and monitors were doing by way of discipline. The only thing where a teacher might become involved is when I went to Julian Hankinson and reported that a boy hadn't turned up for his Days on a certain number of days running. Were I to do that he would say that he would have a word with the boy concerned. He might, if a boy had far too many Days outstanding, reduce that amount. I can think of that happening with a boy called [REDACTED]. In the end the boy eventually left and never cleared his Days.

Involvement of siblings in discipline

104. I remember that just after I started P6 there was a rugby training session where there were about forty children sitting around Ben Philip. I wasn't paying attention and playing with the grass. Ben Philip jokingly grabbed a heap of grass and shoved it down the back of my top to get my attention. That gave me a fright and, because I had a quick temper, I started shouting and screaming at him. Ben Philip told me that the way I reacted wasn't acceptable and said that I would have to see him in the office later on.
105. After I was showered and changed I went to Ben Philip's office and discovered that my brother had been called to join us. That was one of the first few times I saw my brother after I had started at the school. It was unusual for a boy from the senior side of the school to be in Wavell. Whilst I was getting a row from Ben Philip for my reaction my brother had to explain that the way I reacted wasn't the way to speak to teachers in the school. After that incident my brother wasn't really involved in anything like that

again. There were a couple of occasions where he may have been overseeing my prep but for the most part I didn't see him too often.

Corporal punishment

106. Corporal punishment was still used in the school during my time there. I think that was done away with by about 1989 or 1990. I received the slipper at least twice when I was in the junior part of the school. It was for a couple of things. I think it was for drumming on a hard surface or something like that. IYE ██████ game me the slipper on each occasion. It was administered across your bottom in an office in Wavell. I remember holding onto a radiator when that was done and having shorts on. I do know that there were other boys who were made to pull their shorts down. Looking back, I wouldn't allow that to be done to my kids but it was different times back then.
107. I never received the belt because I think it was stopped by the time I was in the senior side of the school. I remember that my brother and his friends were belted by Julian Hankinson after lifting a teacher called QTQ ██████ car and putting it into a bush on the school grounds. They'd moved out of Cunningham into Haig and had obviously held some sort of grudge against him from the time he was their housemaster.

Suspension / expulsion

108. Boys did get suspended and expelled. You would have to go some distance for that to happen. My best friend ██████ got expelled in either S2 or S3. I think there were various things but to begin with he was caught in the lay hills in civvy clothes. I think there was drinking involved at some point. ██████ was sporty but not academic. I think he was causing trouble and that was the reason he was expelled.

Abuse at Queen Victoria School - bullying

109. There were fights but I wouldn't say it wasn't anything more than normal for a boy in boarding school. There was an area in woodland in the grounds called 'The Magic Circle' where boys would fight. Boys would go and sort things out there. Other boys would gather around to watch those fights happening. You would want to see who would win, chant or whatever. Everybody would shake hands at the end and that would be it. Things would be dealt with in that way. I didn't really continue to get into fights after starting boarding school. I think that was partly because I had an older brother in the school so there would be no reason for boys who were older than me wanting to start a fight with me. I guess I had a bit of protection from my brother and his friends
110. I'm sure the staff at the school would have heard of The Magic Circle. I don't remember them knowing when fights were happening and intervening to break them up though. I seem to recall one fight happening in the Central Hall. I've no doubt that if a staff member were present they would break the fights up.

Specific recollections of boys being bullied

111. I never saw any boys being injured in any of the fights I saw. However, I do know that one of the senior monitors in S6 had his arm broken before The Grand Day one year. His surname was [REDACTED] but I don't remember his first name. His younger brother, [REDACTED], was in the year above me. The incident would have been towards the end of my time in S1 so it would have been in 1988. [REDACTED] had his arm broken by fellow boys in S6. I don't know what the background was to all of that. I'm guessing he wasn't a very popular boy in that year. I don't remember having any problems with him. I don't know how that was all dealt with by the staff. It was the end of S6 so I guess it was all very late in the day.
112. There was a time when boys weren't turning up for Days and their lists of Days outstanding were getting longer and longer. That was when I was in S6 in either 1992 or 1993. After the boys who weren't turning up for their Days finished prep they would have to walk past the bottom annexes. There were boys who were prefects and

monitors who made those boys drink shampoo or shower gel in an effort to get those boys to turn up for their Days. That was something I never saw directly but know was reported on later on. Those boys weren't given physical beatings. People weren't getting beaten up in front of me that was for sure. There might have been the odd wee sly jab to the ribs as boys walked past but there was nothing more than that. It might be and S5 to an S2 or something. It wasn't a fight in any shape or form.

113. The incidents with the shampoo and shower gel somehow made the front pages of the Daily Record. There are various stories about how that happened. I have heard it was Clive Bruce or Glenn Harrison who were both teachers. In truth I really don't know how it came to be reported in the papers.
114. Once the story came out Central Scotland Police became involved. I and another boy called [REDACTED] were made to speak to the police by Ben Philip as part of their investigation. The police were interested because the younger boys involved had said that they would never be touched or beaten up in the corridors if either myself or [REDACTED] were around. We just didn't let that happen because we felt it wasn't right. I ended up signing a witness statement alongside Ben Philip to say that those things didn't happen. I'm not aware of any follow up after I provided my statement.

Abuse at Queen Victoria School

[REDACTED] QUH

115. [REDACTED] QUH would, if he needed you to go quickly from one place to another, grab you by your sideburns and pull you from one place to another. He didn't use physical force in any other way. That was something he did quite frequently. It was just something that he did. Looking back from the perspective of being a father now, I would see that as inappropriate were a teacher to do that with my son today.

Allegations made by Glenn Harrison

116. Glenn Harrison was an electronics teacher at the school who came in around about 1989. He taught me electronics when I was in S6. I don't know whether he came in as a housemaster but he was my housemaster in Cunningham when I was house captain. Some teachers had the absolute respect of the boys but others didn't. Glenn Harrison just didn't fit in. It's hard to not sound impolite but he just wasn't right for the school and should never have been placed in the school. When you went for your dinner the whole senior school would line up in the central hall, a bugle would go and everyone would fall silent. People stopped chatting about whatever they were chatting about. If they didn't do that the teacher present would say "quiet" and the whole school would go quiet. If Glenn Harrison said it people would keep on chatting. He just didn't have command over the boys. I would then have to tell the school to be quiet. It was only then that they would respond.

117. I have read some of the accusations Glenn Harrison has made in the media and online. He says things like pupils were taken away, told to wear clean underwear and were coming back flush with cash. When I read those things they are a million miles away from my experience. It was a small school. If something happened in one dorm then everybody would know about it. That went for both the junior and the senior sides of the school. People would know about whatever had happened. If the sorts of things Glenn Harrison claims were happening then we would have known about it. You absolutely would have heard something but myself and my friends know nothing about those sort of things happening.

118. I've read other things linking Glenn Harrison's claims with the Dunblane shootings and discussing how Thomas Hamilton had free reign at the school and was friends with Ben Philip. There are things saying that Ben Philip was about to oust people, expose it all then mysteriously died of a head injury. In my experience of Ben Philip, he would be putting up posters for school discos and balancing chairs on top of desks so he could reach up to do that. Glenn Harrison is trying to put some sort of sinister touch to Ben Philip's death yet that was how he was around health and safety.

119. In my head the Inquiry shouldn't be looking into the claims Glen Harrison makes but rather the fact that he is just wasting everybody's time. If there was this stuff happening, which I don't believe, I just don't believe he saw any of it. If things were happening then it wasn't something I was aware of and that was not my experience at the school. If there are more people than myself providing a negative view about what happened then I totally get on the balance of probabilities things may be found to have happened. I can only speak from my own experience.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Queen Victoria School

120. There wasn't any sort of formal complaints procedure that boys would be aware of during my time at the school. I guess if a child had concerns or complaints they could have gone to speak to their housemaster. I don't know of anyone who did that though.

Leaving / life after being at Queen Victoria School

121. After leaving I went to Napier University in Edinburgh. I did a year of foreign languages. I was forced down the German route as my main language. I couldn't stand it because of that and decided to leave. I don't think I had been set up to study for myself. I wasn't used to the flexibility of having some lectures and some tutorials. I wasn't ready for that and needed to be told what to do more rigidly. I then took a year out and worked in a petrol station in Wester Hailes area in Edinburgh.
122. After that year I returned back to Napier University to undertake a degree in tourism management. After graduating from that I started a postgrad in IT. I was then offered a job in the Bahamas and spent two years working there. When I came back I met my wife and starting working in financial services. That is where I have been ever since. I did try to join the army after I returned from the Bahamas but didn't get in because I failed a hearing test. I am now a fellow in the personal finance society. I have two sons who are thirteen and eleven.

Impact

123. For me the impact from my time at the school has all been positive. I can well imagine that that might not be the same for the boys who were maybe not academically able, sporty or popular. I can imagine that if you were like that then it might not have been the best place to be and that would have had an effect. That wasn't my experience though. I can only speak of my time at the school and I can say that I had a great time there. So did all of my friends. My time at the school left me with a lot of lasting friendships.
124. Myself, and my friends who I am still in contact with who went to Queen Victoria School, are all doing well. The school gave myself and all of my friends a great start and we have done well because of it. I would have sent both my sons to boarding school in a heartbeat. When I think about whether I would send them to Queen Victoria School if I could I would more than likely have done so. I'm not sure whether I would send them necessarily to the Queen Victoria School I attended where there was corporal punishment and so on but I would to the school as it is now.
125. I link wanting to do as well as I can to my school experience. The school gave me a confidence and determination to do well and to succeed. It's left me really driven and allowed me to succeed professionally in the way I have. That maybe came to me a little bit later on in life but it was there because of my experiences at the school.
126. I saw a counsellor in later life for reasons unconnected to my time at school and she guessed that I had been to an all-boy boarding school from certain comments I had made. I told her that I wasn't comfortable with that type of thing and wasn't looking for those sorts of comments. She mentioned that there was a syndrome of sorts called 'boarding school syndrome' and said that I could go and look it up.

Contact with Queen Victoria School and former pupils since leaving

127. I have been up to the school a few times since leaving to see and play rugby games. I recently went to see Queen Victoria School play in the cup finals at Murrayfield. It

was nice to see that happening. I catch up with former pupils and socialise with them. We will go away for weekends and all that kind of stuff.

Records

128. I haven't recovered any records from the school. I guess that is something that I have never thought about doing.

Lessons to be learned / hopes for the Inquiry

129. They now have girls at Queen Victoria School which might solve part of a problem that was there from during my time at the school. Things changed after I left and I don't know what was behind the decision to allow girls to go there. When I looked at the spectators at the rugby game I went to recently the makeup of the crowd looked much more like normal pupils. When I reflect back on my time at Queen Victoria School perhaps I wouldn't have necessarily thought that so there has been a change for the better.
130. Looking back on my time at the school and my experiences that I had there, I think that children perhaps should have been made aware that there was a route to go down if there were any problems or they are worried about something. Pupils should know where they need to go. From my experience the pupils were generally left to manage themselves. That was allowed maybe a little bit more than it should have been.
131. I am fiercely loyal to the school because I think it has made me and made my friends who they are. Glenn Harrison just was not right during his time at the school and my impression is that time hasn't changed that. He wasn't a great teacher, he had no respect and he just needs to stop making allegations. However, I really do hope that if anything did happen then the Inquiry gets to the bottom of that. That certainly wasn't my experience of the school and I knew nothing about it between the years of 1984 and 1993. For my part, I hope that I can show through providing my statement to the

Inquiry that it wasn't all doom and gloom. There was a real positive impact on the boys' lives who went there and that was the case for me.

132. 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..... 25/5/2022.....