

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

CVH  
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is CVH [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1968. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. My dad's name was [REDACTED] My mum's name was [REDACTED]. Her original first name was [REDACTED]. I don't know why she changed her name. She died in November last year. My brother's name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is three and a half years younger than myself.
3. During my early years I more or less grew up everywhere. My father was in the forces. He was killed in Northern Ireland in 1972 when I was four. My mother was the one who really brought us up after that. We moved to Kirkcaldy in Fife after my father died. That's really where my main childhood began.
4. My family life in Kirkcaldy was alright. I wouldn't say that my mother was the best person in the world. She wasn't really "a child person." It was kind of weird growing up with her because she was a very secretive woman. There are a lot of things that have only recently come to light that have "dotted the I's and crossed the T's." They were things that I wasn't aware of when I was a child. I discovered that I had another brother and two further sisters through my mother's past relationships. I wouldn't say that she disowned them. I think that she just deliberately forgot that they were there. I remember one occasion that it was brought up that there was the

possibility of another brother being out there and she said that the boy was dead. That wasn't true because I later discovered that he was still alive.

5. Looking back, the way my mother was with my brother and I was because she had the kind of mentality that she wanted any excuse to get rid of her kids. She just didn't want kids. She just wasn't a family person. It is probably part of the way my mother was that resulted in me being packed off to a residential school then a boarding school as soon as she could. She probably just didn't want to have kids in the household.
6. I initially went to Fair Isle Primary School in Kirkcaldy. I think that they termed me as a problem child when I was there. Looking back, I don't think I was a problem child. I was maybe a little hyperactive at times but I think I just did what boys did at that age. I do think that me being thought of as a problem child might have been all part of my mother trying to get rid of me. I don't think there was any social work involvement but I did end up somewhere residential. I think that's just what my mother wanted for me.

#### **Ovenstone Residential School, Pittenweem, Fife**

7. Ovenstone was a council residential school. I believe that it shut down a few years ago. I was still in primary school when I went to Ovenstone. I was probably about six, seven or eight when I first went there. I think I was only there for about a year. I remember thinking whilst I was at Ovenstone "why am I here?" The whole set up of me being there felt weird. Ovenstone was actually alright. From what I can remember I had no problems or issues there.

#### **Life between Ovenstone and Queen Victoria School**

8. I can't remember whether I went to Fair Isle Primary School after Ovenstone or whether I went straight from Ovenstone to Queen Victoria. I can't remember the

exact timeframe of all of that. There wasn't social work involvement surrounding me going to Queen Victoria. It was all decided by my mum. I wasn't privy to the exact reasons why my mother chose to try and send me to Queen Victoria. All I know is that I got dragged to Queen Victoria to do an entrance test and an interview. I couldn't have been much of a thick child because I passed that test. After that I was basically told that that was where I would be going. I can't remember how long a time it was between me passing the entrance examination and me going to the school. It could have only been a couple of months.

### **Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Stirlingshire**

9. Queen Victoria is a school for boys who are sons of current or ex members of the armed forces. I couldn't even hazard a guess as to how many boys were at the school in total but there were quite a lot. The age range of the boys there was between about eight and eighteen.
10. I would have been about eight years old when I first went to Queen Victoria. I left when I was about fifteen. I think that my fees were all financed through the Ministry of Defence. I think the only thing that my mother had to pay for were things like extra-curricular activities.

### *Houses and colours*

11. There were different houses at Queen Victoria. The first house I went into was for the youngest children who could go to the school. It was called Waverly House. Waverly House was like the preparatory part of the school for the children who were all primary school age. It was a separate building to the main building where the other houses were located. That was the only house that was separate from the others. I think I was there for only about a year or two.
12. When you reached high school age you went to either Cunningham House, Trenchard House or Haig House. I might have missed out one but I think those were

all the houses that were there. I think they were named after army generals. All those houses were located in one massive building together. I went to Cunningham House when I reached high school age. That is where I stayed until I left Queen Victoria. I have no knowledge of how they selected Cunningham House for me. I don't know how that all worked.

13. There's something in my mind that makes me think that the senior boys would move on to a different house when they were of a certain age. I am not 100% sure about that. That wasn't something that happened with me.
14. There was a rivalry between the houses. There were competitions in between them. It was usually things like rugby and that sort of stuff. I remember the houses competing academically as well. There was a debating society where the different houses debated against one another.
15. There was a colours system based on sporting achievements. I remember there being different coloured sports kits. The colours system didn't really feed into anything else. You just got your colours depending on whether you had done well or been part of a team in a particular sport.

*Staff structure*

16. The structure of the school was hierarchal. It was basically run just like the army. I think that was the whole thing with the way it was structured. In the army you have a private, a lance corporal above them, a corporal above them and so on. The commanding officer doesn't know what is going on day to day because the sergeants are dealing with that. Only something major would go in front of the commanding officer. That was exactly the same as the way Queen Victoria was run.
17. The commandant was in charge of the whole school. Below him was the headmaster. The headmaster, in terms of line of command, was above the housemasters and the teachers. You had no real interaction with either the commandant or the headmaster.

18. The teachers were all permanent members of staff. Most of them had some sort of military background. Some weren't but the majority were. I assume they were all qualified teachers. I guess you don't ask when you are at that age whether they were qualified or not. There was a bit of crossover between the housemasters and the teaching staff. Some of them did have a dual role.
19. Some of the housemasters were ex-army and some of them weren't. The housemasters didn't do any of the running in the houses and the school. They were only there if there was a major problem. All the day to day stuff in terms of discipline and the running of the houses was done by the prefects and monitors. Looking back, the housemasters did very little. In fact I don't really know what they did at all. I remember them standing proudly by the boys in the sports field and things like that but that was about it. I think they were just there to do admin and things like that.
20. In reality, the school was really run by the boys who had been given the role of monitors or prefects. They were the ones who were in charge. That's kind of how the whole school worked.
21. There was a board of governors but I don't really remember much about them or know what their role was.

#### *Staff*

22. I can't remember the name of the commandant but he was ultimately in charge of the whole school. I remember that he was an older guy. Julian Hankinson was the headmaster whilst I was at Queen Victoria. He was in his forties whilst I was there.
23. Ben Phillips was the housemaster of Waverly House when I first went to Queen Victoria. I can't remember if he had a deputy. He wasn't ex-army.

24. Mr <sup>QTO</sup> was the housemaster in Cunningham House. He was there until I left. He had a flat in Cunningham House that was separate from the school. He lived there with his family. ■■■■■ didn't attend Queen Victoria.
25. Mr <sup>CRC</sup> was another staff member who I remember being around in Cunningham House. I can't remember whether he was senior to Mr <sup>QTO</sup> or whether he was a housemaster to another house. My feeling is that he was senior to Mr <sup>QTO</sup>. He was around Cunningham House until I left. I think Mr <sup>CRC</sup> was also a teacher in the school. I can't remember what subject he taught.
26. Mr <sup>CXK</sup> was one of the teachers in the school. He taught ■■■■■. We had our own chaplain who was associated with the school. His name was Mr Orich. He also taught religious studies in the school.
27. There was one matron to each house. I don't remember their names. There was a nurse for the whole school. I don't remember her name.

#### *Siblings*

28. My mother did try to send my brother to Queen Victoria but he didn't get in. The school rejected him because they felt he had too many extra-curricular activities that he was involved with in Kirkcaldy. They felt that he would miss out on them if he started at the school. That was the explanation that was given to my mother.

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

##### *First day*

29. My mum's friend, Lorraine, dropped me off at the school. She had a car so she could give me a lift. From what I can remember I found it all quite overwhelming. It was quite a big school. It was all a bit of a culture shock getting used to the fact that I was going to be packed into a dormitory and that I was going to be there for the full

term time. All of a sudden there were all these new rules which I had to live by. I think I was introduced to my housemaster after I arrived. At that time the housemaster of Waverly House was Ben Phillips.

*Daily routine*

30. Everything you did during term time was structured. There was generally a fire bell that got you up in the mornings. I can't remember exactly when that went off. It was either 6:30 am or 7:00 am. After that you had a set amount of time to get washed, brush your teeth and get dressed. You then had to make your bed and sort your locker out. It was all done in a military style. Everything had to be perfect before you went over to the dining hall for breakfast. After breakfast you went to school. School started something like 8:30 am or 8:45 am. It was quite an early start. You got something like a fifteen to twenty minute break in the morning, had lunch then went back to school. School finished at about 3:30 pm or 4:00 pm. You had your dinner at about 4:00 pm or 5:00 pm. After dinner you got a little bit of free time. I'm not sure whether during that time you could do your hobbies. You would have to go back to school at night for evening prep, which was basically homework, for about an hour. I think that was at about 7:00 pm. After prep it could have been that you got to do your hobbies before it was bedtime. I think you went to bed about 9:00 pm. I don't think that changed the older you got. It might have for the senior boys but I am not sure about that. After lights out that was it.
31. You went to school on a Saturday morning. That was just a half day. In the afternoons you could go into town. I think we could do our hobbies as well on Saturday afternoons. Sunday was a bit more relaxed. You had church or chapel in the morning and then you could do more or less what you wanted for the rest of the day. You could go into the town in the afternoon to spend your pocket money. The school had their own cinema so sometimes you went to watch a film there afterwards.

*Sleeping arrangements*

32. There were two dorms in Waverly House. There were probably about twenty boys to a dorm. There were about twenty beds with lockers lined up next to one another. Ben Phillips had his own staff flat in the building where we stayed.
33. The dormitory structures changed when you moved to the senior houses. You got better dorms. That was one of the privileges you got through being older. The dorm sizes in Cunningham House were about the same as Waverly House. I think there were two dormitories in Cunningham House. We were more or less all the same age in the dorms I was in.
34. There was one prefect allotted to each dorm. If you were a prefect or a dorm prefect you got your own cubicle within the dorm. It was like a private area just for them. The prefect would be in charge of making sure there was no mucking around or talking after lights out. They would punish you if you misbehaved or if you didn't look after the dorms. They might punish you for things like the box corner on your bed not being made correctly or if something wasn't cleaned properly.

*Washing / bathing*

35. There were washrooms with showers, basins and toilets in them. There were always enough showers. Some mornings you needed to wait your turn but you always got one. I think all the showers were in cubicles. There wasn't really any supervision from anyone in the washrooms by the prefects or any of the staff.

*Mealtimes / food*

36. All the boys had their meals together in one big dining room. All the meals were held in the one place. It was divided into sections. You kind of sat at tables corresponding to whatever dorm you were in. There were staff in the dining hall at the same time you were eating but they didn't supervise the individual tables. They sat separately at a long table at the top of the room.

37. The food at Queen Victoria was alright. It was kind of like school dinners. There was always a choice of things to eat. I am quite fortunate because there isn't really anything that I don't like. If someone didn't like something then it was tough shit. You basically just got on with it. It wasn't as if they would go off and make something special for you. Nobody was told that they must eat something or anything like that. There were no punishments if you didn't eat something. You just went hungry.
38. There was a hierarchy as to when you got your meals. You had to wait your turn. The older boys went first and the younger boys went last. The younger you were the lower down the pecking order you were. I remember the older boys jumping in front of me when I was queuing up for my meals. Sometimes you missed out on whatever was good for your meal because the older boys would have picked all of that by the time you got there. It was just the way it worked.

#### *Chores*

39. You had to keep your dormitory clean but generally speaking I can't remember much surrounding chores. The only other thing I remember is that someone in the dorm would have to collect all of the bed sheets each Sunday to be washed. That was done every week.

#### *Clothing / uniform*

40. Everything you wore was formal. You had three types of uniform then your sports kits on top of that. The school uniform was corduroy shorts and a tunic. If you ever went into town you wore a tweed blazer and a kilt. On any other occasion you wore a red tunic with your kilt. I remember that when you were in the juniors you wore shorts and when you were in the seniors you wore tartan trews.
41. There was no real call for you to have your own clothes there because you wouldn't be wearing them anyway. You would never wear civilian clothing during term time

unless you were one of the senior boys and were going into town. I think that was one of the privileges they got

*Possessions / pocket money*

42. You had very little by way of your own possessions. It was mostly stuff that had been issued to you. I think you got your pocket money on a Saturday morning. There was a pot there that every parent paid into. Every boy got the same amount. I think you only got about £25 a term. You would take a couple of pounds and go into Dunblane to buy sweets or whatever.

*School*

43. School was held in a separate building. School was structured much in the same way as a normal school. The classes in each subject and each year were all tiered along the lines of 8A, 8B and so on. I remember that my report cards from the school weren't very good. It was always "could do better" or "doesn't concentrate enough." I probably was a bit of a daydreamer and a bit rebellious when I was a kid. I think I did alright when I started there but as time went on I became distracted from what I was supposed to be doing.
44. I do remember that if you didn't understand something you were fearful to ask any questions. That was because it might lead to a target being put on your back. You didn't want to put your hand up in case you would then be regarded as thick. I think that was more of a problem because there was an awful lot of peer pressure in the school. It was all a bit of a vicious circle. You were reluctant to ask things and that escalated into the teachers not understanding why you didn't understand.
45. There were a couple of good teachers but a lot of them weren't particularly sympathetic. Some of them were just nasty to the boys. I remember that when things transpired later on some of them wouldn't even acknowledge I was there during class times. I could be the only one trying to answer a question with my hand in the air during class times and I would be ignored. I was basically sent to Coventry

following reporting what happened to me. I just gave up trying to get attention. There was no point in even trying.

*Leisure time*

46. Looking back you didn't really get that much free time to do what you wanted to do. Everything was organised for you. It was all structured. When you first started at Queen Victoria you had to select whether you wanted be a highland dancer, a piper or a drummer. You ranked those in order of preference before you started. You were then told what you would be when you started. You had to then do that three evenings a week. I was selected to be a highland dancer.
47. You had to join one of the cadet forces at the school. That was either the army, navy or air cadets. You could pick which one you wanted to join. Most people tended to pick whatever branch of the armed forces their dad was in. You did that one evening a week.
48. The other days you were allowed to do your hobbies. There was a list of things that you could pick from. When you started each term you could select what you wanted to do. Once you picked what you wanted to do you had to do that for the whole term. You couldn't change things. I remember that one of the choices was going to watch Tomorrow's World on the evening that was on. There were other things like modelling and so on. The list of hobbies you could choose to do changed year on year.
49. There were no restrictions on going into Dunblane if it was at the designated times during the weekends. You just had to be dressed in the appropriate way.

*Religious instruction*

50. On Sunday mornings you either went to the church that was within the grounds if you were Church of Scotland or to the chapel in Dunblane if you were Catholic. I think you said Grace at mealtimes. There were extra things for Easter Sunday and things

like that. We had our own chaplain who was associated with the school. His name was Mr Orich. He also taught religious studies in the school.

*Trips / holidays*

51. They did have organised day trips. There were occasions where you were taken away for the weekend to go camping and things like that. That was mostly done as part of the cadet force you were with. I can't remember whole houses being taken out. I think it was all dependant on what cadet force you were a part of. It was all structured about that. The only thing we did as a house was if there was a house rugby match, an away match or something like that.
52. I'm sure there were holidays for the older boys but I never got involved with any of that. I think they got to go away for a week in France and things like that. I didn't go on any of those trips.

*School holidays*

53. I went back to my mother's during the school holidays. It was Christmas break, Easter break and Summer break. I remember that you did get longer holidays than normal schools. We got ten week holidays at Summer where other schools got only seven weeks. There were no holidays during term time. Once you were there you were there for the whole term. You couldn't go home.

*Birthdays / Christmas*

54. If your birthday was during term time then it was obviously held at the school. It just passed as a normal day. It wasn't really marked. You would go home for Christmas.

*Visits / Inspections*

55. My mother could come up at weekends and take me out for the day. That happened occasionally. I don't know whether there were restrictions as to how many times a parent could visit.
56. It was kind of weird because there were always people around the school. They were people that you didn't really know what they were there for. I remember visitors from the military coming into the school quite regularly. You would see people coming in and they would be all dressed up to the nines.
57. I never came across anyone coming in from the outside, inspecting the place or speaking to me. At the age I was I wouldn't really be aware whether there were inspections or not.

*Telephone / letters*

58. There were a couple of phone booths which you could use. Everyone could book a telephone call to receive from their parents. You were given a time slot for that. I think that was on a Sunday. That was really the only real way, other than visits, you had contact with your parents. I think parents could write to you and you could write back. I think I did that a few times.

*The Grand Day*

59. There was something called The Grand Day that was held on the last day of the last term of the academic year. It was a major event. A lot of people would come up to attend. Brigadiers, Admirals and even royalty would come up for The Grand Day. I remember Military Police being posted at the front gates to welcome the dignitaries in. All the boys' parents would also be there. It was the only day of the year when people from the outside came in en masse.

60. During the day the boys would do parades and all that sort of stuff. We would be dressed up in our red tunics and our kilts marching and doing drills in front of the dignitaries. The boys who did highland dancing would put on shows and there were pipe bands. It was almost "military tattooish." It was basically a much grander version of a normal school's sports day.

#### *Healthcare*

61. All the houses had a matron. They basically dealt with day to day healthcare issues. There was a mini surgery or sick room in the school which had a nurse. The nurse would usually come in at a specific time in the morning. You could request to go to the sick room if you were unwell. When you got down there the nurse would see you. It was mostly the nurse who I saw in the sick room. I went to her mostly with things like cuts. I remember that everything you saw the nurse for was treated with a "saltwater gargle." That was about the only thing that you got off her. Things like inoculations were all also done in the sick room.
62. Occasionally a doctor would come in if required. I can't remember him really being there all that often. I think that you only got to see the doctor if there was something seriously wrong with you. I don't really remember seeing the doctor for anything other than more or less the routine stuff.
63. The school also had its own dentistry bit. That's where we would see the dentist if we needed to.

#### *Pastoral care*

64. The mentality of the school was that, whatever happened, you were expected to just "suck it up." The favourite phrase that was used by the staff was "it's character building." Some of the kids could deal with things better than others.
65. I remember some of the younger boys, as they naturally would do, getting homesick. There was no one that you could go and see if you were homesick or had a problem.

There wasn't anything really structured in a pastoral care or one-to-one sense. You couldn't really go and see your housemaster. I remember going to see Ben Phillips and him being alright but then just ending it in a "off you pop now, get on with your duties" kind of way. The way that I would describe the housemasters in the school was that they weren't sympathetic.

66. The problem with going to see a housemaster, or someone else, if you had a problem was that if you were found out to have done that by any of the other boys it could lead to you being bullied. It would be used to make your life hell for a few weeks. I think that led to you not wanting to go and speak to people. To do that would basically result in you having a big target placed on your back.

*Running away*

67. Some boys did run away. The boys who ran away probably did get punished. I don't remember the details surrounding that. I think that there were a couple of times when I thought about running away. The problem was that there was nowhere to go. You were in the middle of Dunblane and that was it. I remember sneaking out of school, suddenly realising that I had nowhere to go and just returning.

*Bed-wetting*

68. I can't remember anything surrounding bed-wetting whilst I was at the school.

**Discipline and punishment**

69. I don't remember being given anything in writing in terms of a code of conduct. I don't remember anybody sitting me down and telling me what I could and couldn't do. I can't remember there being an induction type thing. I think it was all learnt as you went through. Everybody was kind of timid when they first got there but within two weeks we had all learnt what was expected of us. By the time you got to the senior houses you just knew what was expected of you.

*Prefects and monitors role in discipline and punishment*

70. The monitors and prefects were aged anything from about fifteen or sixteen upwards. I think their appointment was a case of being appointed if they were a captain of the rugby team or something like that. I think they were given those roles as a reward for doing well.
71. In Waverly the prefects and monitors weren't in the dorms so they didn't have a role in terms of discipline in the house. You were kind of protected in that way from them. It was only really when you moved to the senior part of the school that you had more contact with the prefects and the monitors. It was there that they became the ones who were in charge of supervising the routine of what went on during the day.
72. The prefects and monitors were the ones who dished out the discipline and the day to day punishments. If you were late for anything, or did anything they viewed as out of turn, they were the ones who dished out the punishment. One of the things they especially didn't like was talking back to them. They would intimidate you. I guess that's what any older boy might do if they were given a role like they were. In all fairness I was a bit of a "gobby shite" when I was younger. I did talk back to them a lot. I'd grown up on a council estate in Kirkcaldy and the culture there was that you didn't take any shit off anybody. All that landed me in bother in Queen Victoria on more than one occasion.
73. The prefects could punish you in any way really. They could do what they wanted. I remember them making us sweep the assembly hall or clean the dormitories. Most of the time they would make you do circuit training or cross country in the mornings. If you were made to do that you would have to get up half an hour earlier than everyone else. That punishment could make life difficult for you because you only had a certain amount of time to get up, washed and ready before breakfast. It was hard because if you didn't make it in time for breakfast you were punished again.

74. The prefects and monitors could sometimes give you a hiding by way of punishment. You could get slapped about by them. They would kick you up your arse or slap you round the back of your head.
75. You weren't allowed to talk at night time. Prefects and dorm monitors would check up on you through the night. If you were caught out of bed or you were caught doing something that you weren't supposed to be doing, then that was it. You would get a punishment from them.
76. There were no records when punishments were given out. It was all just issued "ad hoc." The prefects and monitors could pretty much do what they wanted. They had "carte blanche." The prefects or monitors wouldn't consult the housemasters when they issued their punishments. The housemasters never got involved in any of it. The prefects and monitors just did what they wanted to do.
77. Sometimes you were kind of set up to take a fall. I was always a streetwise kid but I was also kind of naïve about certain things. There were incidents where kids would do things that I wasn't involved with and then I would get the blame even though it wasn't me. I remember incidents where I would be further punished because the school would think I was trying to blame other people when I was saying it wasn't me in the first place. It was as if they were thinking the opposite way around.
78. The prefects would make you clean their things for them and things like that. They might for example make you clean their shoes in advance of a parade. You did get that an awful lot. That did go on but it wasn't formalised in a way that one specific boy would do things for one specific prefect. You weren't mentored by a particular prefect. You weren't an assistant to a particular older boy. You would just be randomly asked to do things by particular prefects.

*Corporal punishment*

79. Corporal punishment was used as a means of discipline in the school, rather than the boarding house, side of Queen Victoria. They used both the belt and the cane.

You might get given the belt or the cane for talking in class or anything like that. I think whether they used the belt or the cane depended on the seriousness of whatever you had done.

80. As far as I remember only the teachers gave you the belt. When they gave you that it was always on the hand. I can't really remember the number of times you would be hit with the belt. I think the most that I ever got was six strokes. You occasionally got cut when they used the belt. I think that only happened if you flinched and it caught you in the wrong way.
81. The cane was only really used by the housemasters. You would be sent to them by the teacher for that punishment. You knew that you were going to be given the cane if they told you to go and put your sport shorts on. The cane was always given on the backside. It was administered over your shorts. I think the cane was usually about two or three strokes but I do remember one time getting six. It was never administered to such an extent that I got cut or had anything more than a sore arse.
82. The cane wasn't used in the junior school. The worst you could get by way of corporal punishment was being hit with a Dunlop tennis shoe over your backside by your housemaster. I remember Ben Phillips using one of his own shoes to do that. He was the only one who administered that. That happened to me a few times. He was always alone in the room when he did. It was usually done in his staff flat. I don't remember him keeping a record or anything like that.
83. We had a [REDACTED] teacher called Mr [REDACTED] CXK. He was just nasty. Looking back now he was a bully of a teacher. He wasn't a nice person to deal with. He had a perfect aim with a blackboard duster. He would bounce that off your head if you were doing something you weren't supposed to. Sometimes he would sneak up behind you and wallop you right across the back of your head. He might do that if he thought you were talking or you were day dreaming. He would do that for anything.

*Sanctions*

84. One of the sanctions that they used was not being allowed off the grounds at weekends. You could end up being stuck inside doing duties instead. You might be told that you weren't going to be allowed out for the next three weekends or whatever. That was used as a punishment on certain occasions. I think both the housemasters and the headmaster could give you that sort of punishment.

**Suspected abuse concerning other boys at Queen Victoria School**

85. There wasn't any abuse concerning other pupils at the school I was witness to. However, whatever happened with me has opened up my eyes to questioning what other stuff may have been happening in the school. I remember there was weird stuff going on in the school. At the time I couldn't quite put my finger on what was going on but it does seem odd looking back now.
86. There were boys who were taken out of the school by "friends of the school." The friends of the school could be anybody who was from outside of the school. I don't know whether they were benefactors or just general friends of the school. They were people who weren't part of the day to day running of the school. They were people who were "higher up people." I remember that the people who were taking out the boys were always referred to as "the Friends of QV." For whatever reason the boys were taken out by these people. Cars would appear and take the boys away. There were always little rumours flying about. I don't really remember what the rumours were. There was mention of boys being taken out for drinks and things like that. The only sort of visions I had in mind at the time was the boys being taken to things like gentleman's clubs in the sense of formal drinking lounges. I was never one of the boys who was deemed good enough to go and do those sort of things.
87. A lot of the time when you asked where a particular boy had gone the reply was "as a treat he been taken away to listen to music." Nobody really knew where these boys were taken to. I didn't think about it all at the time. I just viewed it as boys getting

extra privileges. Looking back now there was always something going on that felt kind of not right.

88. I do remember that there were occasions when I was in the junior school that a couple of us would be taken to Ben Phillips' flat to listen to music. Nothing ever happened other than we went to his flat and listened to music. Looking back now, that all looks a bit strange. In today's climate it would be perceived as being a little bit weird. I don't know whether it felt weird back then. It was all kind of just accepted that that's what a housemaster would do.
89. One of the people who was around the school a lot was CDQ [REDACTED]. He was the man who [REDACTED]. He was in the school all the time. He used the [REDACTED] in the school an awful lot. I do know that pupils from the school went out with him on various trips to do different things. I wouldn't say he took boys out frequently but he did occasionally take boys out.
90. It was always the older boys who I saw taken out. I never really saw them when they came back. I never saw the boys who were taken away looking distressed when they came back or anything like that. I never asked them what had happened or where they had been. I wouldn't be asking older boys those sort of questions. If I had I would have likely got punched.
91. I presume that the housemasters would know when boys were taken away on the trips by people from outside the school. Looking back now, if I had the knowledge I do now then I would be asking questions. It's difficult to say what I think was happening. All I can say is that you wouldn't expect that sort of thing to be going on nowadays. Questions would be getting asked were that to be happening now.

**Abuse, Queen Victoria School**

92. [REDACTED] was a boy at the school who was older than me. I'm not sure how much older he was than me but it would have been between one and three years. All I can say is that when it all started I wasn't mature but he was. I don't think he stayed in Cunningham House. I think he was from a different house. I'm not sure about all of that.
93. It all started to begin after I moved to the senior side of the school. I can't remember the exact period of time it started. If I were to guess I would probably say I was about twelve years old. I remember that the first incident occurred in a room we called the boot room in Cunningham House. The boot room was basically a room full of pigeon holes where all the shoes were kept. For some reason I was in there on my own. [REDACTED] then walked in. He sat me down, grabbed my hand and made me touch him. That was the start of it.
94. It just kind of continued after the first incident. I don't think it went on for over a year but it certainly went on over a number of terms. It felt like a long time at the time. Any time I was anywhere and alone in any kind of room in the school he would come in and start doing what he did to me. At points things happened daily and at other times it was almost weekly. I was actively trying to avoid him so sometimes I got away from him. I would kind of work out my day and routes through the school to avoid him. It didn't always work because there were times when he was actively trying to seek me out. If he knew I was going to be somewhere as part of a punishment then he would come and find me.
95. Each time he got me alone with him it kind of escalated. It just got worse and worse. It escalated to the point where he was forcing me to give him oral sex. Looking back I was an easy target. I was the boy who was perceived to be causing a lot of trouble. I was one of the boys who was bullied quite a lot.

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

96. I don't know what I thought when it all began. I think I thought that, because he was an older boy, my life would be easier if I didn't say anything. I know that the culture in the school was that if you were the one that ever spoke out about anything then you were the bad person. You were the one who would get the target on their back. It was a difficult situation to be in.
97. I initially didn't say anything to anyone. I think part of that was because I didn't have a great relationship with any of the housemasters or teachers. I was always getting bullied at school because I was kind of outspoken. I was set up and blamed for a lot of things. I was always the one picked out for certain things. I think that that stopped me coming forward. I thought that if I had said anything to a housemaster or teacher then I would be viewed as being "at it." I thought that if I said anything then it would just cause me a lot more trouble than it was worth.
98. After the last incident where [REDACTED] forced me to give him oral sex I had a Sunday telephone call booked with my mother. I basically broke down in tears whilst I was on the phone to her. I told her what had been happening with [REDACTED]. I assume that my mum then got in contact with the school. I don't know who it was that she spoke to at the school.
99. The next thing that happened was that I was pulled into the headmaster's office to see Julian Hankinson. I can't remember what sort of gap there was between me telling my mother and that happening. I wouldn't say that it happened immediately or instantaneously. It was maybe a day or two after I spoke to my mother. I can't say that for sure. When I was pulled into his office I was quizzed and asked about what had happened. Everything I said was kind of dismissed. I remember him saying something like "the words you are using aren't the sort of words that a child of your age would normally know." My impression was that he was suggesting that I was making everything up.

100. I can't remember whether there was anybody else in the office at the time I was speaking with Julian Hankinson. I couldn't say for sure either way whether there was somebody there or not. I didn't notice Julian Hankinson taking any notes whilst we were speaking. I don't think that happened. He didn't mention anything along the lines of there having been or going to be an investigation or whether he had spoken to anybody else about what I had reported.
101. My impression leaving the room was "shit I am now in trouble." That was my reaction to it all. They didn't put in place anything in terms of support or help. I had nowhere to go to for support. I was just sent "back into the jungle" and that was it.
102. I don't know whether the school spoke to [REDACTED] in and around the time I reported what had happened. I certainly wasn't going to ask [REDACTED] whether anyone had spoken to him. I assume that someone in the school spoke to him. What, if anything, was said wasn't made known to me. I wasn't privy to that.
103. I just felt let down by the school. For whatever reason, they just wanted to hide it. I couldn't even mention it. I couldn't approach a housemaster to talk about it. It was as if it was taboo and being seen as "character building." I couldn't go and speak to a member of staff because it would have resulted in one of the older boys beating me up.
104. As far as I am concerned the police were never involved. I definitely didn't speak to any member of the police following speaking to Julian Hankinson. My mother never ever mentioned anything about the police being involved. I think that, even had the school looked to speak to some sort of outside authority, they wouldn't have spoken to the normal police. They would have had to speak to the military police. I didn't speak to anyone else about what had happened after speaking to Julian Hankinson.
105. As far as I know there was no further contact between the school and my mother. My mother wouldn't talk to me about it after I reported what had happened. I blame her an awful lot for allowing it all to be swept under the carpet. A normal parent

would have been at the school the next day but she wasn't. She didn't really want kids. At best all I was to her was a trophy kid to show off to all her pals.

106. I remember wondering to myself why my mother didn't take me out of the school. Looking back now, as a parent myself, if my child had phoned me and told me that he had been getting abused at school I would be up at the school before they had even had the chance to put the phone down on the receiver. I would be dragging my child straight out of that school. That didn't happen with me. I just don't know why that didn't happen.

**Life at the school and Queen Victoria School's response to my reporting of abuse**

107. After speaking with Julian Hankinson the school took no action as far as [REDACTED] was concerned. He got to stay on and was there until the day I eventually left the school at about the age of fifteen. I don't know whether he was perhaps seen as a more promising pupil, his dad was high up in the armed forces or whether his family had some sort of influence in the school. I just don't know his background. What I do know is that I came from a single parent family and that my father had passed away in the forces.
108. It was as if nothing had happened. [REDACTED] was always there. I remember that Mr <sup>QTQ</sup> [REDACTED] used to have [REDACTED] come into his flat at Cunningham House to give [REDACTED] lessons. His flat was only just down the corridor from the dormitory I was in. I would see [REDACTED] walking past and going into Mr <sup>QTQ</sup> [REDACTED] flat. He was still in my daily contact. I had absolutely no protection from the school in terms of keeping him away from me.
109. Looking back now, the school wanted rid of me but they wanted another tangible reason other than what had happened with [REDACTED]. What followed was all really mental abuse. My life really got made hell because of that. Life got really difficult. I was getting done for everything.

110. I was basically the leper of the colony. Nobody during my classes even acknowledged that I was there. The whole school knew about what had happened. It wasn't as if it had been kept quiet because everybody, the staff and pupils, knew about it. Looking back, they could only have known through it coming from the headmaster.
111. At that point I just wanted the world to swallow me up. I was constantly bullied by older boys. I remember coming out of rooms and there would be older boys and prefects with their jumpers pulled over their heads to protect their identity. They would all be shouting "poof poof poof." That went on every day all day. They also did that to [REDACTED]. They were taking it out on him too.
112. After reporting what had happened I was in complete Coventry in the school. It got to the point where the staff were basically making up things about me. I remember an occasion when I was thirteen where I was accused of selling cigarettes. I didn't smoke at the time but was aware other older boys were selling cigarettes. The staff got some of the boys to say it was me who was selling them. Accusations were getting thrown about. There was no way I could ever have even managed to do that. I only got about £2 pocket money a week and half the time I was barred from going into Dunblane anyway.
113. I remember that sometime after I reported what happened my mother came up to the school for a day out. She brought me some tuck stuff to keep in my locker. It was a little bag of stuff. For whatever reason she bought me a loaf of bread and some cold meat so I could make myself a sandwich if I wanted to. I put the stuff in my locker and went out for the day with my mother.
114. When I returned to Cunningham House I was a little late because my mother had brought me back late. I then discovered that Mr [REDACTED] had been into my dorm and found the loaf of bread in my locker. I think Mr [REDACTED] had come up to the dorm because I hadn't returned to the school because I was late. I can't quite remember where I was supposed to be but I think it was a Sunday and I had been late for

arriving in the cinema room. I think he had come up to the dorm to ask why I wasn't there. That's the only reason I can think he would have been up around the lockers near my dorm.

115. When Mr **CXK** confronted me he accused me of stealing the loaf of bread from the school kitchen. I told him that my mum had bought me the loaf of bread. He told me that she hadn't. I then said that he could call my mother up if he wanted. I was then pulled into the office in Cunningham House and given the belt by him for theft. The brand of the bread wasn't even the same brand as they had in the school. It was a completely different brand. I told my mum about the incident but I don't know whether she spoke to the school about it.
116. The bread incident is just one example of the things they were doing. It was just everything and anything they tried to blame me for. I just got the blame for everything. It didn't matter whether I was right or wrong I was blamed for everything.

#### **Leaving Queen Victoria School**

117. Boys were never expelled from Queen Victoria. That was a thing that just never happened. As far as I am aware there shouldn't be expulsions for any other boy in their records from the period of time I was there. When a boy left before he was due to it was always a case that the boy was "removed by parents."
118. The thing they came up with to get rid of me was to make up that I had been glue sniffing. That was the final thing that they pinned on me. I was then expelled for that. By that time my grades were suffering badly. The school teachers weren't paying any attention to me and I was being given a really hard time. That resulted in me not really learning anything. I think I was expelled when I was about fourteen or fifteen.

### **Life after leaving Queen Victoria School and before going to Melville House**

119. When I left and went home my mother wouldn't speak to me. She didn't want me back home. My mother didn't want anything to do with me. I think that was probably because of a combination of being expelled and reporting what had happened to her. I was seen as a disappointment. Looking back, I think that she didn't want me home. Whatever the school would have said to her she would have gone along with.
120. I remember that when I got up in the morning I was made to get out of the house. I wasn't allowed back into the house until night time. I initially didn't go to school. I was hanging around with people who I thought were cool back then. I then got into a bit of bother. I ended up in front of a children's panel. After that hearing I ended up being sent to Melville House for a year.

### **Melville House, Cupar, Fife**

121. I would have been about fifteen when I went to Melville House. It was located on the road to Dundee in Fife just near to Cupar. I didn't have any issues at Melville House. I found it alright. I can't really complain about how I was treated. I found the staff all good. It was run in quite a relaxed manner. I never felt as if I was intimidated.
122. I suppose I was kind of lucky because I had come from a boarding school type of environment. There were boys who had more underlying issues than what I had. I wasn't used to that. That made things a bit different but it was still a similar environment. I was also a bit older than the other boys there. That brought its advantages. I wasn't in the sort of environment where I was going to get bullied or anything like that.
123. I was sixteen when I left Melville House. I was still there when I was sixteen because I remember having my birthday there. A social worker came up to me and bought some cigarettes for me for my birthday. That's not the sort of thing a teacher or social worker would perhaps do nowadays but back then I remember that being a

really nice thing for him to have done. I left Melville House when I finished my school year.

### **Life after leaving Melville House**

124. After I left Melville House I joined the Territorial Army. I felt I could join the TA rather than the regulars because it was mostly people from the Kirkcaldy area. Later on I left that. After that I basically got jobs. I did a few miniscule jobs before ending up at British Gas where I did really well. I then got my HGV licence and have been driving lorries for the rest of my career. I have kind of done what I have had to do.
125. I got married to my first wife when I was about twenty one or twenty two. That marriage lasted about fourteen or fifteen years. I've been married to my second wife for about ten years. I have children but they're all grown up now. I have four grandchildren.

### **Impact**

126. It has affected me in so many different ways. I do think that what I experienced has affected me in terms of what I have gone on to do really for the rest of my life. It ruined any prospects or aspirations I had at that time. It ruined me both educationally and career wise. I think I ended up with only about two O Grades from my time at Melville House. That was it. I do think that I am quite an intelligent person and that I could have done a lot better than that had things worked out differently.
127. When I was younger I wanted a career in the army. I wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps. After what took place took place I felt that I couldn't do that because people would know about what had happened. That kind of wrecked that idea.

128. I've always had a fear going on in the back of my mind that I might bump into someone who knows what happened. I remember that at one point I thought about becoming a policeman. I then discovered that one of the former pupils from Queen Victoria had gone into the police. That made me feel that that was a career choice I couldn't pursue. I felt that if I joined the police I would be found out. I never wanted to be placed under any sort of spotlight. Today there is Facebook and the internet and so on. I worry that a former pupil will recognise me on those things.
129. I don't know how much it has affected my relationships. I suppose in my younger days I didn't really have much by way of girlfriends. That may have partly been a result of what happened. I perhaps was maybe just not comfortable. Then again it could have been because of the fact that I had been in an all-boys school and I didn't know how to act around girls.

#### **Treatment and support**

130. I am not part of a survivor group or anything like that. I have never received any treatment or support for what happened. It is not something that I would consider now. I feel that I am well over it.

#### **Reporting of abuse after leaving Melville House**

131. I blanked it off for a long time. I didn't tell anybody in authority when I was younger what had happened. I had social workers in and around the time that I appeared at the children's panel but I never reported what happened to them.
132. I've only told two family members or friends about what happened. I haven't told my children about what happened. I told my brother about what happened but that was many years later. When I told him what had happened I discovered he didn't know anything about it. I took from that that my mother must not have mentioned it to him. I never told my first wife about what happened. I did, however, tell my second wife. I think I chose to tell her purely because I have a different sort of bond with her. I

think I had to tell her anyway because I would feel uneasy reporting things officially and going behind her back to do that.

133. I first reported what happened to the police around about September 2018. I initially reported it to an officer in Hamilton. He was a really nice guy but he was told by his superiors that he had to pass it to someone in Larbert. I can't remember the name of the police woman in Larbert who is dealing with it now. I think she has only just got to the stage now where the school has started providing further detail about [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She has needed that information to try and find out where he is. It does seem to be taking an awful long time. I am not sure whether it is her fault or whether it is because she is being stonewalled by the school. I assume that it is because the school is dragging its heels.
134. I know there are results from an initial investigation. I haven't received a copy of what the police had discovered. I think more information might come to light if the police track down [REDACTED]. He obviously might not speak but we might learn what was said to him by the headmaster and what he was advised to do. Hopefully more insight might be provided into how the school tried to cover everything up.
135. Since speaking to the police I have spoken to a lawyer to try and take some action against the school. The lawyer's name is Cameron Fyfe. He is not technically a solicitor because he is running a business called Cameron Claims. I believe that he has dealt with quite a lot of abuse claims before. He is currently in communication with somebody at the MoD. It's been going on for months. Cameron Fyfe has sent multiple reminders to them. The reply is always that they are waiting for details on this or that and are still trying to collect information. I think Cameron Fyfe is waiting to see what they come up with before advising me what steps to take next. I don't think that he has received any firm information from them to make a firm judgement.
136. I don't know whether I am going to ultimately go down the route of starting a civil action. Cameron Fyfe did put in a claim for criminal injuries compensation on my behalf. I have been awarded that. The letter I received from the Board said that what I had said in my application had been confirmed by the police investigations.

137. To me the compensation is really the lesser part. It is the fact that what I have reported to the police has been confirmed and that the school is being taken to task that means more to me. I want the school to be brought to book. To my knowledge the school has never produced anything formally about what has taken place. There has never been an acknowledgement never mind an apology.

*Awareness of other persons attempts to report abuse at Queen Victoria School*

138. A lot of years ago there was media attention paid to the school. The guys who came forward then seemed to be put down very quickly. I think one of the guys who tried to expose a lot of stuff now lives in Orkney. From what I understand he chose to disappear because he was getting a lot of police harassment in and around when he attempted to report things.

**Records**

139. I haven't tried to recover my social work records. As far as I know I never reported anything to them so I don't think that there will be anything there. I might be interested to find out whether social services went back to Queen Victoria as part of their background checks. That may be an option.
140. I have recovered some of my records from the school. The records that I received weren't actually that difficult to get a hold of. They are heavily redacted. A lot of it is illegible because of the quality of the copies that have been made. The sections are all over the place.
141. There is nothing whatsoever mentioned in the records I recovered about my behaviour or the punishments that they gave me. The only reference in the records I view as of any significance to my reporting of my abuse is a section which talks about someone coming in from, I think, from the education authority. I may be wrong about whether it was the education authority. The note says something along the lines of "the incident from last year." That was the only mention I could find in all the

records that might refer to what happened to me. Other than that there is no mention of what happened. It could be that any mention has been redacted out of the records they produced to me.

142. Taking things from the basis of what they have provided, there is absolutely no record of the series of sexual assaults I reported. I am surprised by that. I thought there would be at least some sort of record there but there isn't. I think there will be either more records that they have not released or there will have just been no records made whatsoever of what occurred. I suspect that even if it was written down it will have been put in the bin by now.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

143. Boys themselves shouldn't run the school in a boarding school situation. It's hard because there is a part of me that thinks that it was a school with connections to the military and that was just the way it was. That part of me thinks that it was probably not too bad a system in itself. The other part of me has experienced what happens when that system goes wrong. It has made me realise that that system had the potential for things not to be dealt with properly.
144. Looking back, a lot of the teachers weren't associated with the military. As far as I am aware they were professional teachers. They had very well paid respected positions in that school. I think that they were expected to tow the party line as far as the way things were run. I think, because of that, there was a fear factor even amongst the teachers. I believe that, because that was something in place in the school, it meant there was no point in trying to report things to them. I don't think any school should be run like that.
145. It is easy to say that there should have been support for the pupils and so on. However, I think that is more easily said than done. Anything that involves a crowd of people can result in it being hard to have a single person looking over every single person's shoulder.

146. There just wasn't any accountability in the school. Everybody should be accountable for their actions if they are running a school. There should have been more stringent checks. However, I don't know whether anything could have, in reality, been put in place then that would have stopped what would have happened. I don't know whether having an independent body overseeing the school would have changed anything. If it was the case that Julian Hankinson didn't write anything down then how would anyone have found out about it? I think it is a hard one to solve. All sorts of recommendations can be put in place but there will always be someone who finds a way around things. I think that a lot of it comes down to the individual people involved in the school and what their mentality is.

**Hopes for the Inquiry**

147. I would hope that the people who ran the school are made to feel embarrassed about the way they acted. I would like them to be brought to task about what they did and didn't do. I'd like to see Julian Hankinson investigated for not doing his job properly. I don't want to sound malicious but I really do want it all to come back to haunt him. I don't know what [REDACTED] is doing nowadays. However, I do hope that one day he will get a tap on his shoulder and be talked to by the police. He's probably forgotten about it all but I want him spoken to.

148. What bugs me more than anything else is Queen Victoria School's lack of accountability. I think that because it is a MoD establishment it is easy for them to make things "disappear." No school, no matter who runs it, should be above any reproach as far as the sorts of things I reported.

149. 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 CVH .....

Dated 14/10/19 .....