

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

CQW

Support person present: No

1. My name is CQW. My date of birth is 1955. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Fettes

2. I was born in a nursing home in Perth, I can't remember the name. I grew up in Kinross with my parents, and . Also with me at that time were my sisters , and latterly , who is much younger than me. My father owned some land and was part of the farming community and butchery business. My mother's side of the family came from the mining community.
3. I attended the local state primary school until I was around nine going on ten and there were no issues when I was there. My father was always concerned that growing up with all the females in my life I may be seen as effeminate. As a result my parents planned to send me to boarding school, but I was never told this was going to happen. Prior to going to the school I was taken to Aitken and Niven for new uniforms. At that time I was still under the impression I was going to be attending Dollar Academy. My sisters were all sent there, which was the same school my father went to. and were day pupils there and was boarded there when it was her turn to go to school.
4. I am not sure where the recommendation for St Mary's came from to the family but with the distance involved I could not attend there as a day pupil and would have to board there.

St Mary's School, Melrose

5. My parents took me to the school in our car. We were introduced to Mr William Sproat, the Headmaster and his wife, Leila. Both of them were really nice while they spoke with my parents. When I arrived at the school there was no guidance instructions and I do not recall anything about this ever being mentioned during any Assembly.
6. Initially it was confusing for the school as to what forename I was to be known as. My father was [REDACTED] but used [REDACTED] I was also [REDACTED] CQW but my family all used [REDACTED] CQW. I told the school I would prefer to use [REDACTED] CQW and have used that ever since. At the school we were allocated a number and I was given the number [REDACTED].
7. I cannot remember the exact date I started there but it was later than the other pupils, I think it was during the second term. When I arrived I saw it was a large Georgian House with another separate house across the playing fields, which was the main boarding area. It seemed a very cold place.
8. The school was an all-boys' school and there were probably over one hundred boys there. The school had a mix of children who were boarding and some day pupils from the local area.
9. The house over beside the rugby fields was Buccleuch House. I think our building was known as School House. I stayed in School House until I was old enough and then transferred to Buccleuch House. The sleeping areas were split into smaller dormitories, each of which were named after countries from the Empire. I was initially in a dormitory named Canada, made up of six boys. The beds we used were all single metal beds. In the dormitory was a House Captain, who was about three years older than me, while the other boys were around my age. I think his name was [REDACTED] I am not sure of his forename. Each of the classes numbered about twenty boys. I don't recall there being any adult supervision. There was no specific House Master allocated to look after us, the house masters took it in turn to supervise the children.

10. My first night there I felt betrayed by my family and was crying in bed as I was feeling home sick. From the moment I arrived there I found the school was very regimented and mainly run by the older boys. I was made aware that I would have to learn to speak different languages including Latin, German and French. I knew this was going to be difficult to start with as we did not do languages at my old school. Because of my lack of language skills I was kept back a year.
11. I can remember some of the staff names, others I am not sure. Matron, I can't remember her name, was not a kind woman. She was always dressed in a white starched uniform. She played the piano but there was no warmth about her. She did not stay in the school but lived locally in Melrose.
12. I can't remember all the staff structure within the school but Mr Sproat was the headmaster and I later came to the conclusion he may have been a heavy drinker. You could always smell alcohol from him whenever you were in his company. Some of the other teachers were Mr^{QTN} [REDACTED], Mr Storrie and Mr^{QTP} [REDACTED]
13. Mr^{QTP} [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] teacher. He was a [REDACTED] camp. His head was [REDACTED] Mr^{ECE} [REDACTED]'s quarters were on the floor above Canada dormitory. The music teacher, Mr Walker, lived over by the side of the Art school. In the dining room it was a group of Italian women who did all the cooking. I don't know their names. They worked for the Sproats in Italy and came over to the school during the terms to cook for us. There were some teachers who were better than most, but again I am not sure of their names. There was one I know as Group Captain Gray, he was like Captain Mainwaring from Dad's Army. He never gave us any trouble.
14. During my time at St Mary's there were some people I was friends with. One was [REDACTED] and he went to Fettes when I transferred there. [REDACTED] later attended Oxford. We went our different ways and [REDACTED] joined the security services and unfortunately died when his car went off a cliff in South America. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was another of the boys I was friends with at St Mary's. I was a very solitary child.

Routine at St Mary's, Melrose

Mornings and bedtime

15. I found my time at St Mary's was not a routine but more a regimented system. Around seven o'clock, possibly earlier, a bell was rung to waken us all up. Everyone from our building then made their way to the bathroom where we had to have a cold bath. After our bath it was back to the dormitory and we dressed in our uniforms. It was then breakfast, assembly, where we sang a song and any notices were read out. Then it was onto school, lunch and back to school in the afternoon. After eating evening meal it was prep time. The whole day was regulated by meal times, lessons, prep and bed times. We were sent to our dormitories around seven thirty and lights out about nine o'clock. Discipline was harsh and regularly administered by senior boys. This would take the form of being tied to the bed and whipped with dressing gown cords.
16. Prep in the evening was carried out in the large hall, also used for Assembly. This would last for about an hour and a half, in total silence, after which there was a short time for some leisure, before bed. There was always one of the House Masters present to supervise the work we put in during prep; if you spoke you were taken onto the stage and were beaten in front of the whole school.
17. During the night there was always a teacher or senior person who was on duty to supervise us. You sometimes saw them walking from the drawing room to where they slept that night or you could hear someone in the corridor. If you did hear them you knew you had to be quiet. If we were caught talking in bed or caught out of bed the teacher on duty would hit us. He would lay you over the bed and use his hands or hit you with anything he could lay his hands on which included using shoes, rugby boots or a hockey stick. I never felt safe or cared for the entire time I was at St Mary's.

Mealtimes/Food

18. The entire school met in the dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There was a top table for the teachers and we all sat at long tables. We queued outside the dining room until a bell was rung for us to take our seats. This seat may or may not be beside some of the boys from your dormitory.
19. Breakfast consisted often of porridge and cold poached eggs. Different teachers took turns on supervising the children and if you did not eat any of the food you were hit by them. They would try to force you to eat the food by rubbing it into your face. Eventually I learned to just hold my nose and swallow the food. This impacted when I went home for the weekend as I was always wolfing down my food much to the surprise of my mother.
20. In the evening one of the most popular meals was spam, beetroot and potatoes. Apart from the food not being the best quality, you were always hungry and on many occasions asking if there were any leftovers.
21. We were all allocated a small locker which was used as a tuck box. This was situated in a cupboard outside the staff room. It was always locked and you had to ask the teacher for the key and return the key after we used it. Mum would send some food parcels and sometimes that would include a cake.
22. This locker was also used for any letters you received. We were asked to write letters to our parents once a week. One of the issues with this was that the letters were vetted by the staff. If the letters contained anything not to the liking of the staff you were asked to attend the headmasters office and told to write something different. Total censorship.

Washing/bathing

23. In the mornings we stood naked in a line waiting to use the bath. There were a total of four baths that were available, with a teacher supervising. The teacher, whether it was

Mr ^{QTN}, Mr ^{QTP} Mr ^{ECE} or any of the others, wanted to make sure we washed ourselves properly and that included ensuring our genitals were clean. They were concerned about cleaning ourselves but then they never changed the water. If you were near the front of the queue the bath would be reasonably clean but if you were towards the rear the bath water was filthy. Mr ^{QTN} was quite brutal during the times he supervised us as he would push our heads under the water.

Clothing/uniform

24. My parents took me to Aitken and Niven where we purchased the school uniform. It mainly consisted of brown corduroy shorts, yellow shorts, brown pullover, a double breasted brown overcoat with yellow cuffs and a cap. We also bought a kilt and clothes for sporting and gym activities but no casual clothes were allowed.
25. We were issued clean clothing each week. The assistant to Matron dealt with this, I don't know her name. She would take your week's laundry and hand out the clean set. If any of the clothes handed over were soiled in any way she punished you. She would hit us very enthusiastically and took pleasure in hitting us with her hands or anything she may have nearby.

Leisure time

26. There was a little leisure time between completing prep after tea and before we had to go to bed. During that time there was very little time allowed for us to watch any television, the one programme I can remember was Top of the Pops. I did read a lot of books, which I really enjoyed.
27. If you were there on a Sunday then you went to church and had Sunday lunch. Often I would go for a long walk, sometimes with some of the other boys. If it was not nice outside or I was not in the mood for a walk I would sit and read for hours. There were times I would practise playing the piano.

School

28. We attended classes in the morning and some in the afternoon. We moved from class to class depending on the next subject being taught. One of the teachers I had was Mr [QTN] whom we nicknamed "[QTN]". He was cruel with his punishments in the classroom and would use the wooden board protractor to administer twelve strokes. Those strokes could be over the hands or sometimes over your bare legs, sometimes you were hit over the knuckles. You would expect to be punished two or three times in a week. It did not only happen to me but I saw other boys being punished in the same manner.
29. I was quite a bright child and picked things up quickly. Despite this if I did not like the teacher or what was being taught I would sabotage the lesson by being as disruptive as I could. I did find that the teachers there were good at their job and each seemed to know their specific subject.
30. We had sports most days in the afternoon. Some of that included Rugby in the winter and tennis and cricket in the summer. I was not someone who enjoyed doing sports but I did enjoy tennis.
31. During the term I could go from being first in the class, which I was by some distance. If I was unhappy I would deliberately not do my work and finish bottom of the class. I was unhappy as I was living in fear and was fed up with being beaten. I chose which end of the scale I was in the mood for, it was the only way as a child that I could protest silently about what was happening to me.

Healthcare

32. Whenever you were ill you would be sent to the sanatorium, which was situated directly above our dormitory. Matron would deal with any minor ailments or injuries, but as soon as she administered any treatment she would dismiss you from the room. There was no empathy or feelings in her treatment. Any treatment more serious than Matron could deal with would require a doctor being called in from the local village.

33. I think by the time I attended St Mary's I had already received all my jags and any routine dental visits I did when I was at home and my mother would take me.

Religious instruction

34. During the school day we did have religious study classes and said Grace at meal times. If we were in the school at the weekend we were expected to attend church where we wore our kilt. We would also have gone to church on some other days during the year.

Work

35. We did not have to do any chores or work in the school but fagging was still part of school life. That could involve cleaning Prefect's shoes and on occasion washing dirty dishes as a punishment. Sometimes I would get out of fagging duties by offering the older boys or Prefects some of my tuck box in its place. If you did not do any of the duties to the satisfaction of the older boy you were beaten with a shoe or slipper. There were times that if another fag was unavailable you would be told to help out another older boy as well as your own duties. Even among the fags there were bullies. If one of the other fags did not like you he too would beat you.

Trips/Outings

36. There were some trips organised by the school but I never went on any of them. I am not sure where they went or how frequent they were.

Family contact

37. There was a pay phone that could be used to get in touch with your family. If you did not have change for the call you would reverse the charges. I went home some weekends and stayed with my family. We left the school on the Saturday morning and

returned on Sunday night. When I went home I tended to shut down from all the abuse within the school. I would spend most of my weekend in my room.

38. On one of my visits home I asked my father what a homosexual was. In his opinion they should be castrated and sent to Tasmania. I was confused with his stance as I was aware that how I was feeling about my own sexuality and the abuse that was being inflicted on me at the school and I needed some advice, none was forthcoming.
39. In my latter years at St Mary's my artistic side was coming to the fore and I helped put on a play. The role I had in the play meant I was in the ball gown with the large wig waving a wand about This really upset my father when he came watch the play. That pleased me a great deal.

Discipline

40. Corporal punishment was used in the school. This was for minor indiscretions such as talking in class, unclean shoes, running in the corridor or rubbing out homework. Punishments could be carried out by teachers, prefects or senior boys. The senior boys or prefects did not have to have to ask permission to beat you, it was accepted that they just had the authority. To begin with it may involve doing lines, which were always in Latin. It could then progress where a cane, belt, a dressing gown cord, a blackboard ruler and on occasions shoes were thrown at you. If the cane was used it was over your clothes. The trick was not to cry or show emotion.

Abuse at St Mary's, Melrose

41. I was molested on the first night by the Dorm Captain, I think his name was [REDACTED] I am not sure of his forename. I was in my bed within the dormitory when he came to me and he played with my penis and testicles.
42. In the sanatorium there was a trapdoor leading down to our dormitory. This was something that was used when some boys from the dormitory above would sexually

abuse the patients, including myself when I was ill. They would climb through the trapdoor, thereby avoiding any staff checking the corridors.

43. One of the weekends I did not go home I attended church. While I was sitting in the front set of pews, [REDACTED] one of the boys from another dormitory, began touching and masturbating me. This was the only time he did anything in that church.
44. On Wednesdays we went to the swimming baths in Galashiels. While in the pool [REDACTED] was again abusing me. He was groping me and anyone nearby could have seen what he was doing to me. There was supervision by the teachers and I was aware that Mr ECE [REDACTED] was in the pool. He must have been aware of what was going on. I could not swim at that time, and still can't, and was just paddling around. When he assaulted me I was so scared and was splashing about, screaming and struggling, until he eventually let me go. There was no interference from any of the teachers.
45. I received punishment from Mr ECE [REDACTED] in his private study. He used his hands to smack me on the bottom. I had to lower my pyjama bottoms and he smacked me. I must have been cheeky when that happened.
46. If you did anything wrong in the view of Mr QTP [REDACTED] he would grab you and place your head between his legs and your head pressed against his groin. He then pulled your trousers up tight and then hit you between your buttock cheeks making sure he hurt you sometimes catching you in the testicles.
47. There was a time when I was walking in the corridor when I was grabbed and dragged into a classroom. I was then forced to bend over a desk where I was raped. I don't know who it was as I had been dragged from behind and never saw their faces.
48. There was another occasion while I was on a school walk in the woods when I was picked on by a group of boys from the school. They ripped the clothes from me and abused me. I cannot remember the names and to take myself back to then is much too painful.
49. These things were all happening randomly. There was even a time Mr QTP [REDACTED] walked in when I was being abused. He just turned and walked away. I woke each morning

wondering what was going to happen me. Eventually as I grew older I was able to manipulate myself out of the abuse happening. I could make people laugh and I used that as a coping mechanism to stop some of the things happening. I did not see any others being abused but I suspected it was happening.

50. I found that my whole time at St Mary's was like living through a "Lord of the Flies" environment. There was a complete lack of affection from any adult in St Mary's. The worse type of fear I think you can give a child is that you don't have any control, you don't know what is going to happen to you. I cannot tell you how many times I was beaten or sexually assaulted.

Leaving St Mary's, Melrose

51. Prior to leaving St Mary's I was one of the senior boys and did have opportunities to be a prefect, but that was not something I was interested in. Before I went to Fettes I did have to sit a common entrance exam, but I don't remember it. Despite my marks in the common entrance exam being low, it did not affect me being accepted into Fettes as they were only interested in the money coming in. So long as you could pay, the school was not interested in your academic skills. I moved from St Mary's, Melrose to Fettes, Edinburgh at the end of Summer in 1969.

Fettes College, Edinburgh

52. When I arrived there I was in third form I think I was the youngest in the school at that time. Again I started later in the term than the other boys. Like St Mary's by the time I arrived the boys in my age group had already established their own cliques and friendships. The boys at Fettes ranged from around my age, fourteen, until about eighteen just before going on to University.
53. I found Fettes was cold, bleak and draughty. It was not homely in anyway. Just like St Mary's there was no obvious duty of care and no empathy from staff. The school was separated into different buildings and I was placed in College West and allocated the number [REDACTED] College West and College East were later amalgamated and renamed School House.

54. The [REDACTED] I was at Fettes the [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] at that time was Mr [REDACTED] FNP [REDACTED] and for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] there it was Mr Chenevix-Trench. I later learned that Mr Chenevix-Trench had been fired from Eton for abusing boys there. The governors at Fettes still thought it was a good idea for him to run our school. This was why I blame the school for most of the abuse that happened to me. They knew what Mr Chenevix-Trench was like and still took him on
55. I can remember one of the members of staff called Mr [REDACTED] FTG [REDACTED] an [REDACTED] teacher. He and his wife were really nice people. Later in my time at Fettes I even babysat for them. There were times when some of the boys were round at their residence for tea. This was all above board and there was nothing untoward with those visits.
56. When the houses amalgamated into School House, Mr Pighill became the House Master. He did not understand me as a young man and he had no concept of homosexuality. He was not someone you could go to if you were having problems.
57. There was a teacher there, [REDACTED] FGP [REDACTED] I later learned in life that he was accused of abusing some boys at the school. This was not my experience and I found it sad that he did that, as I found him quite inspiring.
58. When I was in sixth form that was when girls were allowed to attend Fettes. At that time there were only twelve who arrived. I was really friendly with them and they were all aware I was gay. I am still in touch with some of the girls. We even went shopping together at Harrod's.

Routine at Fettes College, Edinburgh

First day

59. Mr Jones was the House Master who looked after us in College West. He was completely ineffectual. I am not sure he even knew everyone's names who were under his care. I can remember he smoked a pipe but I had no confidence in him whatsoever.

He was like the other adults in Fettes and offered no protection from the older boys bullying younger boys.

60. As with St Mary's whenever anyone addressed you it was always your surname that was used, never your forename. I did not fit in at Fettes but then I had no intention of fitting in with the school.

Mornings and bedtime

61. I was in a dormitory for the first few years at Fettes. This was a long room with each bed area separated into small paddock style areas. Each of the paddock areas had a small entrance. There were even rings in the ceiling, like those used in gymnastics. The first thing I did in the morning was go outside for a cigarette. Then it was carrying out of fagging duties I had, before going for breakfast. It was relentless and purposefully demeaning.
62. I had classes in the morning then lunch. Sports were in the afternoon but I opted not to take part. I did help out an old people's home instead, I can't remember what that home was called.
63. Lights out in the dormitory was around nine o'clock and that is the last of any adult supervision until the next morning.
64. Later when I was old enough to have my own study room there was obviously no fagging for me and I did not have anyone doing that for me. I had a lot more freedom about time of getting up and readying for the day.

Mealtimes/Food

65. There was a new dining room at Fettes and there were allocated seats and tables. There was a person in charge of each table. At the end of the meal someone would be asked to tidy up the dishes.

Clothing/uniform

66. During the summer holidays I was again taken by my parents to Aitken and Niven to buy the new uniform I needed. This time it was a pink and caramel jackets and long trousers this time and a boater.

Leisure time

67. I began smoking while I was at Fettes and we could go to Westies area in the grounds for a smoke. Towards my latter time at Fettes I began drinking a fair bit.
68. For some of our free time we could go into town. Sometimes I would have lunch at the Caledonian Hotel and just charge it to our account at the school. This was much the same as perhaps shopping at Jenners, again we could charge it to our account. Our parents would either deposit money into our account or the bill would be added to fees at the end of term.

Trips and holidays

69. Other than the trips to Bisley or locally going to the cinema or theatre there were no organised trips by the school. Any holidays were taken with my family.

School

70. For my language lessons I was okay this time as I was good at it, but I was not any good at science or similar subjects. The school gave prizes for being top in class, if I won any I always chose books, but it was not books they expected me to choose. One of the books I chose was Gone with the Wind.
71. I was really enjoying my music at Fettes and liked Glam Rock and even joined a band. We also put on another show for the governors and I was given a drag role in HMS Pinafore. I remember I was quite drunk while I did this.

72. One area I was successful in was CCF (Combined Cadet Force), which was held on Wednesday's. I was in the army section and found I was really good at shooting and went on to win prizes at competitions held at Bisley.
73. I remember a letter being sent to my father in 21st February 1969 from Fettes. It mentioned remarks regarding some of my marks in the common entrance exam. Those marks were very weak and it said we cannot give him a pass. It went on to say they were aware I was late in starting languages but my father was not to be too ambitious in any choice of career.

Running away

74. I did run away quite often while I was at Fettes. I was running away at least once a month. Most of the times I left, was to go to my sister [REDACTED] house. She was at University at that time and was studying Sociology. Her course also involved understanding child abuse. She became an expert in child welfare and worked in Edinburgh. I make became mute.
75. On the times I did run away I was always beaten by the staff hitting me with hands, shoes or anything they had nearby, when I returned. I don't know their names. This turned into a vicious cycle of me running away, being beaten and running away again. It continued and I was sent to the psychiatrist.

Healthcare

76. There was a Matron, who had her office on the same floor as our dormitory. That was where you went if there was something minor wrong with you. She did have a couple of Nurses to help her, one named Miss Gilchrist. I cannot remember the name of the other nurse.
77. I was sent by mother to see the psychiatrist who was trying to find out the reasons for me leaving the school. At one stage my mother stormed into his office demanding to know what was wrong with me and what he was doing about it. He said he could not

tell her as it was under patient confidentiality. That doctor, I can't remember his name, was probably the first person I thought I could trust. He worked at the Western General Hospital, just across the road from the school. No one at the school ever took the time to find out why I was running away.

78. I developed chronic acne over my body and this helped put a stop to some of the abuse as the older boys who were abusing me found this ugly. As a result of this I also started getting up in the middle of the night to have my shower so as no one could see me. At this time I was suffering from depression and felt I was having a complete mental breakdown. I knew I was gay but hated the way I looked and hated almost everything about my life at that time. It was a really horrible time. As much as my behaviour was becoming really odd none of the staff ever questioned as to what may be wrong with me.

Work

79. There were no chores to complete while I was at Fettes but fagging was still a part of life there. One of the tasks would be to make cups of tea for older boys. I would get them back by spitting into their cup. We would also have to clean out the senior boys' study and have their books made ready for school that day.

Birthdays and Christmas

80. We would send Christmas cards and there would be a meal on the last week of term before we were home for the holiday break. Perhaps we did some carol singing but there were no organised celebrations. There was not much more organised by the school.

Visits/Inspections

81. There were no visits or inspections at the school. The only time I recall something like this was when the Queen Mother was visiting during the schools centenary celebrations. There was a large security check but that is the only visit I remember.

Family contact

82. At this age in my life there were only occasional letters or postcards between myself and my parents. I don't think there was any monitoring of the letters at Fettes. We did have access to a telephone should we need to contact each other.

Discipline

83. We wore long knee length socks and if we were to be punished by the teachers we had to roll the socks down and were struck with a cane on the legs. We then had to roll the socks back up to hide any injuries. This was not extraordinary in my experience and there were other boys who received the same punishment.

Abuse at Fettes College, Edinburgh

84. [REDACTED] was a fellow pupil at Fettes during my time there. He resided in the same dorm as me and he would abuse me regularly over a long period of time. The first occasion was shortly after I started at the school. [REDACTED] sexually abused me in the dorm, when he groped me, in full view of the other boys. This for him was just the start and he continued to grope me throughout my time in Fettes.
85. The headmaster, Mr Chenevix-Trench, would punish you for your indiscretions. You would be referred to his study. He talked to you in a sleazy manner saying this was going to hurt him more than it would hurt you. He offered you a choice as to how you received his punishment. His first choice was we had to lower our trousers and he would fondle your backside and then smack you. The alternative was he used a stick and hit you over your clothes. He was really creepy about it and certainly achieved a vocal and physical pleasure/climax. This was not something we discussed among the boys so we may not have been aware it was happening to others.
86. There was one boy, I can't recall his name, who was abused by older boys. They attached his penis to a train set. The electric charge went through the tracks into his

penis and testicles. I don't know the boys who carried this out. I only heard about it and did not witness it. He was given the nickname of [REDACTED] after that.

87. There was nothing put in place to protect me. If I came out and told them I was gay then the teachers attitude would be I must have asked for the abuse. It also remained illegal in Scotland.

Leaving Fettes College, Edinburgh

88. I left Fettes in 1974. I wanted to go to University of London. I wrote to them and they gave me an unconditional offer, but wanted me to get my Maths O-level. I did attain straight 'A's in all other subjects, Maths let me down and stopped me getting in there. I tried to do to Philosophy at North London Polytechnic but that was a disaster and I did not stay there. I then went to a finishing school and they helped me get my Maths O-level. I was then able to go to Edinburgh University and studied English Literature and Drama.

Life after Fettes College, Edinburgh

89. Part of my life that I enjoyed at school was my music. This led onto me being involved in the entertainment industry and the making of television programmes.
90. My main career in life was as [REDACTED] for many people in the entertainment industry. I was always given the most difficult people to deal and dealt with them well. I was a great success and became one of London's most successful [REDACTED] I could name many famous people that [REDACTED], I have been to the Oscars, I have been to Buckingham Palace and Balmoral. I have also eaten at the White House. But even in my life as a successful [REDACTED] I could [REDACTED] for someone, but I could not have that person come near me to thank me as I could not stand someone touching me.

91. I enjoyed this work and really enjoyed the lifestyle it provided. I was able to drink what I liked and when I liked. I gave up that side of the life and have been sober for twenty years now.

Impact

92. While I was at St Mary's in Melrose I did suffer from suicidal thoughts. During that period I knew I was gay and at that time in Scotland it was not only frowned upon, but illegal. This along, with being away from home and the abuse I was suffering, led me to those thoughts. I never followed it through with any attempts.
93. Even after leaving Fettes I still think I am suffering from PTSD. I hated myself for being gay. I saw myself as the problem all because I was gay.
94. As a result of the many instances of abuse I have never had an intimate relationship with anyone. I always associated sex with some violent act carried out on me. I used to flinch whenever someone was near me and touched me. I always felt I was someone who was to be punished.
95. Through my various times I therapy in my life I have learned to detach myself from what is happening around me.

Reporting of Abuse

96. Other than in therapy or at AA meetings I did not discuss this with anyone, it was something I believed I just had to accept. I read an article in the Fettes publication about reporting any abuse and I spoke with my sister [REDACTED] about it. She told me I should report it and that I should get a lawyer. I am being represent by Kim Leslie at Digby Brown in relation to my abuse. She is aware that I am speaking to the Inquiry. I have recently, in the last year, been in touch with the police. I provided a statement to them about the abuse I received at both St Mary's and at Fettes. My contact person is PC Andrew Martin at Police Scotland at Fettes Police Station and DC Bird, a female officer at Melrose Police Station.


- 97. Taking legal advice is not been easy and I have found this whole process very triggering. I just want the schools to acknowledge the abuse and their utter failure with safeguarding me and for them to give me an apology and for whatever else is awarded.

Lessons to be Learned

- 98. I don't have an objective answer to what should be done better in private education as I have the opinion that they should not exist. I believe it is the responsibility of parents to bring up their own children and not pass it to those schools. Pastoral care within those institutions should be a priority.

Other information

- 99. 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..... 24 November 2020