

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

DFU

Support person present: No

1. My name is DFU My date of birth is 1980. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before boarding school

2. My dad died when I was one year old so my mum brought my brother and I up. My brother's name was and he was two years older than me but he is no longer alive. My mum's name is and she was a full time mother. We lived in Ireland until we moved to Scotland on 1989 when I was nine years old.
3. In Ireland I attended a pre-school and a primary school but neither were residential. When we moved to Scotland, I went to Edinburgh Steiner School for about a year and a half as a day pupil before I went to Fettes College, Edinburgh as a boarder.
4. I don't think that my brother really recovered from the death of my dad and he was quite angry which was difficult for me as his younger sister. I went to Fettes for a safer environment because my brother sometimes directed his anger at me. I asked to go to Fettes and my mum agreed. I chose Fettes because my great-great grandfather went there and I thought it would please my mum's uncle, who was the family patriarch.

Fettes College, Edinburgh

5. I arrived at Fettes in the summer term of 1991 when I was almost eleven years old. My attendance had been organised and financed by my mum.

6. I was in the Junior school which was an L-shaped building. The older part of the building was the day part of the school and it was used for teaching and then there was a big annex that we lived in. The boys were on the ground floor of the annex and the girls were on the first floor. Mr Glen, the house master of the Junior School, and his wife had a flat on the ground floor and above that was Mrs Allan, the matron's, flat. Next to her flat was an open space where we all had a cubby hole that we could keep tuck in. If anyone needed anything from Mrs Allan then she was there every evening. Opposite from that space there was a common room and then you could go up a few stairs and along a corridor. On the left of that corridor was the first bedroom that I stayed in. Further along from there were two bedrooms on either side of the corridor and they were smaller rooms that had three or four people in them when I first started. The only time I was ever in either of those rooms there were only three people. Further along the corridor to the right were the loos and then there was an open area.

7. The open area upstairs was called Heaven and downstairs was called Hell. Upstairs there was a television and stuff and it was where we would all watch a film at the weekend. Downstairs, in Hell, was where we all congregated before we went to breakfast. If you kept going along the corridor upstairs then there were more rooms either side and they were fairly big rooms which slept four or five people each. Then there was a set of stairs and there were stairs at the other end of the corridor as well. Beyond the stairs there was another room which downstairs was a bedroom and upstairs I remember there being a pool table in there. I'm not sure if that lasted or if it was turned into a bedroom.

8. There would have been three or four hundred pupils in the whole school. At the time there were eight boarding houses. There were two girls ones in the main part of the school, College East and College West. There were four boys' houses in the woods across the front of the school. There was a girls house on the East side and we were on the far end of the North side so there were only two houses in the main building. Then there was a separate science block and there were a lot of satellite buildings. As

a member of the junior school, we did not have a lot of activities in the main building. The grounds are beautifully landscaped and there are a lot of mature trees so there's a lot hidden away in there.

9. The headmaster of the junior school was Mr Alexander and he dealt with the school side of things while Mr Glen, the housemaster, dealt with the residential side of things. Mr Glen also taught maths. His wife didn't have a role in the school but she was around in the evening times and I think that she might have done a bit of sport, she was a hockey player.

Routine at Fettes College, Edinburgh

First day

10. When I arrived at Fettes it was nerve-wracking and strange. You don't know what to expect and what to do. I was a bit wild compared to some of the pupils so it took me a while to conform to the way that the school liked everyone to be. The first thing I remember is unpacking in my room but I don't remember any introductions.

Mornings and bedtime

11. There were shared bedrooms in Fettes and I was in one of the two biggest rooms which held five people. The rooms were normally for three or four people. The age range in my room was my age up to two years older and I would have been one of the very youngest ones. There were single beds and bunkbeds. I was using a bunkbed.
12. We were woken by a bell relatively early and then we would get dressed and walk from the junior school to the dining hall in the senior school. We would have our breakfast and then go back to the junior school to get our school stuff and then go to assembly. Assembly was for day pupils and for boarders and after assembly we would go to our classes. There was a morning break when we would get milk and then it changed to orange juice and a bun. Lunch was in the dining room and there was an

afternoon break but then classes went on until 05:30 pm. We had our evening meal straight after school and then you would go for "prep" which meant homework. I don't remember how long that went on for but it felt like forever. There was about an hour left after that and in the winter months you would go and get washed and then spend some time in the common room across from matron's flat. You could sit in the common room and some people had tuck boxes there so you could have something out of that. In the summer time you would get to play outside. During that time either Mr Glen the house master or Mrs Allan the matron would be there.

13. Once we went to bed someone would patrol around once or twice. That would usually be Mr Glen, Mrs Glen or Mrs Allan. Occasionally one of the teachers would come up but I can't remember their names. They were a couple that both taught French and he taught Latin as well.
14. I think bed time might have been slightly graduated by age but only by about ten minutes. You moved rooms every term so you wouldn't notice that if you were in a room with your own year group. When you moved room you would be sharing with a different group of people but there weren't a huge number of us.

Mealtimes/Food

15. The food was good. For breakfast you had a choice of cereals, fruit and yogurt or there was a cooked breakfast option. There were good options and I don't have any complaints about the food. I remember there being an issue around a contract change and people not being happy with the food but I never had any issues with the food.
16. In the dining room there were big long benches with bench seats. Everyone in the junior school sat in the far corner, segregated from the senior school. There was a long line of bain-maries and you could pick what you wanted and then someone would put it on a plate for you. Staff sat at the window end of the tables. I think they were there to make sure everyone ate and I remember people being told to finish what they had taken. We used to hide food in the end drawers of the tables if we didn't want to eat it. There was a ledge underneath that you could hide food on that you didn't like.

Washing/bathing

17. The shower rooms were in the corner where the two buildings joined so the showers were in the old building but we could access them from the new annex. There were seven cubicles and only one of them had a curtain.
18. When you walked into the girls area there were cubicles for loos, then sinks and then you would go through another door and there was a corridor that opened out into a larger room with lockers round the sides and benches in the middle. There was a door going into the shower area and there were seven showers there.
19. If you were to go back out past the loos and into the corridor then Mr Glen would sit out there and you had to come outside and prove that you had had a shower but he never came in. Showers weren't supervised in the boarding area.

Clothing/uniform

20. You wore a uniform but I remember having my own clothes there. I can't remember if I changed into my own clothes after school, before our evening meal or if we stayed in them until we got washed in the winter. It may have been that we changed before we went out to play in the summer.

Leisure time

21. During the summertime we would all play outside and we would all run around. In the winter time we spent some time in the common room after we had all washed.

School

22. You moved from room to room for subjects. Some teachers were great and others were tyrants. I really enjoyed the sciences and sport. You were given lines occasionally and I remember people being shouted at a fair bit but I think that was

fairly standard at the time. You would be sent out of class for something really bad. There was no corporal punishment at that time. I remember being shouted at a bit and getting lines for being bad which was fair enough.

23. When I first started I was in C Form. The following term I went into first form and the classes were separated into class 1A and class 1B. In first form the class that you were in was based on your performance in English. I was placed in 1B because I had come from Steiner School and initially I was a bit behind. I soon began to catch up and by the end of the first term I was coming first in the class. I asked to move up to 1A but was not allowed because there was not enough room in 1A. I was allowed to join the Latin class along with the top performers of 1A which was a recognition that I was at the same stage as them.
24. In second form the classes were divided based on French performance. I was placed in 2B but from the very first term I was coming first in French. I asked to move up to 2A but I was not allowed. There were twins in 2B who were consistently coming fifth in the class who were allowed to move up to 2A. Their parents had insisted that their daughters be moved to 2A. My mum requested a meeting with Mr Alexander and at that meeting she was told that it was useful to have me in 2B because I was quite influential and if I was kept down then I would bring the others up. They moved the twins up ahead of me because it was a business and they would rather lose one fee than two fees. It was decided that I would leave at the end of second form rather than be continually held back.

Healthcare

25. I think the matron, Mrs Allan, might previously have been a nurse or something like that but I can't remember what her background was. She was the person that you went to if you had any medical or pastoral needs.
26. I remember going with Mrs Allan, in taxis, to appointments at the dentist and orthodontist. Normally she would arrange for a group of us who had braces to go to the orthodontist together. I've no recollection of anyone going to see a doctor. I

remember going on a trip to a beach in East Lothian and one of the boys banged his head quite badly and had a big gash so he was taken to a hospital.

27. There was an infirmary in the senior part of the school and there was a really scary matron in there but I've forgotten her name. There was a rumour about her chasing children round the table with a flu jab.

Religious instruction

28. We had to go to chapel on Sundays and we didn't get a choice in the matter. We must have had some kind of R.E lessons but I don't remember them.

Work

29. There were different chores to be done on different nights. One night each week you had to do an itemised list of everything that was going to the laundry which then had to be checked by a member of staff and when it came back the following day you had to check that the items that were returned to you matched the list. We all had a big laundry bag at the end of our beds. I was quite neat and tidy so I folded all of my dirty clothes which made it easier for me to do the list. Less organised kids had to empty the bags out. We all had our names on them.
30. We made our own beds and changed our own sheets once a week but I don't think that we had to do anything else.

Birthdays and Christmas

31. I went home for Christmas and my birthday was during the summer holidays but other people did have birthdays during term time and Mrs Allan would get them a cake which we would have before bed time.

32. In the run up to Christmas we usually had some sort of outing and I remember going to a theatre in Pitlochry where we saw a really good production called "Ghost Train" or something like that. We enjoyed it. I think we might have gone to the Playhouse.

Visits/Inspections

33. I remember once being interviewed by an inspector to check that my level of knowledge was where it should be and I think the inspector was independent of the school. I think I would have been eleven when that happened though it's possible that I would have been ten. I remember that it happened during the first term that I was there and I felt anxious that I might not have been at the standard that the school expected.
34. I remember there being some bigger inspection and people came to the school to check it. I think they were pre-planned because I remember, in the lead up, we had to tidy the school to try and make it look good. I remember it being quite stressful in the lead up to an inspection and all the teachers were nervous.

Sibling

35. My brother stayed at Edinburgh Steiner School and then after a while he moved to Fettes but he only stayed for about a term because he hated it. We had it good in the Junior school compared to the Senior school which was still a bit archaic. You went to senior school when you were thirteen.

Family contact

36. We were allowed out two weekends each term so there wasn't much contact. In the evenings we could phone home but there was one phone line for everyone so the queue to get on the phone was long and then the call wasn't private. Once someone had put the phone down the next person had to lift it quickly because there might be a parent trying to phone in and then their child would get to skip the queue. I guess we must have written letters but I don't remember.

Personal possessions

37. We all had a cupboard in our rooms, either a chest of drawers or a drawer in a chest of drawers. In the school we had lockers where we kept our sports gear. I don't remember where we kept our school bags. We didn't have a huge amount of possessions.

Bed Wetting

38. I don't recall any bed wetting upstairs although some of the boys may have had issues with that but I don't recollect that. Amongst the girls the greater concern was about us having issues with our periods and I remember that being a bigger concern than anyone wetting the bed.
39. Mrs Allan was lovely. I was the first one to get my period and I was always absolutely mortified but she always tried to be very sensitive. Mrs Allan was really normal and never tried to be grand like some of them. She was a decent woman who cared about children and although she could be tough, she was also kind.

Abuse at Fettes College, Edinburgh

Mr Stein

40. Mr Stein was the swimming teacher. He was a large, rotund, older man and I remember, from the word go, there were a lot of rumours about his behaviour. People would tell you to be careful around him and everyone was very wary of him.
41. Initially it started out with Mr Stein always coming into the girls changing rooms when we were naked. I think I was eleven when that started. We swam twice a week. Once a week I swam with my class which had about twelve pupils in it and once a week I swam with my year group which had about thirty pupils. Both groups had boys and

girls in it but the girls and boys had separate changing rooms. There was a changing room with benches and hooks above and there was a corridor through to the swimming pool. When we would first arrive he would come in and tell us to get changed and then he would come in when we were fully undressed and putting on our swimming costumes. I was eleven but some of the girls in my class were twelve. It was a girls' changing room. He would use excuses, like we were taking too long, to justify coming in but it was timed perfectly every time so that we would be as naked as possible. If he came in and we weren't naked enough then he would definitely be back.

42. We started putting on our swimming costumes in the morning so that they would be under our clothes and we wouldn't have to get undressed at all when we were getting ready to go swimming. I can't remember whether we had discussed doing that amongst ourselves or not. However, we got into trouble for doing that and we were told not to do that anymore. I don't remember who told us that or exactly what was said to us about that. I think that Mr Stein must have brought up that we had been doing that for us to have been told to stop it but I'm speculating about that.
43. When Mr Stein came into the changing rooms while we were naked there would be a lot of screaming and excitement about it because we were all young. The same thing would happen after the lesson as well, we would be taking our costumes off and waiting for a shower or drying off and he would burst in and give us all a shock. I can't remember how often he would come in but it was often enough that we were devising ways to avoid it and it had become an issue for us. Some people were not having a shower afterwards so that they weren't naked when he came in. Sometimes he would threaten to come in but not actually come in. I can't remember the period that it happened over but I think it was over the winter period because our swimming class was late in the day and it was dark when we walked over.
44. The other thing was that he clearly had a particular interest in underdeveloped girls. I was overdeveloped for my age so I have no recollection of him ever mishandling me but I saw him grab particular girls while they were wearing their swimsuits. It would start out under the guise of tickling them but his hands would end up everywhere and there was squeezing in places that shouldn't be squeezed. He would also nibble their

necks and ears. This happened at the benches at the side of the pool while we were waiting for everyone to congregate before swimming so he would do it in front of everyone. It kind of escalated.

45. I'm particularly aware of two girls, [REDACTED] and EBX [REDACTED] that he used to do it to and both of them were yet to develop. I think it used to happen to [REDACTED] as well but she began to develop breasts so he lost interest. I think it also happened to [REDACTED] Those girls were all between eleven and thirteen around that time. He was generally very hard and strict and we were all frightened of him so him "tickling" the girls was the only nice, fun, soft bit. Initially everyone thought it was ok but the girls that it actually happened to began to feel really uncomfortable with it. I remember the girls saying they were uncomfortable as well. I don't remember the specific conversation but as a group we would talk about it not being ok. We were concerned about the more underdeveloped girls. We would devise plans to avoid it. He had a desk at the side of the pool so if someone walked out first then the next person could walk out and avoid him so we would do that. I remember walking out first because he wouldn't touch me and I felt a bit braver in that situation. I think the girls that he "tickled" also felt responsible that they were providing the only nice bit of the whole experience, the bit when Mr Stein would be nice and happy. It's hard to say when it started and when it stopped. I have particular memories of it happening but I couldn't say how often it happened.

46. I remember him picking up one of the girls, I don't remember which one, and carrying her, under his arm, into his office and locking the door. His office was along the deep end of the pool. I'm not sure where the incident started but my first memory of it starts from somewhere between his desk at the corner of the pool and his office door. I don't know which girl it was but she was wearing a swimming costume at the time. She would have been between eleven and thirteen but more likely either eleven or twelve. It was a weird experience where it wasn't ok but it was also fun and exciting. We didn't understand what was going on. I remember specifically banging on his office door and us all jokingly threatening to kick the door down. There were squeals coming from inside but I don't know what was going on and sometime later the door opened again

and that was that. I believe Mrs Allan heard us talking about it and then we went to Mr Alexander's office and we were asked about what had happened and we told him.

47. I don't remember what the girl was like when she came out because I stayed and went into his office because I had never been in there. I remember the door opening and them rushing past me and the next thing that I remember is being in the room myself. He had little pictures of naked women next to his desk and that's the only thing that I remember being in there.

48. There were always rumours about Mr Stein and one of the boys, who was the youngest boy in the school, [REDACTED] but I can't remember what the rumour was. The police asked me about that five years ago and they really tried to press me about it because I told them something about that in 1997, when I was seventeen. When I was seventeen I bumped into a couple of the lads who were in the year below me and we ended up speaking about [REDACTED] and Mr Stein but I can't remember what we spoke about. I remember at the time knowing something about [REDACTED] and Mr Stein but I don't remember what it was. I remember that these two boys, that I spoke to when I was seventeen, confirmed what I knew and I told the police that but I don't remember what it was and it's a bit frustrating.

49. Mr Stein had his role call book and the code if you had your period was to say that you were indisposed and he would then mark that in his book but if you did that too often then he would accuse you of lying. I don't think anyone ever faked having their period because you would be more embarrassed about having to say it than having to do the swimming itself. It became an issue when Mr Stein thought that I was saying it too often. There were only three of us that had our periods and he took a special interest in that and when it happened too often I would be shouted at, shamed and made to sit at the side of the pool. I don't remember what it was that he said when he was shouting but that happened in front of everyone else. I remember being shouting at and questioned. I don't remember the other two girls being shouted at but I do remember them thinking it was creepy that he was noting down when they had a period. I had my period from the age of ten so I could have been between ten and twelve when this was happening.

50. On one occasion, when I told the Mr Stein that I was indisposed and couldn't swim and then three weeks that happened again, I was given trouble for lying and sent to the headmaster. I was quizzed by Mr Alexander, the headmaster, about my menstrual cycle but he didn't believe that I could have had my period again within a short space of time. I think I was only eleven and I was mortified. There is a chance that I could have been twelve at that time but it is more likely that I was eleven.
51. Mrs Allan must have heard me talking about it because my understanding is that she went and spoke to the headmaster about it. According to Mr Glen, who told my mum, Mrs Allan told Mr Alexander that it's not appropriate to quiz a young girl about her periods and after that they never asked about it again. I think that Mr Stein kept on marking it but I don't remember getting any further grief about it. Mr Glen told my mum that Mrs Allan had really had my back on that one and then it was through my mum that I knew that Mrs Allan had spoken to the headmaster. I think my friends **BPR** **BPR** told her mum about it and her mum told my mum which is when she spoke to Mr Glen.

CKP

52. **CKP** was the **████████████████████** and one summer term he handpicked five to seven kids to go and spend a week on his yacht, off of the west coast. When they came back all of the kids were really weirded out by this behaviour and they said that he had been really inappropriate. There was a port hole above the loo that was up quite high and when one of the girls, **████████████████** was on the loo, she looked up and saw him peering down at her. I think a few people said that he had done that. The way that he had behaved with them and the way that he had handled them was a bit weird and they weren't happy with it. I can't remember if anyone reported it at the time but I remember everyone talking about it. There was something that went on with **████████████████** on the yacht that we all thought was not ok but I don't remember what it was. I think there was some touching thing that went on. **████████████████** was in the year above me and **████████** was in the same year as me.

53. I can't remember who it was but a member of the teaching staff was aware of these stories going round about CKP [REDACTED] behaviour and I can remember us being spoken to about it. We were told that these were terrible things to say and that we were ungrateful. I think this was said to the whole junior school as I wasn't on the trip but was there when this was said.

School Culture

54. It is difficult to put into words but there was always a sexualised element to the school. There was a lot of sexualised activity amongst the pupils from a young age that either went unnoticed or undealt with. I remember one teacher catching pupils snogging and she was mortified and ran away so nothing was done about it. Twelve year olds weren't having sex but when you were thirteen, you went to the senior school and it was the done thing that the minute you went there you had sex. Amongst the Junior School there was activity that should have been monitored or spoken about. There was a lot of snogging, a bit of penis touching and a lot of dares. There were boys that would like to show their erections under their trousers.
55. During my first term, the summer term of 1991, when I was still ten, there was an incident involving pupils two years above me. During prep something happened and a girl, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] was alone in a room of boys. My understanding is that one of the boys, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] pinned her against the pigeon holes and groped her. I don't remember how I came to know about that so I don't remember how much of that I was told and how much I have assumed but after that incident girls were not allowed to be alone in a room with boys. My pigeon hole was in the room where this incident happened. I remember someone pointing out to me where she had been pinned and I felt uncomfortable that it may have been on my pigeon hole. The behaviour of the girl involved became more challenging after that but I don't remember anything happening to the boy. I remember still seeing him around the school and I felt intimidated by his presence because we knew he had done something. We didn't receive any education on how boys should treat girls or how girls should expect to be treated.

56. In the schools I went to after Fettes there was none of that going on so it was quite specific to that environment. We had very extensive sex education but that was just about the mechanics. We weren't taught anything about relationships or the emotional context of sex. It was like sexual activity became a currency and you were cool if you were doing these things. We were all really young and we were peer pressuring each other into who would go the furthest.
57. Fagging was more of an issue in the senior school than the junior school. You would hear about it going on there but it never happened in the junior school and I never had to do chores for someone who was older than me. Fagging involved being assigned to a more senior pupil. The purpose of fagging was meant to be for the mentoring of the younger pupil by the older pupil but the practical application of it was generally that the younger pupil would serve the older.

Incidents involving BPR

58. I had a friend called BPR and she had two brothers in the senior school, one of which was in 6th form and the other was somewhere in the middle. The brother in the middle, BPR and two, maybe three, other boys were locked in rooms separately from one another for a full day. Mr CXL SNR along with either their housemaster or the deputy headmaster. It was a full eight hours and they weren't allowed to eat, drink or go to the loo until they had signed statements saying that they had smoked cannabis on school property. They were interrogated and told that the others had signed it so they should just sign it too. After eight hours BPR brother signed it and was then expelled from the school. I think that must have happened when I was in second form. It was probably the second half of 1992. I found out after school either the day that it happened or the day after it happened. BPR was a day pupil and after school I would go to the car when she was being picked up so I think I found out about this from either BPR or her mum. I'm not sure how much I was told on that occasion and it's possible that BPR brother, BPR told me more about it further down the line.

59. When their mum found out about it she kicked up a stink because, whether her son had or hadn't smoked cannabis on school property, the treatment was not ok. I couldn't say specifically what BPR mum did. The school went on a massive mission to blacken their names and it was a difficult time for BPR and being her friend in the junior school was tricky. BPR life started to get harder and harder and the way that the staff were treating her was becoming worse. The staff were not doing anything explicit but I was aware of a coldness towards her. Mr Alexander definitely showed a significant coldness to her and he was noticeably more strict towards her than the other pupils. The school was trying to push her out because of the way that her mum was making noise about the way her son had been treated.
60. Things got difficult for the elder brother as well and every little thing that he did wrong incurred a punishment until eventually he was put on a final warning. It was all completely out of whack with how everyone else was being treated. BPR decided to write a letter to Mr CXL SNR the senior school, to complain about the way that she was being treated in the junior school and she asked that Mr Alexander, head of the junior school, not be told. She gave a catalogue of what had been happening and she said that she didn't think it was fair. I remember reading the letter but I can't remember the contents of the letter. I saw it before she sent it to Mr CXL and I think it's likely that she wanted me to proof read it.
61. Mr CXL told Mr Alexander about the letter and I remember that in assembly Mr Alexander was obviously really angry. At the end of assembly he asked that BPR BPR see him in his office. BPR was really frightened and crying so I told her not to worry and that me and another girl would go with her to his office, which we did.
62. When we got there Mrs FGT was standing outside of SNR SNR office and BPR was able to walk past her but she stopped me and said that I couldn't go in. I went past her anyway and, when I got into his office, Mr Alexander told me to leave. I refused and I explained that I didn't think that BPR should be on her own and that she didn't want to be on her own. I told him that he couldn't make her be on her own and there was a long discussion about that until

eventually I was threatened with expulsion if I didn't leave the room and I was physically pushed out of the room by Mrs FGT

63. The door was then shut so me and the other girl who had come to the office waited on the other side of the door and we could hear BPR sobbing away. I couldn't make out what Mr Alexander was saying to BPR but it went on for a good twenty or thirty minutes of him speaking to her and her inconsolably sobbing. At points his voice was raised but I couldn't make out what he was saying. BPR then came out and she was ushered past me by Mrs FGT who took BPR into her office and shut the door again. Eventually BPR came out and she had pulled herself together a bit but she was still really dazed. I remember that BPR then told me that Mrs FGT had called me "a bitch". I was shocked and I went into Mrs FGT room and asked her if she had called me a bitch. She said yes so I asked her why she had called me that to which she replied that she had said that because I was a bitch.
64. I stormed off and went looking for BPR I spent ages looking for her and by that point everyone was in their classes. I eventually found her curled up in one of the shower cubicles in the changing rooms, just an absolute heap and a complete mess. She told me what Mr Alexander had said but I don't remember the detail of that. It turns out that while this was ongoing BPR mum happened to call to confirm BPR dentist appointment and Mrs FGT never mentioned anything to BPR mum about what had just happened nor the state that BPR was in.
65. I didn't know what to do other than take BPR home to her mum because she lived quite near to the school. BPR was a day pupil. I thought about what would be the best way to do that but I knew that if we told the school then they would refuse to let us go so I thought the best thing to do was to sign out so that they knew where we were. We signed out and walked to BPR house but her mum wasn't in so we phoned my mum and she came round. BPR mum then came home and called the police because I had been mishandled and BPR had been locked in a room against her will. The police took statements from us at the time. I think it's likely that BPR mum also made a report to the school. My mum spoke to the school but I don't think that she made a formal report.

Reporting of abuse at Fettes College, Edinburgh

66. After [BPR] mum had called the police, they came round and took statements but nothing was done at the time. It was tricky because there was me, [BPR] and another girl, [REDACTED], during the incident. Apparently the other girl's statement was different to mine and [BPR] which meant that the police couldn't use any of it. That was what I was told by [BPR] mum when I was older, which was frustrating because they had locked [BPR] in a room against her will, pushed me around and failed to recognise that there was a child in a very distressed state. On that day, my statement to the police was specifically about what had happened that day.
67. I think Mrs Alan must have heard us talking about Mr Stein because a bunch of us ended up standing in Mr Alexander's office and he was asking us questions about what was going on. We were there to speak about Mr Stein and his general behaviour and we spoke about the incidents where he had been inappropriate. I remember there being at least six girls in his office but I'm not sure if they were just from my class or my year group or whether there were girls there from other classes within the junior school. He asked us what had happened and we told him about Mr Stein coming into the changing room while we were undressed, the tickling, the inappropriate touching and nibbling. Mr Alexander was very serious about it but I don't know what happened after that. I was in Mr Alexander's office during the winter months and I think it is most likely that I was twelve.
68. I believe that something was said to Mr Stein because he became really horrible and pushed us really hard in swimming after that. There was a very distinct difference in Mr Stein after we had told Mr Alexander what had happened and he was very hard on us. He stopped coming into the changing rooms and all of the inappropriate touching and tickling stopped but he was clearly punishing us for having told Mr Alexander what was going on. There was no follow-up from Mr Alexander after that to check on our welfare.

Leaving Fettes College, Edinburgh

69. I was due to leave Fettes at the end of second form but I didn't finish the term and the day that I took [BPR] home, after having been to Mr Alexander's office, was my last day at Fettes. My mum spoke to Mr Alexander on the phone that day and he said that I could come back to the school but that if I did then I would be on a final warning for expulsion so I said that I didn't want to go back. I think I went back on my own to Mr Alexander's office and asked for my trunk and told him that I was leaving. I left during the summer term of 1993 when I was twelve. I had been in the junior school for two years and I never went to the senior school.
70. I later saw [FNL] now [FNL] around 2019, for a drink in Glasgow. She had been a couple of years below me at school and she told me that her memory was that suddenly [BPR] and I were there and suddenly we weren't but the school never really spoke about it. I remember there were a lot of rumours flying about at the time and the school was making out that it was all [BPR] mother's fault. [BPR] didn't go back to the school. I think everyone was told not to talk to us and I had no contact from the school administration after that.

Schooling after Fettes College, Edinburgh

71. After Fettes, I went to Strathallan School, Perthshire for about a term then I went to St George's School, Edinburgh for a about a term and then I went to Kilgraston School, Perth and I stayed there for about three years until I was sixteen.
72. The schools that I went to were chosen by me but in discussion with my mum. My mum had bought a house in Perthshire that was about half an hour drive from Strathallan which meant that I could try being a day pupil.

Strathallan School, Perthshire

73. Strathallan is near Perth, West of Bridge of Allan. I stayed there for about a term in 1993.
74. Strathallan was a bit more military and they worked everyone really hard. Everyone felt like a number and there was no room for individuality or personality. Even as a day pupil you couldn't leave until 8:00 pm. I wasn't really there long enough to form an opinion on the school but I wasn't happy there. I remember one teacher at Strathallan asked about what had happened at Fettes because he happened to be friends with Mr Glen but, other than that, it wasn't mentioned. I don't remember that teachers name but he was an English teacher. I must have said something during the class and when I had left the class he walked with me and asked me for more information but I don't remember the detail of what was said other than it was about how I came to leave Fettes.

St George's School Edinburgh

75. I boarded at St George's at first but that wasn't really working so I became a day pupil. Boarding didn't work because I was bullied. I remember being chased to the loos and a group of them banging on the door. After they left, I ran away. It was tricky time. I was a bit all over the place having been to Fettes and then Strathallan. My confidence wasn't great and I think potentially my behaviour was disruptive.
76. Once I was a day pupil I had to commute from Perthshire to Edinburgh every day that was a very long day and it became unachievable so at that point it made sense to go to Kilgraston which was closer to home. St George's was alright but it wasn't for me. I think I was at St Georges for a term in a half or two terms in 1994.

Kilgraston School, Perth

77. I ended up boarding again at Kilgraston in 1994 until 1996 because I couldn't handle my brother and the situation at home hadn't really improved.
78. Kilgraston was a Catholic all-girls convent boarding school. It felt very closed-minded and sheltered. I don't think they knew how to prepare women for the real world other than how to be wives. They wanted girls to go to university but then there was an assumption that you would get married and have kids anyway. That was reflected in the subjects that you studied so we had home economics where we learned to cook and office studies where we learned to be secretaries. If you weren't academic then you learnt home-making or the office stuff.
79. I had a good physics teacher when I was at Kilgraston but when she left she was replaced by a male teacher, Mr Scanlan, that I didn't like. I think by that time I was anti-male teachers and there weren't many of them at Kilgraston so I gave him a really hard time. There was Mr Becker who was the Deputy Head and I had no respect or time for him and then the male physics teacher arrived and I felt the same way towards him. I assumed that he was a bad person but whether he was or not I don't know.
80. Being a Catholic school they had a woman come in to talk to us about natural family planning. She told us that condoms were evil and they didn't work. She also told us that a woman's discharge was the white Rolls Royce that carried the sperm into the vagina. She also said that when women got their periods it was their womb weeping because they weren't pregnant. I left at that point and refused to listen to it. I went straight to the headmistress to complain and she seemed diplomatically surprised by what I told her had been said. I was about fifteen at that time and the woman was talking to my year group. She was talking to all of the year groups that day but I think she was saying the same things. Despite my complaint she went on to speak to the other year groups that day. The R.E teacher, Doctor Moyser, went on strike that day because of what the woman was saying.

Life after boarding school

81. At the point of leaving school I had a breakdown. I reached a point where I wasn't ok anymore and I couldn't see the point in anything so I left school and I didn't do anything for about a year then I got a job during the summer of 1997 and tried to get on with being an adult for a while until I figured out what I really wanted to do with my life. I figured that out about five years ago when I was in my mid-thirties.
82. I did a lot of hospitality when I was younger. I was involved in conservation and I moved to Australia and did more of that. I lived there for eight years and then, when I came back to Scotland in 2014, I applied for the ambulance service. It's a challenging job but it's nice to be doing something that feels worthwhile. It's a job where you arrive at people's homes and they want you to fix what is going on so you have to be quite solutions driven. I like helping people but it can be frustrating when you aren't able to help and I find that challenging to accept. It takes its emotional tolls but I'm capable enough to deal with that.

Impact

83. It's difficult to differentiate between what are the influences of life and what I can absolutely say is down to my experience at Fettes. I definitely think my trust of authority became a really difficult issue. By the time that I went on to the other schools my trust in authority had really diminished.
84. I think that what happened on my last day at Fettes challenged my sense of what was right and what was wrong. I was punished for doing the right thing so that was hard to understand as a kid. The idea that just because it was authority doesn't make it right. That was a challenging point of contention for me.
85. I think I had been settled in Fettes and I knew my place there and then suddenly I didn't have that. When you go to a school like Fettes, they break you down and then they build you up into the kind of kid that they want you to be because that's how they manage a large group of kids in that environment. When you are there all the time it becomes like Stockholm Syndrome and you have no choice but to be completely

brainwashed by it. Going from being inside of that to suddenly being outside of it had a significant impact on me. It was almost like being disowned by your family, you feel that level of rejection. That is quite a big thing to try and reconcile as a young person and I don't think I did. I started to reject everything because I didn't trust that everything wouldn't be taken away from me at some random moment in time.

86. Boarding schools are an odd environment and they have an idea about how you mould a child into being a certain way and you either get very indoctrinated into it and you become that thing or you don't. After everything that happened in Fettes, I didn't want to be manipulated or controlled and I didn't want to become one of these machines that they build people into being.
87. I think that there is a certain lack of humanity towards children in that environment that then breeds the same in the children who are there. You either go on to be a very driven successful man or a subservient wife and those are your two choices. Then you bring up your own children in the same way that you were brought up so they are banished to boarding school and then you don't have a relationship and ultimately you bring up children that don't understand the nature of love, compassion and humanity in the way that I think that people should.
88. My sixteen year old self was very much just rebelling against everything and not really feeling safe anywhere. I don't think anywhere felt safe and I was desperate to grow up, move out and be my own person. I wanted to find out who that was rather than just being a product of the school who existed to make the school look good.
89. Once I left Fettes I had no faith in bothering to try because of the way that I had been held back academically. I had repeatedly and unfairly been held back in the B class when I should have been in the A Class. It also fed into a general lack of trust in academic authority. It has been a reoccurring thought in my mind that working hard doesn't pay off which has made it challenging to educate myself as an adult.
90. I think what happened at Fettes affected my relationship with my mum because I felt she should have stood up for me more. I was frustrated because BPR mum had

really stood up for her children and I didn't feel like my mum did that in the way she could have or should have. My mum had the attitude of cut your losses and move on but I think that her perspective was different because she wasn't me and she hadn't lived at the school and had a family there.

91. I have a feeling that [BPR] family got into a legal dispute with the school and I assume that they were given a pay out because years later it all stopped quite suddenly. I assumed there was a legal dispute because they went from being able to talk about the school, to them not talking about it. They didn't talk about there being a case but my assumption was that that was what had occurred. The school spent a lot of time trying to blacken [BPR] families name or at least her mother's name which I think was very hard for them because [BPR] mum had grown up at Fettes as [BPR] grandfather had been a housemaster there. She was kicked by what felt like her own family.
92. After I left I was in contact with people and there were rumours about what had happened including that [BPR] had been expelled and that her mum was trying to get the school shut down. That died down but when we were seventeen and the Mr Stein investigation with the school happened there were a lot of people who believed that [BPR] mum was behind that. There was a newspaper article that had inaccuracies and lies in it. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My understanding from [BPR] mum was that the guy who was in charge of PR for the school had given that information out for the article.

Reporting of Abuse

Reporting of abuse when aged seventeen

93. I'm not sure why but around 1997, when I was seventeen, I was contacted by the police and asked to give a statement. I gave a statement about Mr Stein at that point and I told them something about [REDACTED] which I have since forgotten. I have been

told that the man that ran that investigation was subsequently fired for corruption because of something to do with high profile paedophilia that he had covered up so my assumption was that he had covered up the reports from Fettes. I can't remember who told me that.

94. Around 2014 I was contacted by police and they said that they were reopening the investigation into Mr Stein. They came up and spent a long afternoon trawling over the minute details of what I could remember about Mr Stein. Nothing happened with that inquiry and as far as I'm aware the case has been closed.
95. In 2014 I felt the police were really focusing on [REDACTED]. I had told the police what I knew when I was seventeen but I couldn't remember what that was in 2014. The police really wanted me to remember what I had said back then but I couldn't and that was frustrating because it was obviously important.
96. There was someone who was interested in writing a book about abuse at Fettes and her name was Sandra Brown. She was a friend of [REDACTED] BPR mum, [REDACTED] QWH. Sandra Brown had previously written a book about her father's involvement in the abduction of a child. Sandra was interested in what had gone on at Fettes and was thinking of writing about it so I was asked to speak to her and I think I did. I can't remember how old I was.
97. I have never spoken to a lawyer about this and I haven't spoken to a counsellor specifically about this.

Records

98. I haven't tried to recover any records from Fettes but I think that I would like to.

Lessons to be Learned

99. Mr Stein should have been properly investigated at the time. The right thing to do would have been to have police involvement at the time. He shouldn't have been allowed to be around children. It's difficult with these establishments because they are so obsessed by their reputations that they will hide anything that they feel will put the school into disrepute. There needs to be something in place that stops them being able to do that because for a school to put their reputation ahead of the safety of children is disgusting.
100. It gets tricky when you deal with a board of people because responsibility diminishes with the more people who are involved so if no single person is making the decisions then it's easier for a group of people to make an inhumane decision. I don't know if that's how a school has to run but I think that there is something disturbing about that.
101. I think the level of independence that independent schools have is worrying. An inspector can come in and on the day it can look alright but without some sort of in-depth analysis it is very easy for them to get away with things and for them to cover things up. An inspector should be there for a week so that they can see the school from the perspectives of different houses and age groups. The different schools and houses can each be very different to one another. The inspector should also stay over so they experience the same things as the child.
102. I think that there should be some education about personal protection and how you can expect to be treated by people. The Mr Stein thing went on for a long time before we thought that there was something not right. The way that he groomed the situation was that he was really mean to us and then, when he was touching the girls, he was nice so it was like a reward that he was doing these things to these girls and we were all kind of into it. If we had some education about how we should expect to be treated and what to do when something inappropriate happened then that would have helped but there was none of that.
103. In terms of the over sexualised atmosphere, there was no education round that and no sense that anyone knew the difference between right and wrong. I feel that young kids should be equipped with more knowledge about where boundaries are.

104. When we reported the incident that took place on my last day at Fettes I would have thought that what had happened would have been enough for something to be done so I think that the police have a lot to learn.
105. I hope that there is a real shake up about the way that private schools are run so that these things can't go unreported or hidden away. I feel that those that have hidden things are as culpable as those that have committed the acts because their priority should have been the safety and welfare of children.
106. I hope that, for those who have suffered really distinct abuse, the people who are responsible are held accountable. I hope that there is support in place for those that really need it because these things can have a huge impact on people's lives and be the defining downward spiral. I hope that there is some kind of remedy for the terrible things that have happened to them.
107. Those who have suffered need to feel advocated for because no one has done that for them before. Everyone needs to be treated on an individual basis because what is right for one person and what is right for another can be different.
108. It's important that this doesn't happen again and that the future children of Scotland are better protected by authorities. There should be systems in place that, should things go awry, it is then dealt with sensitively, effectively and timeously. This includes insuring that children are actively signposted to external avenues of advice and support.
109. I am grateful that the inquiry exists and for the work that is being done.

Other information

110. 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.

DFU


Signed.....

Dated..... 03/09/20.....