

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IUS

Support person present: No

1. My name is IUS. That was the name that I was known as when I went to boarding school. My date of birth is 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going to boarding school

2. My father's name was . He was in the army. He started off as a signalman in the and finished up as a regimental Sergeant Major. After that he continued with the Territorial Army for a further ten years and in security with the Ministry of Defence. He passed away in in 2019. My mother's name was . She worked in a bank before I was born. As time went on she was a housewife, worked in a medical centre, worked as a waitress, worked in kitchens and finally ended up working in banking. She passed away in 2015. I am the eldest of two siblings. My sister, , is about three or four years younger than me.
3. I was born in Singapore. My father was serving there at the time. We moved to Edinburgh when I was about twelve months old. Bizarrely my arrival in Scotland was marked on the front page of . The headline was 'IUS arrives in Glasgow' and there's a very seventies picture attached to the article. It must have been a really slow news day in Scotland that day. Over the course of my early childhood, and then into my time at boarding school, my family moved around quite a bit. My parents moved from Edinburgh to Germany to Warminster in England to Berlin

in Germany then Edinburgh again, Warminster again, Cambridge then finally Glasgow. It was all because my father was in the forces.

4. I think I had just started primary school in Edinburgh before we moved to Germany again so I think I would have been five years old around about that time. I remember attending primary school in Germany. The school I attended was a military school insomuch as it was only kids from military families who went there. It was across the road from where we lived and everyone in our area went there. Everything was taught in English. Any German that was picked up was picked up outside of school. I don't really remember many bad times and the school was generally great. I do remember having no idea what all the other kids were going on about. I felt as if I was behind, had an issue with what was getting taught and didn't know what was happening. For some reason my difficulties surrounding long division was a big thing.
5. We left Germany in either 1983 or 1984. My parents and family ended up living in Warminster for three years. I attended primary school there for a period of two years. I found school there fun, don't remember anything negative and fitted in quite easily. I think that is common amongst kids who have parents in the forces because they move around so often. I think my ability to quickly make new friends was probably borne out of necessity rather than anything else.

### **The lead up to going to Queen Victoria School**

6. It was friends of the family in Germany who first introduced the idea of Queen Victoria School to my parents. They had sent their two boys, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] there. [REDACTED] was a year older than me and [REDACTED] was a few months older than me. [REDACTED] went to Queen Victoria School when he was nine and [REDACTED] entered the year below me. They both started just before we left Germany. I remember when I was nine or ten years old loosely being asked by my parents whether I would like to go to Queen Victoria School. My gut feeling is that it was more my mother than my father who asked me. I don't know how it was sold to me but I was quite keen on the idea after being asked.

7. There was at least a six months process that you needed to go through in order to go to Queen Victoria School. You had to spend a weekend at the school so that you could be interviewed and examined. I would guess that that weekend fell in February or March in either 1983 or 1984. My father and I got the train up from Warminster, stayed with my grandmother in Glasgow then got the train back and forth to Dunblane each day. There was an exam followed by interviews with the headmaster and some other teachers. I think some other formalities were run through as well. We must have been given a tour of the school but I don't remember that.
8. My father was present at the interviews. I was a stamp collector and I always remember my father telling me to remember that the proper name for that was philately. When the headmaster asked me during my interview what my hobbies were I couldn't remember the word and said 'stamp collecting.' When the headmaster asked me what the proper name for stamp collecting was I couldn't remember the word. My father was raging when we came out of the interview because of that. That is the only thing that I recall from those interviews and really that whole weekend.
9. I think my only real impression of the school was that it was really big, grand and that the uniform looked peculiar. I think I was looking forward to going. It is hard to tell because I have never been the sort of person to look too far forward. I've always been someone who very much lives in the moment. I think because of that I wouldn't have been thinking what it all actually meant. I didn't visit the school again before starting. I remember the summer before going, my parents purchased all of my sports equipment but not a lot more about the lead up itself.

#### **Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire**

10. Queen Victoria School was a school run by the Ministry of Defence. I started there when I was either ten or eleven years old. That would mean I either started in September 1983 or 1984. I left when I was seventeen. That would mean that I left in June or July 1990.

11. Queen Victoria School, probably for good reasons, was seen as the poorer of the boarding schools in Scotland. We were a military boarding school that was largely funded by the taxpayer. I didn't know initially how much my parents paid in terms of fees but over the years I came to learn what my parents spent. I think it was something like £50 a term to begin with but by the time I left it was something like £150 a term. My sister went to a proper boarding school in Berwick-Upon-Tweed and I know that my parents had to pay a lot more money for her to attend there.

*Layout of Queen Victoria School*

12. Wavell House had three floors. On the ground floor there was an office and a television come common room to the right hand side of the main entrance. At the bottom of the stairs were boxes where you kept your dirty laundry, returned laundered clothes and any mail you received. Everybody had their own numbered box. My number was 134. On the next floor there were two dormitories with showers and toilets. That was the same on the second floor. Each dormitory had a different name. The one I was in was called Abercrombie. On the very top floor were flats where the staff stayed.
13. Attached to Wavell was a more modern building where the classrooms for the whole school were based. All the other houses were located in the older original building. On the ground floor were the dorms for Haig, the first floor the dorms for Trenchard and the second floor the dorms for Cunningham. Also in that building was the dining hall and the kitchens. There was a building which contained a hospital for boys who were unwell and another building that was the chapel. Other facilities within the grounds included squash courts, badminton courts, tennis courts, rugby pitches and a swimming pool.

*Academic years and houses*

14. The school ran from primary six through to primary seven in the junior house. You then progressed to the senior houses which were made up of senior one through to three in one of two houses then senior four through to six in the most senior house. I

started in primary seven and finished in senior five. I technically was repeating senior four when I was in senior five. Senior four was the biggest year in terms of numbers of boys. The numbers of boys got increasingly less as the years progressed after that.

15. Primary six and seven were based in Wavell. That was the physical house where you lived. Within that were three houses divided across three dormitories. Abercrombie was one of them. I forget the names of the other two. Those houses were used for the purposes of sports. After Wavell you were either placed in either Cunningham or Trenchard. Those were the names of your physical house and of the houses you used for the purposes of sport.
16. There was never a boy moved between Trenchard and Cunningham. I don't know how the school divided up the boys between the two houses. I do know that if you had siblings in a particular house then that would be the house that you were placed in. I remember that my friends, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were both placed in Trenchard because they were brothers. I was placed in Cunningham between senior one and senior three. In reality Cunningham and Trenchard were located within the same building but in different parts over two different levels on the first and second floor.
17. Senior four through to senior six were based in Haig. That was located on the ground floor below where Trenchard and Cunningham were located. As far as I am aware there was no inter house sport in the senior years so you didn't need a house in that respect.

### **Staff who were present at Queen Victoria School**

#### *Staff structure*

18. The headmaster was in overall charge of the school. Below him, and his deputy, each house had their own housemaster and deputy housemaster. I didn't know then, or know now, what the role of housemaster meant in terms of their day to day responsibilities. They would be in charge of whatever went on in the house before it

went to the headmaster. I assume that the housemaster and deputy housemasters shared duties during the night in the houses. It could be that particular housemasters or deputy housemasters were assigned to particular dorms within the house. Housemasters and deputy housemasters generally were also teachers within the school but that wasn't always the case.

19. Below the headmaster and the deputy headmaster were also the teachers. It was a very male staff when it came to the teachers. I think there was only one female teacher in the school when I was there. I remember that all the teachers had nicknames. I'm pretty sure that there was just one class teacher per academic year in the junior school. We were in one classroom with a single teacher for the full day. That changed when you reached the senior side of the school. You had your form teacher but there were individual teachers for individual subjects. You would move between classes and classrooms depending on the subject.
20. There was a matron assigned to each house. There was a nurse who worked in the hospital. She was distinct from the matrons who worked in the houses. There were also staff who worked within the kitchens who prepared and served the food at mealtimes.

#### *Staff*

21. Julian Hankinson was the headmaster of the school.
22. Mr OLB was the housemaster of Wavell. I can't remember his first name but his nickname was 'OLB.' I believe he had a flat within Wavell on the top floor.
23. Ben Philip was my form teacher in the junior school in primary seven. I think he was deputy housemaster of Wavell when I was there. I might be wrong but I think he may have lived in a flat above Wavell. I think when I was in senior one or two he became the deputy housemaster of Haig. By the time I was in senior four he was the housemaster of Haig. He had a flat in the building next door to his office and the tuck shop. Ben Philip is the only housemaster or deputy housemaster I recall who didn't

also teach a particular subject in senior one through to senior six. I don't know whether he perhaps continued to be a form teacher in Wavell after becoming involved in Haig as a housemaster.

24. Graham Beattie was another teacher who was my form teacher in the junior school. I don't recall him teaching a specific subject in the senior side of the school. He was a brand new teacher and I think he had just come out of his teacher training. I don't know whether, when I was taught by him, he was just filling in when Ben Philip wasn't there. He was a great teacher. He had previously been a keyboardist with an artist who later went on to form the band Aztec Camera. I believe he had a flat on the top floor of Wavell.
25. Mr QYL was a form teacher attached to Wavell. I don't recall him teaching a specific subject in the senior school.
26. Bill Webster was an Australian teacher who taught English and Modern Studies who was also the housemaster attached to Trenchard.. Mr QTQ was my housemaster in Cunningham. I don't remember his first name but his nickname was QTQ because he was [REDACTED]. I think Mr Gardener was the deputy housemaster in Cunningham when I was there.
27. Mr Stewart was a really good teacher. I don't remember his first name but his nickname was 'Shuggie.' He taught Maths in the senior side of the school. Stephen Laing was a good teacher. He taught Technical Drawing and Woodwork in the senior side of the school. He was a nice teacher. Mr ECA was a bad teacher. I don't recall his first name but his nickname was 'ECA'. He taught [REDACTED] in the senior side of the school.
28. Michael Squires was the Art teacher in the senior side of the school. His nickname was 'Micky.' I wasn't a big fan of his initially but came to quite like him. I realised that he was a great teacher in the end. I remember him also taking us for rugby in senior three. Mr IYE taught [REDACTED] in the senior side of the school. He was

also the school's [REDACTED]. He was a good teacher. [REDACTED] QUH [REDACTED] was a teacher who taught [REDACTED] throughout the school.

29. I don't remember the names of any of the matrons at the school. I have a funny feeling that the matron we had in Wavell ended up being the matron we had in Haig. I don't remember anything bad about her nor do I have any positive memories either. I remember the matron in Cunningham being a lot friendlier. She was lovely but she must have been in her seventies by the time I started at the school. She was nice enough but a bit dithering. I forget the name of the nurse who worked in the hospital. She had red hair. She was probably one of the nicest staff members at the school.

### **The children at Queen Victoria School**

30. Queen Victoria School was all boys and all boarders. If you had family who lived nearby you could go home at weekends though. There were roughly between three hundred and three hundred and fifty boys there. The age range was between nine years old and eighteen years old.
31. I only knew [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] before I started at Queen Victoria School. After arriving I discovered there were two or three other boys at the school whose parents were in the same regiment as my father. Other boys I knew and came to know who were at the school at the same time as me include [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

### **Routine at Queen Victoria School**

#### *Early memories of being at Queen Victoria School*

32. I think it was my father alone who took me to the school for my first day. I remember him walking me around after we arrived. He very awkwardly said to me that I should



use my judo on any other pupil who tried it on with me. It was a short and sweet chat. He hadn't been in a boarding school and I don't know where that comment stemmed from. I think he was just more generally concerned for me than about anything in particular about the school.

33. It was after that that I became aware that there were other children present who I knew from being in families attached to my father's regiment. That was really nice. There must have been other boys who arrived at the same time as me but I think I would have been that busy I wouldn't have noticed. I think about half the boys in my year would have been new starts. That was certainly the case in my dorm.
  
34. I don't think there was a member of staff who showed me where I would be sleeping. I vaguely remember the matron attached to Wavell giving us a chat about general cleanliness and cleanliness concerning our own bodies. There might have been a wee chat from our housemaster but I don't recall that. Other than that I think it was all pretty much left down to the other boys. There was a system at the school where there were 'seconders' and 'rookies.' A seconder was a boy who looked after a rookie. A rookie was someone who had just started at the school. Most of the seconders were in the same year as their rookie but some weren't. [REDACTED] was in the academic year below me but he was assigned to be my seconder when I began. Your seconder taught you how to make your bed properly. They showed you the ropes. They generally taught you what was right and wrong and what you should be doing when and where.
  
35. We were pretty much straight into classes the following day after arriving. There was nothing further done to ease you in. I remember we weren't allowed to leave the school during that first half term. I found my first half term great fun and don't remember being homesick whatsoever. There were some boys who were emotional and missed home. My friend [REDACTED] was in the year below me and I remember him crying. He had a bit of a hard time of it when he first arrived and was upset. He was openly emotional both during the day and at night time.

36. My grandfather was ill and ultimately passed away during the first term I was there. I was taken out of school to see him before he passed away and to attend the funeral. I remember the couple of weeks after returning to school being a little bit difficult and feeling very homesick then. The school would have been aware that my grandfather had passed away when I came back. No staff member asked me how I was feeling after I returned. As far as I am aware there was no help or support offered by staff for those boys who were homesick or emotional. The only empathy and support that was available came from the other boys.

*Daily routine*

37. I think the alarm in the dorms went off at either 6:00 am or 7:00 am. You'd get dressed then come downstairs. In Wavell you had to parade outside before going to the dining hall for breakfast. Breakfast was between 7:00 am and 7:15 am. If you were in Wavell all meals were had slightly earlier than the boys in the senior side of the school. After breakfast you went to chapel for half an hour followed by classes. After your morning classes it was lunch at about 12:30 pm. In the afternoons we had further classes or sport. I think dinner was had at 5:05 pm followed by activities. We would then have prep between about 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm in Wavell. In the senior side of the school that lasted until 8:00 pm. After prep you went for supper. In Wavell lights out was at 8:30 pm. In senior one to three it was 9:00 pm or 9:30 pm. Senior four onwards it was between 9:30 pm and 10:00 pm.
38. We had classes on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. After that we had lunch followed by either rugby training or a rugby match. If there was no rugby on you could walk down into Dunblane. That was as far as you could go and you had to wear your kilt. I think that started being allowed after the first few months of you being there. If you had parents who lived nearby they could come and pick you up on Saturdays after rugby and take you out. They would then return you back on Sunday evening.
39. On Sundays we had chapel in the morning followed by performing pipes, drumming or dancing afterwards. Tourists would come up to watch us doing that. In the summertime we would play football on Sunday afternoons. In the winter we would

muck around in the dorms and just really be boys. Sometimes we would go out into the woods that were in the grounds. I think you may also have been allowed to go into Dunblane.

### *Sleeping arrangements*

40. In Wavell there were four dormitories with between eleven and fourteen boys in each dorm. There was no split between primary six and seven in the dormitories. Both academic years were mixed in together. Inside the dorms each boy had a single bed and a bedside locker where you could place your clothes and other things.
41. I was placed in Cunningham for senior one through to three. Everyone in Cunningham shared a single dorm in senior one. In that dorm it was bunkbeds. You shared a bed space with your buddy and you each had a locker. My buddy was a boy called [REDACTED]. When you reached senior two and three the boys in Cunningham were divided between two dorms. The more trusted boys in senior two were placed in single beds within the dorm used by senior one boys. When you reached senior four you were placed in Haig. The dorm contained of enclosed bed spaces blocked off from the rest of the dormitory with a single aisle down the middle. I can't remember whether there were one or two dorms in the building.
42. In Wavell there would be a teacher on duty throughout the night. They would make sure everyone was asleep and so on. I don't remember there being much staff supervision in senior one, two and three. A lot of the supervision there was undertaken by more senior boys.

### *Mealtimes / food*

43. There were three meals a day and all meals were had in the dining room. Boys in Wavell ate slightly earlier than the more senior boys in the rest of the school. There might have been a ten minute difference between the years from senior one onwards. The dining room had tables arranged by academic year. The youngest children sat at tables at the front and the oldest at the back. There was something like ten boys per

table. You sat down wherever you wanted to on those tables. There was a top table where the head boy, and occasionally teachers who were on duty, sat. There was definitely one teacher from Wavell and possibly two others from the other houses present at mealtimes from time to time. The food was cooked by the kitchen staff and served out by them. I remember that if one of the older boys handed you a water jug you had to go and fill it up for them.

44. There was a choice of things at mealtimes but there were no vegetarian options beyond the vegetables that were on offer. Looking back, it was the unhealthiest of diets. Breakfast was great and you could get as much as you wanted but it would be bacon, black pudding, sausages and fried bread. There was also cereal, toast, tea, coffee, milk or water. You could have coffee at any age in the school. There would be three or four different options for lunch and dinner. There was always a pudding at lunch and dinner. Supper consisted of a sandwich or a cake and a cup of tea. There was always enough to eat and you always had the option of seconds. The food was all fairly basic so I don't recall any boys struggling to eat it.
45. There wasn't a tuck shop in Wavell. There was one in Cunningham and Trenchard between senior one and three and another in Haig from senior four upwards. I remember our housemaster in Cunningham, Mr QTQ, would sporadically open the tuck shop. Trenchard's tuck shop whereas was opened by their housemaster regularly. They always had much better stuff than we did. I remember there were a couple of boys who burgled that tuck shop and got expelled for that. Ben Philip would quite regularly open the tuck shop in Haig. At times when the tuck shops may be closed throughout the year due to general bad behaviour amongst the boys in the house. I don't remember anything major happening that resulted in that. It was usually something trivial.

#### *Washing / bathing*

46. In Wavell all the boys showered naked using the shower rooms on the first and second floor shower rooms. For some obscure reason boys showered with their underwear on in senior one through three. That was just the thing that was done amongst the boys. When you got to Haig house and senior four through six you showered naked

again. I think it all stemmed from the culture amongst the boys. When you were in your early teens it was viewed that you were gay if you showered naked. By the time you were older that culture had changed.

47. You largely had your privacy except for Ben Philip. He was the only teacher I recall coming into the shower rooms when we were showering. He would often appear. I experienced that when I was in Wavell and in Haig. I remember we would have to get regularly showered [REDACTED] and not once did the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] QUH [REDACTED] QUH come into that space. We were very much left to our own devices.

*Clothing / uniform*

48. You purchased your sports equipment before you arrived but your uniform was given to you on the first day you arrived. All the way up to senior three we wore corduroy shorts or green corduroy trousers, a corduroy jacket, shirts and brogues. I think our year in senior one changed from wearing the corduroy shorts to corduroy trousers. Previously the shorts had been worn up until the start of senior four. In senior four you also started wearing a blue V-neck jumper. Your 'number one dress' consisted of a red tunic, a kilt and a glengarry. That was worn to church on Sundays. We wore tweed jackets and kilts on weekends or when we were outside of the school. That was referred to as your 'number two dress.'
49. The only times you wore your own clothes were when you went home for the weekend, after school on weekends or in the evenings if you were doing any outdoor activities. In reality most of the time we were in some sort of uniform. Everything had your name on labels in it. Your laundry was done maybe three times a week. In Wavell you used the boxes at the bottom of the stairs for placing dirty laundry and receiving laundered clothes. Looking back, it was pretty unhygienic because it meant we only changed our underwear three times a week. Strangely I don't remember our trousers being washed all that often regardless of how dirty they got.

*Personal possessions*

50. You had lockers beside your bed where you could keep your uniform and things. Some of the boys had ghetto blasters and Walkmans. I think I had a Walkman but I'm not sure. We didn't lock our lockers and there was no padlock or anything on it. I don't remember things going missing often though. I remember a boy had something stolen in Wavell and Mr OLB created an uproar about it. I can't remember what it was but I ended up finding the item in a bin on the floor below. I ended up becoming the prime suspect and had to persuade Mr OLB that it wasn't me who took the item. I don't remember what happened in the end.

*Pocket money*

51. How much pocket money you received depended on what year you were in. It was a set amount. At the beginning of each term in senior one you had £20. By the time you were in senior four it was between £40 and £50. I think parents could top up your pocket money throughout the year.

*Schooling*

52. I found the quality of the education ok in the school itself. I enjoyed English, French and Physics. I always imagine that I would have done a lot worse academically had I stayed at home with my parents because of the number of times I would have had to change schools. I ultimately didn't do well at school but I don't think that was down to the teaching in particular. There were good and bad teachers, like anywhere, but a lot of it was down to my attitude at school. I think learning is something that I have only come to appreciate in later life after leaving the school.
53. There was homework and that came in the form of prep. Prep was held every evening in the school Monday through Friday. In Wavell one of the teachers would sit in with you whilst you did that. From senior one onwards an older boy would sit in on the class.

*Preparation for leaving / careers advice*

54. The only thing I recall the school doing to prepare us for leaving was to provide one careers advice chat. I remember telling the careers adviser that I wanted to become a pilot in the navy. He had my grades in front of him and asked me whether I had hay fever. When I said that I did, he used that to say that it wouldn't be possible to become a pilot. For years I believed that was the reason why I couldn't be a fighter pilot when in reality the careers advisor probably saw my grades and used that as an excuse not to advise me to pursue that.

*Religious instruction*

55. Religion played a part in the school. Chapel was held every morning except Saturdays. Although it was called chapel the religion at the school was Church of Scotland. All denominations attended those services. On Sundays the Catholic boys would go to the chapel in Dunblane and the rest of us would attend a service for about an hour to an hour and a half at the chapel at school. Attendance was compulsory. There was Religious Education held two or three times a week. You had to say grace before each meal. I got roped into attending Scripture Union by one of the nurses when I was either ten or eleven. She told me that it was going to be fun but I soon realised that it was a lot of singing about Jesus. I didn't go back after realising what it really was.

*Chores*

56. I don't remember doing any chores other than making sure my bed space was tidy. We would have to polish our shoes at the weekend for the week ahead. I remember your kit had to particularly tidy ahead of 'The Grand Day', which was a day held where we marched in front of our parents. I don't recall their being inspections of our shoes and kit.

*Leisure time / extra-curricular activities*

57. We didn't have an awful lot of free time. In the evenings you had to do an extra-curricular activity. I had one most nights if not every night. There was judo, a film club and a chess club. The fact that we were all from military families meant there was a military culture in the school. We did things like marching and so on. Once a year we had something called 'The Grand Day.' Parents would come in to watch and we would march around for half an hour. We had a Combined Cadet Force, or CCF, at the school. Involvement with that was compulsory. I flitted between the army and the navy cadets. It wasn't really my thing. We also had to do one of the trades which was either drumming, dancing or piping. Involvement with that was compulsory up until senior two. From then onwards you could remain involved if you wanted to. The first year I drummed and the next two I danced before giving trades up.

*Sport and athletics / trips*

58. I really enjoyed my sport and was in the rugby team First IV. We were a rugby school during the winter and did athletics in the summer. Football was an added bonus that we played in our free time at weekends in winter time and in the summer term. Ben Philip was often available to referee matches. I think he was a qualified referee. I remember he would always open the tuck shop in Haig after matches. There was a swimming pool where we swam and cross country was quite big. We were also fortunate enough to have squash courts, badminton courts and tennis courts.
59. [REDACTED] would take us out skiing to Glenshee and France or Switzerland during the school holidays. My first trip away would have been during my first year at the school. I went away every year after that until senior four. In senior five we went to Aviemore. We would go to Aviemore on day trips during the year. Those trips were all really good.

*Holidays*

60. The only holidays you got were two weeks at Christmas, two weeks at Easter and six weeks in the summer. I don't think any boys remained at the school over those



holidays. We never really had half terms. Boys could go home for certain weekends during term time if they had family nearby. Those were known as 'exeat weekends'. I think those ran from Thursday night through to Sunday evening. I occasionally got to go and see my grandmother in Glasgow with a friend of mine. It was more difficult for me to get away to see my parents because of the distances involved. If you couldn't get home, or to a relative, you would stay at the school during 'exeat weekends'.

#### *School dances and socials*

61. We had school discos from senior three onwards. There were girls and boys from local schools and other boarding schools who would come to those discos. Occasionally we would go to their schools for discos.

#### *Birthdays / Christmas*

62. I went home for Christmas. Nothing was done to mark your birthday.

#### *Letters / telephone*

63. On Fridays in Wavell you had a letter writing day. You'd have to write to your parents on that day. That wasn't continued into the senior side of the school. You could phone your parents and they could phone you if they wanted to. There was a pay phone in the main reception area of Trenchard and Cunningham you could use. In Haig there were two pay phones at the end of each of the dormitories. My parents weren't that great at keeping in contact. I would say that contact with your parents was encouraged in the junior school but not so much after that. Looking back, I think that was more for the parents benefit rather than ourselves.

#### *Visitors / Inspections*

64. I don't recall there being visitors to the school. The only day I remember parents visiting the school was The Grand Day which was the last day of summer term. My parents didn't really visit me at the school. They moved around a bit. However, even when they were in Edinburgh they didn't visit me and I didn't visit them all that often.

I remember my dad turning up to a couple of rugby games when we were in Edinburgh but nothing further than that.

65. I don't recall there being any inspections or inspectors coming into the school. That might have happened but I don't recall it.

*Pastoral care*

66. There was no one person who officially had a pastoral role. The majority of the teachers at the school were not particularly approachable. There were a few, like Graham Beattie, who were but they were very much in the minority. There were a lot of male teachers and it was very much a 'stiff upper lip' kind of place. It was just a case of 'crack on' and 'carry on with it.' That attitude was very much set in stone when I was there. I don't think you were told to be that way, it was more that there was nothing on offer to be any other way. If you were to get emotional support from anyone it would have come from your matron or the hospital nurse. I remember both of them being a lot more sympathetic and empathetic to what was going on than other staff members.

*Healthcare*

67. There was a nurse who worked in what we called the hospital which was located within the grounds. There were about six beds within the hospital plus a couple of private beds. If you were ill, and needed to stay in bed, that was where you would go. Local GPs would come in once every six months. Dentists would also come in. Everything would be done within the hospital. There was an occasion in primary seven when I hadn't gone to the toilet for about two weeks. A doctor was called in from Dunblane and he gave me a really hard time about that. I once had nits and about five of us had to stay in because of that. I might have had flu a couple of times.

*Running away*

68. Over the years there were a few boys who ran away. Those weren't in my year and I don't remember their names. I don't know why they ran away or what happened when

they came back. When I was older there were a few times when there were boys who would go into Stirling, stay out in the evening, get drunk and not come back until the following day.

### *Bed-wetting*

69. The only time I recall there being issues with bed-wetting was in Wavell. There was more than one boy who had that problem. I more directly remember a boy in my dormitory called [REDACTED] who wet himself a few times. From the perspective of our peer group there was a lot of 'micky taking' towards him.

### **Communication between parents and the school**

70. The only real contact I can remember between the school and my parents came in the form of the report cards at the end of each term. I think it was a double sided piece of A4 paper. The report cards would set out your grades for attainment and for effort alongside a bit of comment for each subject. You would also get a paragraph or two from your housemaster on your behaviour that term.
71. There were times when threats were made by staff that contact would be made with your parents but in reality that never materialised. I think there was one time when a written warning was issued to me for being over amorous with a girl at the school disco. As part of that I was told that a letter would be sent back to parents if it happened again. There was an occasion when a few boys were beaten up by local kids on their way back from Dunblane or Stirling. As boys do, there was a bit of a rivalry between the local boys and ourselves. By that time we would have been in senior one or two. There was talk of a big fight but that never materialised. I think staff were aware and stepped in but it was all kept in house and didn't get fed back to our parents. All that kind of thing would always be treated in that way.

## Discipline

72. I was a difficult pupil for about two or three years. I would answer the teachers back a lot. I must've been in detention every Saturday for two years of senior school but I think that was mostly down to me not doing my homework correctly. At the time I thought that was because a teacher called QTQ took a dislike to me but I recognise now he was responding to my behaviour. I think by senior three I decided I needed to sort myself out. I remember that I received a school report in Christmas that year that was the first unsatisfactory report I had ever had. I remember my parents talking about it and being quite concerned. That led to me sorting things out and improving my behaviour. A teacher called Micky Squires had told me a lot of home truths. I think his words were to the effect that if my behaviour continued in the way it was it may lead to me being expelled. By the end of that year, Micky Squires congratulated me on coming on with my behaviour. I don't think his motivational talk was intentional prior to my behaviour improving but it worked because of the circumstances around me.
73. Any disciplinary issue could be taken up by any teacher. Your housemaster would only become involved with issues of discipline if there was something happened that was really bad. That was how things primarily operated in Wavell. More senior boys didn't have a role in discipline there. The older boys wielded quite a lot of power in the dormitories from senior one onwards. Looking back, they wielded quite a lot of power. It was all a bit 'Lord of the Flies' insomuch as we were all policing ourselves. It was ridiculous when I think about it now because if an older boy took a dislike to you then they essentially could do what they liked. I was never one to 'doff my cap' to the older boys which did cause me issues. That in turn resulted in them using the systems that were available to them, such as 'reporting' and 'days', to discipline me.
74. If you were found to do something bad by a more senior boy they could put you 'on report.' What that meant is that you would have to give yourself to a teacher and report to them what you had done wrong. The teacher would then, if they wanted to, issue you with a punishment. That could be in the form of runs in the morning. You would have to get up as early as 6:30 am before breakfast and go for a run around the cross country fields. If it was particularly bad weather, or it was winter, you'd be doing some

sort of 'beast session', which was various exercises, in the gym. You could be made to hold your arms and legs out as long as you could or made to do circuits. I'm sure another punishment could be polishing another boy's boots. From senior four onwards it operated a little differently. Prefects in senior five and six could issue you with something that was called 'days.' I think days involved doing something by way of punishment both in the morning and in the evening.

75. There was still corporal punishment used in the school when I was there. Ben Philips would administer the slipper when we were in primary six and seven. I received the slipper on three occasions in Wavell. If there was any corporal punishment from senior one onwards either a belt or the cane would be used. I don't think that when corporal punishment was administered it was recorded or your parents were made aware.

### **Bullying and relationships between boys**

#### *Bullying*

76. There was the usual bullying that went on everywhere. It was pretty much rife in the school and there wasn't anyone you could turn to in order to combat that. My thought at the time was that it was all part and parcel of being at the school. We had all had it done to us and had, in some cases, done it ourselves. Boys would be both bullied and be bullies themselves. I remember winding up a kid called [REDACTED]. I'd never physically bully him but I would get him to the point verbally where he would kick off. I'm not particularly proud of that but that's just the way it was. It was an awful thing for me to have done.
77. I got bullied quite badly by a boy called [REDACTED] towards the end of primary seven and towards the start of senior one. I was kind of friends with [REDACTED] but he was a rough lad. His behaviour turned and changed and he became a horrible nasty boy. He always wanted to fight and would antagonise me. I would react to that which would end up with him meeting me later on and beating me up. That went on for pretty much for a year. I wasn't massively injured but would end up with a bloody

nose, sore ribs and sore arms after the fights. The antagonism and the fighting was just constant. I was terrified of this lad. It wasn't connected to what I experienced but [REDACTED] ended up getting expelled in senior one. I don't know what that was for but it came as a godsend to me.

78. Prep was one of the places that was abused by senior boys. They would use that as an opportunity to bully some of the younger ones. [REDACTED] is an older boy who sticks out in my mind as an older boy who was a particularly bad bully. He was a horrible boy. I'm pretty sure he is not nearly as scary now as he was then. He was three or four years older than me. He wasn't a prefect but because he was older he wielded power. I would regularly get hit by him in prep but it would usually either be in the dining room or outside of the dining room area. It would usually be a punch to my arm or a punch to my leg to give me a 'dead leg'.
79. Sometimes the bullying became more extreme amongst the boys. Other boys just got it constantly. I remember one boy called [REDACTED] suffering that. He suffered quite a lot of bullying from the other kids. I never took part in the bullying but I remember seeing him being physically assaulted by other boys in the gym when I was in senior two or three. He was kicked so hard in the groin by one boy that his penis burst and started bleeding. That was widely known about and I remember being asked by staff what had happened. That was pretty much it in terms of a response by the school. It was pretty much brushed under the carpet. Nothing was ever done about the bullying he suffered. No one was disciplined for it and there was nothing like a chat from the staff with us about what should and shouldn't be happening.

*Relationships between boys*

80. There was sexual inappropriateness amongst the boys towards one another. I guess it just happens in boarding schools but I am aware of a few occasions where boys were fondling one another. That was happening whilst I was there and was very open. I didn't witness that happening but it was widely known that that behaviour went on. It was mainly the year above me rather than anything happening in my year. As far as I am aware nothing was ever done about that by the school.

## Abuse at Queen Victoria School

81. A lot of what I now consider as abusive has only seemed to me to be inappropriate behaviour on reflection and mostly after having my own children. That, and the Yewtree Inquiry, is when I really started to question what I'd seen and experienced at Queen Victoria School.

ECA

82. I got into a little bother with teachers but it wasn't anything too bad. It was more general stuff with them being not very polite. ECA taught [REDACTED]. He was an awful teacher who would shout and scream at pupils. I remember him throwing dusters and rulers at boys. That would regularly happen. He would hit boys around the backs of their heads. I remember that particularly happening to a boy called [REDACTED]. He used to get that from ECA all of the time. I remember him being hit round the head and on knuckles with rulers by him.

### *Ben Philip*

83. Ben Philip was the deputy housemaster in Wavell and housemaster in Haig by the time I was there. I didn't have much to do with him when I was in Cunningham between senior one and three. All the teachers at the school had nicknames. Ben Philip's nickname was 'Bender Philip.' For a long time I didn't distinguish his behaviour from him just being a nice teacher. Now much, if not all, of Ben Philips behaviour I view on reflection as being inappropriate.
84. He was always a very tactile person. I remember him rubbing boys' shoulders, legs and bottoms over the top of their clothes. That behaviour was so ubiquitous that you came to not even think it was wrong when it was happening to you. The first time I remember him being a little bit too hands on with the boys surrounded a boy called [REDACTED] wetting his bed in Wavell. [REDACTED] had wet his bed and the floor next to him. He was quite upset about it. Ben Philip was very comforting with [REDACTED]. I remember seeing Ben Philip putting his arm around [REDACTED]. That was the first time I

noticed how tactile Ben Philip was with boys. [REDACTED] continued to be quite upset about quite a few things. I remember [REDACTED] once crying about something he had done and Ben Philip pulling [REDACTED] in quite closely in front of the class at his desk. All of that was in plain sight and wasn't being hidden.

85. Another boy I remember Ben Philip being particularly tactile with was [REDACTED]. That was when we were both in senior four. That was mainly during the day but sometimes at night. [REDACTED] was kind of opposite me in my dorm in Haig. [REDACTED] parents were going through a break up at that time. That could be why Ben Philip was giving him extra hugs.
86. I regularly received what I can only describe as a massage on my head, neck and my shoulders from Ben Philip. That was constant and sometimes strayed down my back to my waist and the top of my bum. He never squeezed my bum but he went down towards there. It was all done over my clothes in front of other pupils. It was never sexual in the sense of a caress or a stroke but it was there. He would do that in the classroom when I was in primary seven and later on in the house when I was in Haig. I would have been in senior four and fifteen or sixteen by that time. He did those things not just with me but other pupils as well.
87. The reason Ben Philip was nicknamed 'Bender Philip' was because of the number of times he would ask boys to bend over whilst he gave them the slipper. Crazy amongst the boys it was something that was viewed as somewhat of a badge of honour. I received the slipper on three occasions from Ben Philip during my time in primary seven. The first occasion happened quite early on during my time at the school. I can't remember exactly what I received it for but it was something fairly innocuous. For some reason you had to change into your gym shorts before being given the slipper. He made me do that then come down to the bottom office in Wavell. The door was closed, he made me bend over and he hit me across my backside with either a slipper or a trainer. The first thing I remember is having to wait quite a while bent over in anticipation before he hit me. I might have been bent over waiting for about a minute. The second thing I remember is that when he hit me it was not very



hard and it didn't hurt particularly much. The second occasion he administered the slipper was much the same albeit he hit me two times with the slipper rather than once.

88. The third occasion when I remember receiving the slipper either happened after or in-between the two occasions just mentioned. We would have a shower night using the shower room on our floor in Wavell on Sunday evenings. On that day there would have been about eight boys showering at the same time. At that time we played a game called 'water babies' in the shower room. We'd run along, pull our knees up to our chest and skid along on the soapy tiled floor on our bottoms. I had just finished that and showering and was getting dried when Ben Philip came in. Coming into the showers both in Wavell and in Haig house was something that he frequently did. On this occasion there might have been a lot of noise coming from the showers so in fairness it might have been justified. When he saw the other boys doing water babies the look on his face was one almost of elation. He looked elated that he had caught us all. He picked up my slipper, lined up all those he had witnessed playing water babies then asked if anyone else had been playing the game. One boy then said that I had been involved too. Because of that myself and all the other boys were lined up in a row and made to bend over naked by Ben Philip. I was dry but all the other boys were still wet. He then came along each and every one of us and gave us each the slipper across our bare backsides. My only thought at the time was that I had been caught and been grassed up for it. Looking back, the way he responded was inappropriate and I wouldn't like that happening to my son.
89. I remember in Wavell we had to do some coursework and I hadn't done it. Because of that the following weekend Ben Philip got me into either his office or a classroom as a punishment. Nothing happened physically but he threatened me verbally for not doing the piece of work. He said things like "imagine if I told your mother," "what would your mum and dad think about this?", "do you not realise how embarrassed your parents would be if they found out what you had done" and so on. It felt coercive and as if there was something more that he wanted. It just felt a bit weird. Looking back, nothing happened physically or sexually but the things he was saying didn't seem to match the offence that had happened.

90. By the time we were in Haig house Ben Philip had the nickname 'Dungeon Master' after the character from Dungeons and Dragons. The character in the cartoon was a little guy who would appear anywhere and everywhere. Ben Philip would just appear when the lights were out and we were having a chat. He would appear out of nowhere unexpectedly. That could be in Wavell or in Haig. If he caught you talking he would give you a massage on your back. He would then say something like "right that's enough Master [REDACTED]"
91. Ben Philip would take us a lot to Callander near Stirling when we were in senior four. He would take groups of boys out which isn't something too unusual in itself. I remember him telling us on those journeys that his brother was a local police officer and, I'm fairly certain, also a mason. He would drive at crazy dangerous speeds with all of us in the car. It was all done out of bravado and to show off. His comeback when we questioned his driving was always that his brother was a police officer who had shown him how to drive like that. I was never part of it but there were times when he would take boys back to his office to have a drink with him. I heard about that from other boys like [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They told me that they would have a beer and a chat with him there. That happened regularly from senior four onwards. Looking back, there were boys who were getting suspended and expelled for drinking yet Ben Philip was drinking in his office with boys at the same time.
92. I have looked a little bit into Ben Philip over the years and am aware that there is mention of him potentially knowing Thomas Hamilton who was the gunman involved in the Dunblane shootings. My friend [REDACTED], who was in the same year as me, mentioned to me that he remembered seeing Thomas Hamilton with Ben Philip on numerous occasions at cross country meetings. He immediately remembered it was Thomas Hamilton after seeing the reporting of the massacre in adult life. He is adamant that Thomas Hamilton and Ben Philip were very close to one another on a friendly basis. [REDACTED] also mentioned that he was aware that Thomas Hamilton would use the firing range at the school and further use the plantations at the back of the school for either the Boys Brigade, the Cubs or whatever it was he was involved

with. I clearly remember being told by Julian Hankinson not to enter the grounds which comprised the plantation at certain times when those camps were happening.

93. Looking back, irrespective of the time, Ben Philip's behaviour was inappropriate. The massages were certainly a bit weird. I don't think he was just being friendly. My gut feeling is that his behaviour was inappropriate and that he was a paedophile.

*Unnamed abuser*

94. I am aware of another pupil who ended up leaving the school because he was being abused by a teacher at the school. I am aware of that through a third party and not aware of the detail. I don't wish to reveal the detail I do know in this statement but it all makes sense to me now. When I look back at the way that pupil was as a boy he was from a good strong family background with good role models but after going to the school and leaving he went down the path of drugs and a life of violence. Unfortunately, I don't believe the former pupil has come forward to the Inquiry which I can totally understand why.

*The Friends of QVS*

95. I am aware that there was a teacher who was at the school after I left who made all sorts of complaints. I am aware he made allegations that boys would be taken out of the school by people, abused and returned to the school with money in their hands. In amongst his allegations he mentions 'The Friends of QVS' as being a group who would take boys out. The Friends of QVS was a very real thing. I don't know who they were, or what they were about, but I remember it being a thing during my time in Wavell and around the time of you having your confirmation. If your family was not there for your confirmation someone from The Friends of QVS would come along and take the boy out for the day afterwards. On my confirmation day, another boy called [REDACTED] and I didn't have parents present so we were taken out by the headmaster, Julian Hankinson, and his wife. Other boys were taken out by other adults from The Friends of QVS to different places. I couldn't say what checks, if any, were undertaken

as part of that. I don't know what happened with those boys when they were out but The Friends of QVS was definitely something I was aware of.

### **Reporting of abuse whilst at Queen Victoria School**

96. I was never aware of any formal system where a pupil could report things to staff members or anyone else at the school. The closest you would get to that would be having an informal word with your matron or the hospital nurse. Even then the response would likely be "there there, crack on." There might be a little bit more sympathy but that would be it.
  
97. The only time I attempted to report something surrounded the bullying I was suffering from [REDACTED] in senior one. It was significant enough that I went to speak to Bill Webster. He was the head of Trenchard house and taught English and Modern Studies. I think [REDACTED] had arranged a fight with me later that day in the toilets in Cunningham and I was petrified. I approached the Bill Webster at the end of his class and told him that I was being bullied and I was really scared. I don't remember his exact words but his response was pretty much "pull your socks up, get on with it, I don't want to hear about it." I felt disappointed but my overriding feeling was fear because I knew what was going to happen later that day. I also realised that what was happening with [REDACTED] was just going to continue to happen. [REDACTED] did later end up getting expelled but I don't know what that was for. It wasn't connected with me reporting what was happening to Bill Webster.
  
98. Boys didn't talk amongst themselves about Ben Philip's behaviour when I was at the school. I'm one hundred percent certain that there was no one I would have felt comfortable enough to speak to about Ben Philip's behaviour when I was at the school. Even were I to have approached the more approachable teachers, like Graham Beattie, I don't think they would have been able to do much. I would have been very surprised if anyone would have taken any interest.

## **Leaving Queen Victoria School**

99. I remember before sitting my O Levels and SCEs in senior four thinking I would wing them easily. In the end I didn't wing them at all. I pretty much failed everything except English. My friend [REDACTED] and I ended up in the same position in terms of our results. Fortunately, we were both invited back to repeat senior four in senior five. That was another moment where I reset myself and returned back to the school. I ended up passing what I needed to pass and started Higher English but decided not to return for senior six. I didn't end up sitting my Higher English exam and I don't know why.
100. Towards the end of leaving the school I didn't know what I was going to do. There was a boy who was about four or five years older than me who joined the police cadets then the police. That boy had been in contact with my friend [REDACTED] and we started talking about the police cadets as an option. That was probably around about the May before we ended up leaving. [REDACTED], myself and a boy called [REDACTED] all decided to apply shortly after we left the school.
101. Looking back, there was nothing done to prepare you for adult life or leaving. I didn't really have a clue what to do before I left. A lot of that was down to me because I wasn't really looking that far ahead. I knew I wasn't academically gifted enough to go to college or university, and that I didn't want to join the army, but beyond that I didn't have a clue. I was kind of left in limbo.

## **Life after being at boarding school**

102. I was accepted to train as a police cadet shortly after I left the school. I ultimately took a year out at home working in Cambridge University library whilst I waited to start with the police cadets. I went on to have a career in the police and I am still with the police today. I am currently a Detective Constable. In my career I have worked for the paedophile unit before it officially became that. I also worked on a team that investigated obscene publications. I currently work on the surveillance side of things

and the covert world. I am due to retire next year. I am married and have two children. I have a nine year old and a thirteen year old.

### **Impact**

103. Boarding school was a very rewarding experience in that I grew up very quickly and became independent. It left me with, through necessity, an ability to engage with people a lot quicker than perhaps I would have done had I not attended boarding school. As much as I didn't do well academically I always think about how badly I would have done if I had stayed with my parents and moved around schools. I'd not have had the security of being in the one place throughout my childhood. There were also negative impacts. I look at the relationship between my parents and myself and realise that my time at boarding school has had an impact on that. I didn't have the intimacy that I should have had. Our relationship wasn't bad but it could have been a lot better had I been at home a lot more throughout that time. If I am honest I think some of that may have stemmed from me resenting being sent away.
  
104. I haven't had a direct emotional response to what I experienced but I have when hearing about what others have suffered by way of abuse at such an early age at the school. When I heard what one particular person went through at such an early age, and saw how he turned out, that upset me.

### **Reporting of abuse after leaving Queen Victoria School**

105. I have never reported what happened to the police or any other authority. I remember that during the first few times I met with other former pupils nothing was mentioned on the topic of abuse at the school. Later on, following allegations being made by a former teacher, there was a bit of chat on social media. The topic was very divisive. There was a strong base amongst former pupils saying that the things Ben Philip did never happened. I don't know whether that perhaps stemmed from the old boys network. Some people got very angry about it definitely not happening. I find that slightly suspicious insomuch as I can't help questioning why those people are so against the

possibility of something happening. In my mind they perhaps don't want things to come out because they would have to confront and admit what has happened. Some people are convinced that nothing happened to them but are still of the view that Ben Philip was definitely a paedophile. My, and other people's, perspective is "why could it not have happened?"

### **Contact with Queen Victoria School and former pupils since leaving**

106. I have been twice in contact with the school since leaving. My friend [REDACTED] and I visited the school prior to joining the police cadets in 1990. That visit was strange because there were still peers of ours in senior six when I was there. The only other time I have had contact with the school was when Ben Philip died. I attended his memorial at a cathedral in 1992 or 1993. The memorial was fine and I got to see a lot of people I hadn't seen in a while.
107. There is something called the Old Victorian Association weekend which is when old boys meet up. That is more a formal thing. I have never been to that but I know a lot of people who have. Within the last decade there have been quite a few informal school reunions. People who attend are from my year and the years above and below. It was me who started those off initially. It ultimately became everybody in the south east of England deciding to meet up. It's grown a little bit over the years.

### **Records**

108. I don't really have any records from my time at the school. I think because we moved around so much my family didn't keep much. The only thing I can think of that might constitute some records are some old tests from when I was in primary seven for Maths and English.

### **Lessons to be learned**

109. The teachers we were sent to school with were just normal teachers. They were not primed for what we would expect as young boys away from home. Those teachers had no formal training surrounding what we were going through. I think that resulted in the attitude that they had towards the boys. There needs to be training in place for staff to understand what a child goes through when boarding. Staff in those positions need to be more available for pupils coming to them and chatting through what difficulties they are going through. There should have been someone at Queen Victoria School who had a pastoral role. I know that my children have access to a school counsellor at their school now. Something like that would have been helpful when I was at school. Someone who you knew you could approach to make a complaint. Someone who would see through your complaint fully. Someone who would at least talk through whatever issue you brought to them.
110. I recently was listening to a radio show where someone was saying that social media means children don't have any escape from bullying. Seemingly, social media means that the bullying from school continues when the child goes home. Boarding school was, in a way, exactly the same. There was no respite from your bullies if you were getting bullied. Looking back at some of the bullying I was aware of and witnessed, I can't imagine what it would have been like to have gone through that. I now realise what that can turn into in later life. I look at my children and can't imagine placing them in a position where they had no one to turn to. I now realise that what was happening was a form of abuse when viewed in that way. There should have been something in place to respond to pupils who were reporting experiencing bullying. It was a major thing for me to have reported what I was experiencing but nothing ultimately happened. There has to be something in place to investigate what was happening, why it happened and how the school was going to stop it happening. There was none of that whatsoever when I was at the school and tried to report what was happening to me.
111. I think it is a terrible idea to have older pupils policing younger pupils unless it occurs much later on in fifth or sixth year. Having thirteen year olds in charge of twelve year



olds was just ridiculous irrespective of how mature or switched on that thirteen year old may be.

112. I would never send my children to boarding school. What I experienced at Queen Victoria School is part of that, however, it isn't the most important factor. I think as much as these sorts of institutions are known to harbour paedophiles historically it is far harder for that to happen nowadays. It is far harder because of PVG and so on to become a teacher in these sort of schools irrespective of your motivation. The main concern for me would be just how long children are away from their parents and family. I would have been lucky if I was with my family for twelve weeks of the year when I was at boarding school. That's a long time to be away from your family.

### **Hopes for the Inquiry**

113. There is always going to be the perception that it was a different era to the way things are now and that is in some way an excuse. Regardless of the era certain things just should never have happened. I would be extremely surprised if nothing took place during my time at Queen Victoria School.
114. Two things triggered me coming forward to the Inquiry. The first was the realisation that I didn't think Ben Philip's behaviour was correct. That really came about following having kids myself. His behaviour crossed the line in terms of what was appropriate. It was very much inappropriate. We were boys away from home on our own and that was too much touching. The second more direct trigger for me to come forward to the Inquiry was because I wanted to show solidarity with those who possibly may have directly experienced abuse at Queen Victoria School. I am aware of people who haven't spoken to the Inquiry who were abused.
115. As a member of the police who has been involved in investigating child abuse and paedophilia I am very aware of the bigger picture and how what I can say might be able to help paint that picture. I am very aware of the methodology used by paedophiles and what constitutes grooming. If I can, through providing this statement,

provide a small piece of the jigsaw then I am happy that I have done that. I hope that if there are people who have been abused at Queen Victoria School they can find perhaps a little more courage to come forward through me providing a statement to the Inquiry. I want those people to know that they are not by themselves.

116. 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..... IUS [Redacted Signature] .....

Dated..... 23 November 2022 .....