

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

BPR

Support person present: No

1. My name is BPR and my maiden name, that I used at school, was BPR. My date of birth is 1980. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before boarding school

2. My parents' names are QWH and . My parents divorced when I was two and my dad lives in Switzerland. He is from Geneva. My mum is from Edinburgh. I would spend holidays with my father and term time in Scotland with my mother. My dad was a physicist initially and he wanted to pursue physics but then got divorced and had to pay the fees for Fettes so he went into business consulting. That's what he tells me. My mum is an English language teacher. She ran her own language school from our home and taught English as a second language. When we were away on holiday, there would be foreign students who would come for English language teaching.
3. I had two brothers. My eldest brother, is five years older than me and he was born in 1975. My middle sibling, is three years older than me and he was born in 1977. I didn't have any younger siblings.
4. We lived in Switzerland until 1987 and then we relocated. I went to St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh. I was in primary three when I started at St George's, I stayed until I was ten in 1990, and then I went to Fettes. St George's is a boarding school but

I was a day girl there. There were more day students than boarders there whereas at Fettes there were more boarders than day students. I was very happy at St George's and after I was expelled from Fettes, which is what happened in the end, I went back to St George's.

5. My family has a very strong link to Fettes. My grandfather, [REDACTED] went there as a pupil and then he taught there [REDACTED]. My uncles went to that school. When we lived in Switzerland, we would visit Edinburgh and we would visit Fettes. We sometimes attended Founders' Day [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My family was closely tied to the school. The school was our family.
6. The decision for me to go to Fettes was made by my mum before I even existed. My dad says that it was always planned that we would go to Fettes and had they remained married then we would have gone as boarders. It was always on the cards that we would go to Fettes because it was in the family tradition.
7. My grandfather had retired long before I went to Fettes. He had been [REDACTED] [REDACTED] when my mother was little and I believe they moved when she was twelve which would have been in the sixties. He was [REDACTED] until my mum was about twelve and he also became <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] and he was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He continued teaching there until he retired but I think he retired before I was born.
8. I think there was a different culture in the past and you would hear about caning at Fettes. My grandfather hated caning kids but he said that he had to. There were jokes about buggery going on at Fettes but everyone knew it was true. There were initiation things. There were rumours about a previous headmaster who had been there in the sixties, called Anthony Chenevix-Trench. I believe Fettes have finally pulled down a plaque that was up in memorial to him. I understand that there has been substantial proof that there was no smoke without fire and things were going on. This was way before I was there.

9. The way that I took it was that, that was how things were back then, caning was what happened. Fettes had been a boys' school and this used to be the culture in boys' boarding schools. There were no concerns for the present, when I was going to go. In my eyes that had happened in the olden days when that was what they did.
10. When we moved back to Scotland in 1987 I was too young to start at Fettes but my brothers went straight there. My youngest brother started in the junior school when he was ten. My eldest brother would have been twelve when he started Fettes so I think that he did one year in the junior school and then went to the senior school.
11. I started at Fettes in 1990, when I was ten years old. I started Fettes as a day girl, however, in my first year at Fettes my mum went to Greece for a week with my stepdad so she put me in boarding which was a horrible experience. That definitely happened in the first academic year but not at the very beginning.
12. We had to sit an entrance exam. I sat that in the junior school in Fettes. I guess for me it felt very familiar, I knew the grounds really well. We had been in the grounds many times, been to many functions and I had played in the grounds. I had learnt to swim there. My mum says that from the age of two she would take me to the swimming pool in Fettes so we would go there nearly every weekend. I didn't even question going to Fettes and I was looking forward to going because my brothers were there. For me it was closer to home so I could almost walk home and everyone knew me because of my grandfather so it all felt really good.

### **Fettes College, Edinburgh**

13. There were huge beautiful grounds and lots of buildings. I barely went in the main building that you always see in the press. There were two boarding houses in the main building, that looks like a castle, and the others were separate.
14. The building that housed the junior school was called Inverleith House. The layout of the campus meant that the junior school was separated from the senior school. The

junior school was in a corner of the campus that was away from the rest of the school. We were physically very much removed. We didn't really see the senior school or the senior kids at all and we had almost no interaction with them.

15. If you were driving down the main road to the main entrance at Fettes with the gravel drive, and you carried on down that road, almost until it goes to Ferry Road, then you would come to the entrance to the junior school. Behind the junior school was one big field of sports grounds and then there was another huge field between the junior school and the main school. It was a ten minute walk between the junior school and the main school.
16. We were walking around huge grounds but it was all in the same campus. For science we had to walk to the science lab, for art we had to walk to the art lab and for swimming we walked to the pool. We walked to the canteen for any meal and sports were all over the grounds.
17. Mr Alexander was the housemaster and he was in charge of Inverleith House, the junior school. The other housemasters were in the senior school. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] so both of my brothers were meant to go into [REDACTED] but my middle brother didn't want to be in the same house as my eldest brother so [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] where the housemaster was BKL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] where the housemaster was DZP [REDACTED]
18. I was supposed to go to Arniston House in the senior school. Arniston was a girls' house when I went to Fettes but it had been a boys' school until the seventies. That was where my uncles had gone so that was where I was supposed to go. Arniston was run by the divinity teacher but I can't remember his name, he taught religion.
19. There was College East and College West and they were in the main building. They were for girls so the girls' houses were Arniston, College East and College West. The boys' houses were Carrington, Kimmerghame and Glencorse. The houses were all on the same campus but pretty far away from where we were, in Inverleith House.

20. Mr Glen was a maths teacher and a housemaster for the boarders in the junior school. Miss <sup>FGA</sup> [REDACTED] was my [REDACTED] teacher and she had been housemaster of the junior school when my brothers were there but, by the time I was there, Mr Glen was housemaster. There was a teacher called Mr Butler. I don't remember his first name but I think that he went on to be housemaster of Glencorse House. He was lovely.
21. I found the teachers at Fettes were not as maternal or as warm as they had been at St George's. There were a lot more male teachers at Fettes so maybe I put it down to that. There were fewer female teachers. Fettes struck me as more traditional and old school than St George's but I thought that was normal because that's what the school is and that married up well with what my mum and grandfather had said about the school. It was a traditional, old private school.

### **Routine at Fettes College, Edinburgh**

#### *First day*

22. I don't really remember the first day to be honest. All I remember of the first day was that everyone was in the same boat. I don't remember a particular member of staff showing us round. I remember familiar faces from sitting the entrance exam but nothing stands out. I think I was rather comfortable.
23. When I had my first day at St George's it was a very new culture for me. I had come from Switzerland and from a school where there were no uniforms and we were speaking French. When I started at St George's I needed some help with my English and my handwriting was very French so it was a culture shock. By the time I got to Fettes I was ready and I had been told all along that I would be going to Fettes anyway. There weren't any girls from St George's who joined at the same time as me but the following year one girl came along.

24. I do have a memory of becoming dizzy on the first day and I nearly fainted. We were all standing in a room on the ground floor of Inverleith House. It was very bright in the room and there were a lot of people around me. I remember feeling really faint.

*Mornings and bedtime*

25. I don't know how many boarders there were at Fettes but being a day girl was the minority, it was mostly boarders. I boarded for one week and I think there were four girls in my room and they were the same age as me. I think [REDACTED] was in my room but I don't remember the other two girls. I had a bed in the corner and I think there was a bed in every corner. We each had a bed, a chest of drawers and a desk. There was nothing with a lock and I think if you had any valuables then you were to give them to matron but I wouldn't have had anything because I was only there for a week. There was a tuck shop so you could go and buy something or your parents could send in sweets. I think that was kept somewhere so it wouldn't be taken.
26. The boys were on the bottom floor and the girls were on the top floor. We were separated somehow and there were names for the houses. I remember the dorms had names based on the ancient Greek alphabet; Alpha, Gama, Delta.
27. I'm not sure what time bedtime was but it was dark. I think I boarded in winter so I would guess that bedtime was about seven. I don't know how it was that none of us played up. I do have a memory of sneaking into another girl's dormitory one night. I think the patrols at night would have been done by Mr Glen, his wife or matron but I can't remember.

*Mealtimes/Food*

28. We would walk over to the canteen for lunch and the food was good. We always had fish and chips on a Friday and we all looked forward to Fridays because it was the best fish and chips with barbeque sauce and tomato sauce. At sporting events they made great sandwiches with cheddar cheese and sour cream on them. During break

time in Inverleith house we had milk and buns with icing on them. One of the school excursions was to go to the factory where they made the icing buns.

29. There was always a big deal about Burns Night. There was boiled haggis and I hated it but we were forced to eat it. I never wanted it and they made us eat it. They would just tell us to eat it and, as a child, I felt compelled to do as they told me. They never physically touched me but I had to eat the haggis. I was a pretty good eater, it was just haggis that I didn't like. The thought of it was awful but I wasn't really distressed. I was able to eat it.
30. Normally at Fettes it was like a buffet, we had a tray and we could pick what we wanted. Burns night was different, it was more formal and that was the only time that I remember being told to finish my plate. The other times we helped ourselves, there was a choice of food and often kids didn't finish the plate. At St George's the food was not as good and there was a lot more leaning over and telling us to finish our plate.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

31. We had grey socks, a grey skirt, a white shirt with a collar and a woollen magenta jumper. Parents had to go and buy the uniform.

#### *Trips and holidays*

32. There were very few overnight trips in the junior school but we did go on day excursions. I remember going on a trip to the bakery where the ice buns, that we were given in school, were made. I think Miss <sup>FGA</sup> [REDACTED] accompanied us on that trip. We also went on an excursion to Campbell's Soup factory. I remember going to a fish market early in the morning and we saw ice boxes containing fish coming in. I'm not sure if it was the same day but I also remember going on a fishing ship that belonged to a parent of one of the pupils. I think Miss <sup>FGA</sup> [REDACTED] took us on that excursion. One of the boys found a pornographic magazine in the cabin of the parent who owned the boat. We were all giggling and then Miss <sup>FGA</sup> [REDACTED] told the child who had picked it up to put it down and we were all moved along.

33. I do remember going on an overnight trip camping somewhere in some large tents. I don't know where we were but I think it was somewhere in the countryside in Scotland. It was cold and we were trying to keep warm and dry our hair with an electric hand dryer which was attached to the wall in the bathroom. I remember [REDACTED] being in the bathroom and I think that she slept next to me in the tent. We were definitely there for at least one night. There was a thing in the evening to pass time and we were all telling jokes. We were all sitting on the ground and we would stand up and tell a joke. Mr Alexander was there and he told a joke that we didn't get at the time. I later told my mum the joke and she said that it was inappropriate. The joke was "what do you call two Irish homosexuals" and the answer was "Patrick Fitzgerald and Gerald Fitzpatrick."
34. I did do the Gordonstoun challenge during my first year. The Gordonstoun challenge is a sporting competition between schools and they pick one child to represent the school. I was picked to represent Fettes in the first year so we went and stayed in Gordonstoun for one or two nights and it was lots of fun.

#### *Schooling*

35. I can't remember what time school started at but I think it was around 9:00 am and we had to be there between 8:00 am and 8:30 am. Every morning we had a short assembly. We would all sit down and Mr Alexander, the housemaster, would say something. We were doing long hours. I remember being there from dusk till dawn. Sometimes it was dark when I was dropped off and I would be picked up at 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm so it was long days.
36. We had a range of subjects. We did English, French, Latin, Maths, Geography and History. Most of the classes were in Inverleith House. We had different teachers for the different science subjects, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. We had music, art and a lot of sport. The lessons were a standard length so I guess about an hour but as a child it probably felt longer.



37. In Inverleith House we had three classrooms on the top floor and three classrooms on the bottom. On the top floor there was the housemaster's office and next to that there was maths which was taught by Mr Glen. In the middle there was Geography which was taught by the housemaster, Mr Alexander. Then there was [REDACTED] which was Miss FGA [REDACTED] room.
38. Downstairs there was an assembly room which was essentially a normal room that was used for assembly and for music. As soon as you walked into the building, on the right there was a room that was used for music and I would do violin in there and on the left there was the cloakroom. There was another large room which I remember having English in again. There was another room that was used for French and Latin. Then there was a room further in that was very light and bright.
39. The standard of education at Fettes were relatively high but I have to say that St George's outdid Fettes hands down and there was a much higher standard of education. Fettes struck me as being very hung up on its reputation and being seen as the best school whereas St George's had a more modest approach but consistently had better A-Level and Higher results. There was a love of learning and teaching at St George's and they achieved better results through the environment that they had there and the teaching staff.
40. I don't think I was treated any differently at Fettes because of my family history at the school. The teachers who were there didn't know my grandfather. Even the headmaster didn't know my grandfather. There was one teacher who taught chemistry who had been taught by my grandfather and he just said what a great man he was. He wasn't my chemistry teacher.

#### *Sporting activities*

41. We did three hours of sport on a Wednesday and at least an hour or two every other day. We tried everything and everything was possible. I did fencing, hockey, swimming and lacrosse. I represented the school in cross country running. There was rugby and cricket for the boys.

42. On Saturday mornings we had competitive matches. Boarders and day pupils attended because pretty much everyone was in a team. My mum would drive me to the school and then we would go to where the game was. A lot of the games were at Fettes and sometimes my mum would stay and then drive me back home. At St George's we went away more often and I have memories of going on the bus to St Andrews. At Fettes most of the games were on home ground.

### *Healthcare*

43. There was a sanatorium in the main building and I think that I went there twice. As a boarder in Inverleith house there was a matron and I think she is the one that you went to if you had your period and needed sanitary towels or if you felt sick.
44. There were a couple of incidents going on where I wondered why nothing was being done. At one point, there was a craze going on where kids would engrave their initials on their hand. A couple of the girls would get their maths compasses and engrave their initials quite deeply on their hands. I did wonder why it wasn't being picked up by matron.
45. I remember sitting at lunch and there was a girl called [REDACTED] who was ripping her skin apart and it was bleeding. I asked her why she was doing that and she said it was because it felt good. I thought that was not right. I think a few of the boarders were doing it and later it may have been picked up on but I'm not sure.
46. During my final year at Inverleith House I became quite close to a boy one or two years below me. His name was either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. He always wore a scarf. One day he removed it and showed me that he had a mark around his neck. He said he'd tried to [REDACTED]. I remember not knowing what to do. He was a quiet, shy boy but he seemed normal and fine. He went to class, played with his friends, played sport and carried on like everybody else.

47. I don't remember going to a teacher about the incident but I may have told my mother or a friend. The feeling I had in general at Fettes was that the day went off as normal and there was a routine so everything felt like it was fine because everything just carried on. It was more comfortable to carry on in the routine and that was it. It was safer and more comfortable that we went along with the routine rather than deviate from it. The routine gave us a sense of security. If no one around you thinks that what is happening is weird, then you feel like the weird one. I felt like the boarders had a different experience and life that I wasn't involved in and they seemed normal even when they were self-harming.

*Religious instruction*

48. We had divinity and the religious education was Christian but it wasn't the ethos of the school or shoved down our throats. We sang a hymn and did the nativity play every Christmas. I think Fettes was Protestant in theory. One girl was Palestinian and she got into trouble because she wouldn't do the exam. She wrote "fuck Jesus" all over the paper and got into trouble for that. In St George's we studied different religions like Sikhism and Islam whereas at Fettes that didn't happen.

*Work*

49. I never had any chores to do at Fettes. That was something that struck me as a difference between Fettes and St George's. My step mum, who lives in Switzerland, always said that we were such brats when we went to Fettes and that I changed when I went to St George's. At Fettes we were told that we were the crème de la crème, we were the best and we were the future leaders of the country. When I went to St George's it was very humbling. When we went to the canteen we had to set the table, clear the table and go and thank the dinner staff. That was never done at Fettes, it was very elitist and we were like princes that didn't do anything. When I was a boarder we had to strip our beds and put our sheets in a basket but that was about it.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

50. At Christmas we had the nativity play which was a big deal and it was done beautifully and rehearsed all the way through.
51. I don't remember any birthday celebrations in school but I could invite boarders to my birthday parties outside of school and they were allowed to come. I don't remember any celebrations in the school but I was a day girl.

*Personal possessions*

52. The week when I was a boarder, I brought a lot of personal things. I brought teddy bears and comfort things and I laid them all out. I wasn't told that I couldn't have anything. There was probably a rule about no valuables but we didn't have mobile phones or anything back then so there weren't any.

*Boarding*

53. My mum went to Greece for a week with my stepdad so she put me in boarding for a week. I remember my mum dropping me off and I was very upset. I think because my mum and dad were divorced and I was spending long periods of time away from each parent I found separation very difficult. I was very emotional at the door to Inverleith House and I remember my mum smiling and saying that everything would be fine. Miss FGA, the teacher, came to take me and she was just rough. She wanted me to have a stiff upper lip and she told me to come this way. I remember her physically pulling me away from my mum to try and move me along. It was not comforting and it made things worse.
54. I remember unpacking and just feeling miserable. That is the one time I remember having self-harming or suicidal thoughts. I remember standing at the top of the stairs, a few days into boarding, and contemplating jumping off, just so that my mum would come and get me. I was really distraught and incredibly homesick.
55. The only person I felt gave me any kind of support was Mr Glen, who was housemaster of the boarding house, and his wife. Mr Glen was my maths teacher and he was great.

He was great during my time boarding, when I was very homesick. He was great as a maths teacher because I was terrible at maths and he never made me feel bad about that. I couldn't get my head around fractions and he managed to help me get my head around that. He was a very caring, wonderful man.

56. Mrs Burns who was my French teacher was also supportive. I think she arranged for my brother to come and visit. Apart from that it was very much that I should get on with it.
57. In terms of the routine, what I found really hard was that the bell in the boarding house was the same as the one used during school. I found that really hard because I'd be asleep and then the bell that woke me up was the same bell that was used during school. For me, being a day girl that was used to being at home, that was really stressful. It never felt like I was away from school.
58. I'm not sure what time the bell woke us up but I remember feeling really tired and then having to walk on an empty stomach over to the canteen, which was quite a way away, to get breakfast and it was still dark and it was cold. There would be prep in the evening and that went on really late. I was just really tired but mainly I was homesick and I was crying.
59. The other boarders weren't very helpful because they weren't homesick and they were fine. I was in the youngest year and there was a lot of picking on the younger ones. The older girls would come in and try and wake us up in the night. I remember a room in the boarding school where we could watch movies but I was just miserable the whole time.
60. I remember it as such a sad, awful time. I can't say that was because of the school. I think it was a mix of my parents' divorce and separation issues but, looking at the care that children get now and how St George's was, I think that not much was done to comfort me. I was ten years old and really missing my mum but almost nothing was done and I was just to get on with it. At St George's I think there would have been a

more maternal loving approach. There was very little care at Fettes and it was just business as usual.

*Visitors*

61. The one time I boarded, my mum was away and she would have been the only one that would have visited. I was so miserable and so homesick when I boarded that my middle brother came to visit. That was strange because they allowed him to come during class time. We had no interaction with the senior school but he came over to see me, comfort me and be there. That was quite unusual because kids from the senior school never came to the junior school.

*Family contact*

62. There was no opportunity to phone my parents. My mother was away in Greece but I could have spoken to my father in Switzerland. That was never offered.

*Sibling Contact*

63. I was a day girl so I don't know whether it was different for boarders but the school grounds were huge and I never really saw my brothers apart from when I boarded and then I saw them at breakfast.

*Discipline*

64. There were no incidents of corporal punishment that I was aware of. I know that Mr Burns, who was our Latin teacher, had a cane but he never used it on the children. He used it to drum verbs into us as he drummed it on the table. It was never done in an aggressive way and it was never used on us. I was a very good pupil. I was never in trouble. There was yelling. Mr Glen would sometimes get angry and there was a lot of yelling and getting red in the face.

65. There was detention where you had to stay back and write lines. I think detention was on a Wednesday so, if you were a day pupil, you could tell your parents that you were going to be kept back late. I don't think parents were informed, I think it was done internally.
66. I think any kind of vandalism to school property was major. Even engraving something on the furniture. Not doing your homework and talking in class were minor. Leaving school grounds was a major. In the junior school we could have walked out of the gate at any time but I don't think that we would ever have considered doing that. I know that did happen a lot in the senior school, they would just leave and walk to the city centre. There were no fences in the interior just the fence round the outside. You could easily walk out at any time but you didn't leave because you knew you were to stay there. I remember at the entrance to the main school there was a house there and I think someone was supposed to be there to watch who comes in and out but I'm not sure if anyone was there.
67. There weren't any suspensions in the junior school because we were too young. My brother was suspended twice and eventually expelled. In the junior school we would hear about kids being suspended. By the time kids were in the senior school there would be drugs in the grounds and kids getting drunk or playing truant.
68. My brother, [REDACTED] had been suspended. I think he had been drunk at Kimmerghame and my mum was called to come and get him. My mum came to get me from the junior school and he was drunk in the back of the car, lying in a pool of his own vomit and we had to go to hospital to get his stomach pumped. I was eleven or twelve and he would have been fourteen or fifteen. I think that happened twice and he did get suspended.

*Prefects / senior pupils*

69. I was elected prefect in my final year of junior school at Fettes. The year group chose the prefects. I was really hoping to be head girl but I was made a prefect which was

great but I was disappointed not to be head girl. The prefects were elected by the students but how the head girl and boy were picked I don't know.

70. I don't remember my duties as a prefect. I think we might have had duties at assembly. I think we were to look out for the younger ones. I remember we didn't sit on the floor at assembly, we sat next to Mr Alexander and the teachers. I guess we would have represented the year in school photos.
71. I don't remember having any authority to give out punishments to other students and I don't remember having to report students for their behaviour. We had a badge that said prefect and that was it. I think it was to prepare us for senior school and it was more of a token. The prefects in senior school had a lot more power and prestige and I think there were prefects in the boarding schools who had more authority.
72. There was talk of initiation practices in the houses and the prefects oversaw that. There was fagging, getting the little ones to do stuff for the older ones, and the prefects were in charge of that. I wasn't involved in that in the time I was there.

### **Abuse at Fettes College, Edinburgh**

73. My brother, [REDACTED] was accused of smoking marijuana and in the end he was expelled. He actually smoked marijuana off the school grounds at a party with some other pupils. I think there were three or four others but I'm not sure and my mum would know better. It somehow got back to the school and so they were called in during the week. They were separated and locked up by the school for a number of hours, I think eight or nine, with no access to food or a toilet. I think they were given water. I understand that they were each told lies that the other had admitted to it and made to sign a confession. To me that was shocking. That was what spiralled a huge battle between my family and Fettes and it eventually led to me being expelled and my eldest brother, [REDACTED] being expelled.



74. My brother lives in [REDACTED] and he won't even talk about it. He has made it clear to my mum and me that he wants nothing to do with it. He is now a partner in a law firm and he has a great career. He doesn't want his children to ever know about it or for his name to ever be mentioned. He won't talk about it and he has never talked about it to me.
75. Once my brother had been expelled, I started having a hard time at school. People were making fun of me and calling my brother names like "druggie". It was a very difficult time. The school had been very close to my family and that all began unravelling. My mum got really upset at the school. She wanted answers from the school about his treatment and an apology.
76. The school said that she could remove her other two children. My eldest brother was in his final year and was going to finish school anyway but for me it was pretty devastating because I was looking forward to going to senior school. I was going to go to Arniston House with some of my friends. I was pretty settled in the school and it was pretty hard to be told you're expelled. I believe someone from the Board of Governors said to my mum that he would make sure that I never got into a good school again. I felt really targeted and rejected, when I hadn't done anything and I had on my record that I was expelled, when I hadn't done anything wrong.
77. I did, at the end, feel targeted because we were causing trouble. It went from bad to worse in terms of my treatment. I had always got on well with Mr Alexander, he was my geography teacher and I was good friends with [REDACTED] but everything changed from being fine to being mistreated. I believe I would have been elected head girl but it was given to one of my friends, [REDACTED] who was the daughter of one of the housemasters. I think that was done on purpose.
78. I wrote a letter and Mr Alexander was away so I wrote the letter to Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] just saying how hard things were and that people weren't being nice. The next thing I knew, we were in Assembly and Mr Alexander said "can [REDACTED] [REDACTED] come and see me after Assembly".

79. By then things had become pretty bad between Mr CXL, my mum, our family and Fettes and so my mum had told me not to go anywhere on my own and she had told me to take my friends. My closest friends at the time were DFU and [REDACTED] so I wanted them there when I went to see Mr Alexander. I believe they both came and DFU was definitely with me. We went upstairs and Mrs FGT who was [REDACTED] wouldn't let DFU come into Mr Alexander's office with me.
80. I wanted DFU with me and Mrs FGT physically removed her. Mr Alexander was sitting in his office, with his feet up on his desk and his hands behind his head, looking very relaxed. He was just watching from his desk while there was a physical battle at the door. I was trying to keep DFU with me and I was trying not to be pulled into the room. Mrs FGT was physically pulling DFU off me and away from the door. I believe that I saw Mrs FGT slap DFU and there was a lot of pulling and tugging at the door. Mrs FGT pushed me into the room, came into the room and then shut the door and locked it. I know that DFU stayed outside.
81. Mrs FGT sat me down and said that they were just there to help and I didn't need "that bitch" with me. I was trembling and terrified. She handed me water to try and calm me down and I was shaking and spilling it.
82. Mr Alexander was rambling on about not liking his dirty laundry hung out to dry and he said that I shouldn't have written the letter to Mr CXL. I don't remember much of what he said because I just wanted to get out of there and when I did get out of there I ran straight to the showers. DFU and [REDACTED] found me sobbing and shaking in the shower.
83. DFU said we should leave and go home. There was a book at the entrance where you signed in and you signed out and I'm pretty sure that we signed out. The three of us left and we went to my house. My mum called the police and we gave a statement about what had happened that day.
84. That was my last day at Fettes. I went back just to say goodbye. Mr Glen was there with the boarders and Mr Glen said that they wished me all the best, they would miss

me and that what had happened was terrible. That was it. I was thirteen by then. I think there was an announcement made that DFU, [REDACTED] and I had left and weren't coming back. I felt the school were against us as a family.

85. That happened during summer in 1993. It was towards the end of the school year, although I didn't finish the full year. I would say it would have been around May 1993.
86. I don't know what the official reason for my expulsion was. I asked my mum and she said that she was told that if she wasn't happy with the treatment of her son and she was going to complain then her other children weren't welcome there next year. Nothing was said about my behaviour, it was just that I wasn't welcome back next term and my mum was to remove me. I believe it was only because a friend of the family was on the Board of Governors at St George's that I got in. I think they were going to try and block me from getting in.
87. When my mother told me that I had to leave Fettes, I don't think she put it as expulsion to me. She just said that I wasn't going to go to senior school, I was going to go to St George's. I think it may have been discussed with my dad. She didn't say I was expelled, she just said I would be leaving. I knew that before the incident with Mr Alexander.

*Mr Stein*

88. William or Bill Stein was the swimming teacher. I first met Mr Stein when I was quite young and my mum says that he started giving me swimming lessons when I was two or three years old. It was whenever we started going to the pool at Fettes. My mum had keys to the pool and she would go there nearly every weekend and sometimes during the week. I would go with her and Mr Stein would be there, often with his wife and a flask and sandwiches on the side. It was his pool. Very often my mum and I had the pool entirely to ourselves and very rarely my cousins would be there but they were babies. It was often just me, my mum, Mr Stein and maybe his wife. My brothers went sometimes but I mainly remember me and my mum being there.

89. From as early as I can remember, I remember Mr Stein tickling me and nibbling my ears, my throat and my neck. My mum would be sitting on the bench or swimming laps and she could see that happening but she thought he was just being friendly so I think that's what I put it down to. I thought he was a family friend who was the usual overly-friendly uncle. I never liked it but that was what he did. I've mentioned this to my mum because she took it seriously later on and when she wanted to hold the school accountable she brought that up. I've said to her recently that she was there and saw it all happen when I was four.
90. Mr Stein was my swimming teacher while I was at Fettes and he would do the same things. At the end of every lesson there was free time and he would jump in the pool and play with us. I was one of the girls that he would often grab and it was the same thing that he had always done. There was a lot of tickling under the water, nibbling my ear lobes and neck and putting his tongue in my ear. Then he would throw me and go off to get the next girl and we would all scream and try to get away from him. He would shout "I'm coming to get you" and then he would do it again.
91. The tickling and nibbling happened every swimming lesson because there was free time at the end of each lesson and he would jump in the pool. We would be wearing swimming costumes and he would be tickling us all over but really his hands would be all over our bodies. He never put his hands underneath our costumes and I don't think he was able to. This went on the whole time I was at Fettes, between the ages of ten and thirteen.
92. He picked very specific girls to do this to, underdeveloped girls. I started puberty late and I was pretty flat chested and athletic. He seemed to have that type. The other girls were [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and EBX [REDACTED]. There were other girls in the class who had big breasts and were really developed like [REDACTED] and DFU [REDACTED]. He never targeted them for the nibbling. He targeted girls that were underdeveloped, including myself. He wore trunks when he was in the water with us. I remember he had a big fat tummy. He was overweight and his arms would be around me and I was just kicking and screaming and trying to get away. For him it was a game and I was trying to get away.

93. Mr Stein would also stand at the doorway of the girls' changing rooms. He would do this when my mum was there as well so he did this for as long as I can remember. He would yell "I'm coming in, I'm coming in" at the doorway of the changing rooms. When I asked my mum about that she said that she thought that he was being silly and funny. He would do it again during our classes but for me, because he'd done it from the beginning, I thought that was just what he does and he was just fooling around. When I realised it wasn't fooling around, I thought it was gross but that's just what he does.
94. He did come into the girls' changing rooms a couple of times and I never showered with my swimming costume off, none of us did. We hated it because you couldn't wash properly and the soap would get stuck in your costume. I don't remember any curtains on the showers. I remember him coming in on one occasion and I was washing with my costume on. I remember there was one toilet in the changing room and I remember being semi-naked and running in there as he was going to come in.
95. The boys would tell us that Mr Stein would go into their changing rooms and ask them to turn around. They felt that he was wanting to look at their willies. I don't know if he explicitly said that but the boys said that he was a pervert and that he wanted to look at their penises. I remember something about him telling them to take off their trunks and wash entirely. With the girls he would just threaten to come in and he would come in every so often.
96. I swam in a class of twenty and it was boys and girls in the class but we had different changing rooms. He didn't come into the girls' changing rooms often. I recall him coming in twice and never when my mum was there but he would always threaten to come in and we would all squeal. He would threaten to come in when my mum was there nearly every time.
97. I realised it was really wrong when we were doing diving practice and he wanted me to act as a model for the practice. He got everyone else to line up on the side of the pool and he and I were at the top of the pool. He was showing how to hold your hands properly and how to dive in properly. He jumped in next to me and he had his arm

round my waist as I dived in and then under water he deliberately touched my breasts and rubbed his hands over my breasts. That's when I realised that what he was doing was not ok and it was not just fooling around. I remember kicking him away because he had a hand round my waist. I kicked him away and swam to the side of the pool and hopped out. I was in shock and I didn't know what to do. I didn't tell my mum about it.

98. I didn't start my period until much later but Mr Stein tracked other girls' periods. DFU DFU was one of my closest friends and she started her period very early, when she was about ten. We were very young and it was horrible for her. He would mark girls' periods in his book and he would write "I" which I think was for indisposed. I remember DFU had her period twice in a month so she said she was indisposed again and he accused her of lying. When DFU said she was indisposed he said that she couldn't be again because she had had a period two weeks ago and he told her to get in the water. This was in front of the whole class and she was very humiliated. I believe matron had to intervene after she was contacted by either DFU or by Mr Stein. Matron had to tell him that girls could get their period twice in a month.
99. It struck me that he wanted to make sure that girls didn't use their periods as an excuse. I think sometimes it was used as an excuse to skip the class so I think that was his main motive. I didn't get the feeling it was anything other than that because he wasn't interested in those girls. He was interested in prepubescent girls and we hadn't started our periods. He wasn't interested in the more developed girls who had started their periods.
100. Mr Stein would also tell us that he had daughters and he understood these things so we could always go to him and talk about periods. He said we should feel comfortable talking about these things with him because he had daughters. I believe he did have daughters. He was the only swimming teacher and I don't remember any of the other teachers being there.

101. I remember that he had a little room at the top of the pool. It was a tiny room where he kept all of the equipment and he had a tiny desk in there. There were no windows. There were photos on the walls of students, mainly girls. I think he said that they were six form girls or high school girls. I think they had gone on a trip and he'd often tell us how close he was to some of the girls and again he would say that he had daughters and that we should feel comfortable coming to talk to him. I thought that was creepy. We thought the pictures of the girls on the walls were very creepy and that escalated the chatting that we would do as a class which eventually led to him no longer being in the pool.
102. We went on a school excursion and I remember I was walking through a wood somewhere and I was chatting to [REDACTED], EBX [REDACTED] and there was a boy called [REDACTED] there. We were talking about what a pervert Mr Stein was and Mr Burns, our Latin teacher, overheard. He pulled us aside and asked if what we were saying was true and we said yes.
103. A couple of days later, or a week later, I can't remember exactly how long, Mr Alexander said that he wanted to speak to our year. He definitely wanted to speak to our class and it was possibly the whole year group. In my year group there were three classes of twenty. It was announced in assembly I think. He asked us if this was all true and we said yes. I don't recall any details of speaking to Mr Alexander and I don't remember him writing anything down. I think he asked if it was true that Mr Stein got in the water and nibbled us and we said yes. I don't remember anyone else in the room but its possible Mrs FGT [REDACTED] was there and if she was then I'm not sure if she was writing anything down. Then it was "thank you for your time, off you go". It was announced a few days later that Mr Stein would no longer be getting in the pool with us and that was it.
104. There was nothing formal and our parents were never informed. I wasn't asked to speak to the police at that time and I don't think anyone reported it. It just struck me as business as usual. I think a huge part of it was that he was a family friend and he had taught me how to swim. I thought there was nothing wrong with what he was doing

because if there had been something wrong then my mother would have said something.

105. I remember that Mr Stein was just furious. He was already a very angry man. He had had a stroke years before which had left him grumpy and with a temper. He would scream at us, especially after he wasn't allowed in the pool any more. When he screamed at us, there would be spit flying out his mouth and he would be red in the face, saying that he wasn't even allowed in his own pool anymore. He said it was his pool and he just became really angry.
106. When he was banned from coming in the pool, he started finding other ways. We were all in the pool but he still found ways to touch me. He would get a running hose from the side of the pool and he would spray us when we were having free time and playing. One time I was out of the pool, trying to get to the other side, and he grabbed my costume from the front and pulled it out and shoved the hose down the front. On another occasion I was on the shoulders of a boy called [REDACTED]. He was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I was quite close to him and he was a good friend. I was on his shoulders playing near the side of the pool and Mr Stein grabbed my costume from behind and shoved the hose down my costume. I remember him doing that to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] EBX [REDACTED] and possibly [REDACTED]
107. Once there was a fire drill, I don't know if Mr Stein knew about it in advance and I don't remember being told about it in advance. We were in the water and it was winter. It was freezing and he didn't let us take towels. We had to go straight outside, through the emergency doors at the side of the pool. I remember standing outside and there was frost on the lawn. We were in our swimming costumes and we were wet. I was just starting puberty so I had budding breast and erect nipples. I just felt really self-conscious. We were trying to cover up and the boys were staring. Mr Stein was lurking at the side and I remember feeling really uncomfortable.
108. I have a memory of someone locked in the room with Mr Stein. In the room where he had all of the pool equipment. I have a vague recollection of an incident where he was in there with someone but I can't remember the context and I can't remember who.



CKP

109. There was an annual boat trip with CKP who was one of the I'm pretty sure this was every year for the final year of junior school. A select few people could go on his yacht for a few nights and everyone wanted to go. I wasn't chosen to go and I remember that I was disappointed.
110. I think was there. She was the daughter of one of the housemasters and was was one of my best friends and she was one of the girls who moved from St George's to Fettes. She was on the boat trip and so was a girl called . There were also three boys: a boy called whom I was good friends with, and I think a boy called was also there.
111. They went on a boat trip and everyone was really jealous but they came back and then all of these stories came out. even said to my mum that CKP was sexist because he told the boys to pee over the side of the boat. said that she remembered being on the toilet on the yacht and looking up and there was a glass wall and CKP was looking in while she was on the toilet. said that the boys were told that they had to pee overboard and not use the toilet.

FGA

112. The teacher, Miss FGA, asked us to write a short story. I wrote about pirates and I used language to show when the pirates were speaking. I changed the spelling to try and make it sound like how they would speak. Miss FGA picked the three worst stories and read them out in front of the whole year. I remember feeling really humiliated. She read my story out, laughing and she encouraged everyone else to laugh and make fun of it. Mr Butler was in the room at the time and he came around and whispered to me that he thought that it was a wonderful story and I shouldn't listen

to anything that she said. It was really comforting and it was wonderful of him to do that. There were a lot of children who were hesitant to laugh and join in so it was a horrible situation all round.

113. FGA picked on me. She was morbidly obese and she tended to pick on the slimmer girls. was a bit chubby and Miss FGA was lovely to her and lovely to DFU She would go out of her way to humiliate me and be nasty to me. I was underdeveloped, athletic and slim. At one time, she wanted us to write a poem about each member of the class. She wrote one about me that went: 'Our BPR likes drinks it every day and night. Something dodgy, she's gone podgy. Now she's purple, what a sight!'
114. Miss FGA had been SNR in the junior school, before Mr Glen. One of the girls, had said that Miss FGA had once made her shower until the bar of soap was finished and that Miss FGA watched her shower until the soap was finished. The girl was very pretty. She was in senior school and I didn't know her personally but my mum knew her father. Miss FGA always picked on the pretty, slim girls.

#### *Abuse of others*

115. The things I remember now are things that didn't happen directly to me but are things that I heard about. There was an incident when I was ten years old and in the youngest year. There was a girl two years above me called or something like that. There was some sort of incident between her and during prep. It happened in the prep room which was the middle room between Mr Glen's room and Miss FGA room. I wasn't there when it happened. I remember was quite quiet at the beginning but became very loud and promiscuous and then she left the school. All I remember was the boarders telling me that that had done something to her during prep and that, from then on, boys and girls weren't allowed to do prep together.

116. When I went back to St George's there was a girl called [REDACTED] and her brother, [REDACTED] was still at Fettes. She told me that her brother had a broomstick shoved up his anus and had been whipped with an open coat hanger. My mum knew about that. I think that happened to other boys and certainly we heard rumours of broomsticks up the anus and being whipped with a coat hanger. I also heard about boys being put in their trunks, the big boxes that they brought with their things, and being rolled down the stairs. On the girls side, in Arniston, where I was supposed to go, rumour had it that the girls made you fill up a bucket of water that was sitting at the top of the stairs and all you had was a soup spoon and a running tap at the bottom. You had to run up and down to the stairs. That was supposed to be the initiation from what I heard but I never made it there.
117. I remember there was a housemaster who was called [REDACTED]. I think that was [REDACTED] DZP [REDACTED] It was something about him climbing over and peering over at the boys on the toilet. I'm not sure if it was [REDACTED] DZP [REDACTED]. It might have been the Housemaster of [REDACTED] but one of them was called [REDACTED].

### **Reporting of abuse at Fettes College, Edinburgh**

118. After the incident in Mr Alexander's office, my mum called the police and we gave a statement about what had happened. I believe that my statement and [REDACTED] DFU [REDACTED] statement matched perfectly but that [REDACTED] had embellished things or changed things so they couldn't go any further. That's what the police said. I don't remember the names of the police officers that I spoke to. When I gave my police statement in 1993 I didn't bring up Mr Stein.

### *Civil Action*

119. The incident with my brother really did kick-start a big battle between my family and the school because my mum then questioned his treatment. We then went on a long legal battle to get an apology for how he was treated and that finally ended in 1997.

120. My mum wanted an apology for the way my brother was treated and it never happened. It dragged on and on. Various lawyers would take on our case and then drop it. My mum always found that suspicious and we assumed that it was to do with the governors of the school who had a lot of power in Scotland. In the end we found a lawyer in London who took on the case and it settled. They gave an apology to all three of us and we got a settlement in 1997.
121. I don't know how much the settlement was. I have asked my mum a couple of times and she has said that she would need to check the paperwork but the amount was negligible and it barely covered the lawyers' fees. I never saw any money. My dad had contributed to the legal fees.
122. I remember signing something when I was seventeen. The thing that I signed said that I would not go to the press and that this ended all disputes. There was a letter that I had to sign that said "we apologise for any wrongdoing." I just followed what my mum said when she told me where to sign. By then I was so sick of it.
123. It took up all of my teenage years. Five years to my mum would have been nothing but five years to a teenager when it's your entire teenage years is horrible. It went on from when I was 13 to when I was 17 and it took up my entire teenage years. Edinburgh at the time was very small minded and gossipy especially in the circles of the private schools and it was just toxic.
124. What was upsetting to me was that, before I turned eighteen, there was an article [REDACTED] where I was identifiable [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It was really stressful. I had left Edinburgh to go to Cambridge and I never went back to Edinburgh because if I went to Edinburgh and went out in the town then there would be Fettesians.
125. I remember going into a nightclub in Haymarket and two Fettesians pushed me against the wall and asked why my mother couldn't just shut up. They were saying that my family was causing trouble. All of the Edinburgh private schools were very divided and it became really dirty for me. Most of them hated me and my mum for causing trouble.

They would call my brother a drug addict and my mum a liar. I didn't want to be in Edinburgh and that was partly why I eventually left.

### **Leaving Fettes College, Edinburgh**

126. I went off to see my dad shortly after my time at Fettes ended in 1993. I went off and had longer than usual with my dad. We went off to the United States and had an amazing holiday. I was really happy and it was the best holiday. We went all round the United States, went to New York and Disneyland.
127. I didn't talk to my dad about Fettes. My dad and my mum were divorced and my dad was never very happy about us going to Fettes because he was against that whole sort of elitist system. When I was on holiday with my dad I was away from that life. I led two different lives. I had the life in Britain where I didn't see much of my mum and I would be in school for long days and then I would go to Switzerland and be with my dad, speaking French all of the time. I had my Swiss friends over there and it was almost like a completely different life. I didn't mix the two. I didn't talk about school or think about school.

### **St George's School for Girls, Edinburgh**

128. I went back to St George's at the start of the new school year and it was a horrible time. I joined in what they called upper third which was the entry year of the high school. There were very few boarders and they were a real minority. We knew very little about what they got up to and I didn't even know where the boarding house was.
129. It was just awful starting at St George's. I was thirteen and going back to a school I had already left. I was picking up with the same faces and everyone had moved on. There were a lot of rumours going around because a lot of the brothers of the girls at St George's go to Fettes.

130. Now, looking back, I clearly had depression. I just remember the whole period being very black. I remember constant darkness. I would have started in August or September when it was summer but all I remember is black and darkness. I remember crying almost daily and going to the nurse. I remember not understanding my feelings, I just wanted to cry. I felt empty and everything seemed pointless. Now I understand that was depression but it was very striking for me at the time and I was in a very bad place.
131. There was no abuse at St George's and it was a very supportive environment. Looking back now I clearly had depression but back then no one talked about depression. The nurse phoned my mum to tell her that I was regularly coming and crying. I think a lot of it was put down to me missing my dad. It was very difficult to leave one parent and go to the other. I think they put it down to that and to the change of school.
132. There was never any medical intervention but the teachers were very supportive. There was a teacher called Miss Lancaster whom I could go and speak to whenever. I don't think she was officially the counsellor but I remember regularly going to her to talk. A couple of teachers weren't particularly nice but not in a really bad way. A lot of them were very maternal and loving and supportive.
133. The education was excellent at St George's, it was of a really high standard. The way it was taught was really good and the leadership from the women there was really good. The messages we were given were different from Fettes which was really elitist. At Fettes we were told that we were the best of the best whereas St George's was all about empowering women and helping us to achieve whatever we wanted but still being modest, respectful and never above ourselves in terms of getting our hands dirty.
134. I did some overseas trips at St George's. We went to Belgium and France when we were studying the First World War. The history teacher's name was Mr Shepley who was a lovely man. On that trip I was caught smoking by Mr Shepley. He had a look on his face of disappointment and I felt really bad. He never reported me and I felt so bad

about the look of disappointment on his face that I never smoked on school grounds again. I compared that to Fettes where it would be immediate suspension or expulsion.

135. The staff were very supportive. I had a very heavy period and I was keeled over in pain on the ferry and a teacher came and had some paracetamol for me. There was a disco and you were allowed to stay up and dance. It was a wonderful trip and really memorable
136. I stayed for lunch at St George's. The quality of food was good but it wasn't as good as Fettes. We would line up on the stairs and we could smell what the food was. It was never fish and chips, it was always much healthier. We looked forward to a Shepherd's lunch which was cheese and pickle or to the cheese pasties. There was less choice than Fettes and there would be a menu that told you what it was. I have a memory of food that looked like vomit and smelt like vomit but I was told to eat it. I remember wanting to vomit but I don't remember being physically forced to eat it.
137. We had to set the table and clear the table. We said a prayer at every meal. The big tables were lined up and there was a table on a stage for the headmistress and the deputy headmistress. One person from every year would be elected to sit up there. There were two canteens, a large one on the right and then a smaller one on the left for the older girls.
138. I don't remember any girls being suspended or expelled at that school. I remember school dances where we would smuggle alcohol in. I'm sure they knew we were doing that at the ball but nothing really happened.
139. St George's was similar to other private schools in terms of the amount of sport that we did. I was in the hockey team and the lacrosse team.
140. The things that stand out about St George's are good. I remember an English teacher pulled me aside and handed me a book, Kate Atkinson's "Human Croquet". She said that she thought that I would really like it. I read it and I really loved it. I've since

devoured every book that Kate Atkinson has written. It strikes me how caring that was for her to have thought of that and to have taken the time to give me it.

141. I was in Division five for maths which was the bottom. I was in division one for every other subject. There were two geography teachers and one of them was the deputy headmistress, Miss Davis who was really nice. I can't remember the name of the other one but she wasn't nice. I wasn't grasping something in class one day and she said that it was no wonder I was in division five for maths because I was really dumb. I went and told my mum and she complained. I was moved into Miss Davis' class and loved geography after that.
142. I was at St George's from 1993 to 1997 and I was very happy there and then I went to Cambridge for my final year. That is one of my biggest regrets and I wish I hadn't gone to Cambridge. I had broken up with my high school sweetheart who went to Edinburgh Academy and it was all this messy break up plus the court case with Fettes was coming to a head. My mum was very influential and she said that it was best that I left. She suggested that I go to a sixth form college in Cambridge.

### **Sixth Form College in Cambridge**

143. I can't remember the name of the school that I went to in Cambridge. That was a really bad year for me. I look back and I realise that I had depression and anxiety. That year was a very hard year. That was the year that the court case ended between my family and Fettes. I was just about to do my A-levels and the police came knocking on my door wanting to get a statement about what happened with Mr Stein. It was a horrible year.
144. I was under a lot of pressure. I had done five Scottish Highers and when I joined this College they put me down for 4 a-levels in one year and it was intense tutoring. I did my mock exams and got two As and two Bs and then I burnt out. I remember having what I now realise was disassociation. I get that when I have anxiety and I feel like I'm not part of this world, I'm just hovering above. I didn't realise that at the time and I



thought I was just light headed and I felt weird. In the end I got an A, a B and two Cs. I just couldn't perform and I was under huge stress. The whole thing was a blur.

### **Life after being in boarding school**

145. I did my final year in Cambridge and then I got into Glasgow university and studied there for five years. I studied joint honours in film and television studies and Italian. I spent one year in Italy as part of the degree. It was very enjoyable. I came out to Australia in 1999 backpacking for two weeks. One of my male friends, who I was interested in, was in Australia travelling and he asked me to come and visit so I went over for two weeks. I loved it and said I would go back. I had only just started university but my plan was to go back out to Australia.
146. It was a rainy day in June in Glasgow. I was feeling down about the weather and my exams coming up and there was a deal to come out to Australia so I bought myself a ticket for after graduation to cheer myself up. The ticket was for September 2003. My exams were June and July 2003 so I graduated and then came out to Australia.
147. My mum happened to be in Australia anyway. When I came out in 1999 I had been asked to track down my great uncle, my grandad's third brother. He had gone to Australia when he was thirteen, after the First World War. He came to Australia because he wasn't performing academically and his father was told that he should pack him off to Australia to work on a farm. My grandfather asked me to track him down and I did.
148. My mother looked after my grandfather until he died in 2002 and then my mum went to Australia to see his brother, her uncle. She then stayed in Australia and nursed him until he died. She was in Australia for a year or a year and a half before I arrived. I had always planned to go back after my two week trip because I loved the country. It was a coincidence that she was there as well.

149. I am an academic skills adviser at a University and before that I taught academic English at University. Before that I taught English as a second language and French in High schools and Colleges. I gained a Master's in Education while in Australia.
150. I have a thirteen year old boy and a ten year old girl. I married an Australian. My mum is still out here and one of my brothers is in Australia as well. My other brother is in Canada.

### **Impact**

151. I can't stand anyone near my ears and my husband knows not to kiss my ears or whisper in my ears. I feel the same about my neck. It grosses me out and I can't stand it.
152. I look back now and I think I went off the rails. I think for a long time I was thrill seeking and it took me a long time to settle down. Until I met my husband I didn't have committed relationships and I wasn't interested. I was always looking for the next thrill and I was always moving. I was in Glasgow, then I was in Naples, then I was back in Glasgow. I travelled a lot. I came to Sydney and I settled. I met my husband three months in and fell in love with him. That really changed things. Before that I always wanted to move. I never felt this calm inside.
153. When I left Fettes I was just a wreck. When I was thirteen I started smoking and engaging in risky behaviour. I look back and I'm horrified at how I was. Other children's parents would tell their children that I was bad news and that they should stay away from me. They said it was because my parents were divorced. I was hurt by that and I wondered what my parents' divorce had to do with anything.
154. I felt empty after Fettes. When I was at Fettes I felt complete. It was what I was supposed to do, it was the family school and it was lovely. Then I felt there was an emptiness and I wanted to fill that emptiness in some way until I met my husband. Now I have been in Australia for 17 years.

155. I definitely had anxiety and depression and whether that would have happened anyway, I don't know.
156. I recognise a lot that I want people to like me, especially at work. I live off of praise and being recognised. I've seen a counsellor about that. I don't know if that has anything to do with Fettes but I think I did suffer from the rejection at Fettes.
157. I loved pleasing the teachers at St George's and getting straight As. I didn't like disappointing them. When I did my Masters in Education from 2015 to 2018 I got straight high distinctions and my average grade was 92%. I saw a counsellor because I was under a lot of pressure. I was teaching full time, I had two young children and I'd taken on double subjects. The counsellor suggested that I didn't need to achieve a high distinction but to me that wasn't possible, I had to get the high distinction. I have to be a high achiever and the top performer. That's something I still get counselling for and I think a lot of that does have to do with rejection. I suffered a lot from the rejection from Fettes and I felt like I had to prove I was good.
158. I recently started talking to the counsellor about the abuse by Mr Stein. I said that maybe it wasn't abuse and maybe it was just tickling and I have made this man's life a misery because he's gone through being called in by the police twice. She said that what he did was wrong and that I shouldn't doubt that. I do go into doubts of thinking it was my fault.
159. A couple of times in Fettes I felt that the good teachers wanted to do more but they were powerless. The time when Mr Butler whispered in my ear to ignore Miss FGA was great but, now that I'm a teacher, I wonder why he didn't escalate that or say something to stop it. There probably was a culture in Fettes whereby he was powerless. Similarly when Mrs Burns arranged for my brother to come and visit me while I was boarding, she was probably going against protocol and taking a risk by deviating from the culture of the school.

### **Treatment/support**

160. I've always refused medication because I've always wanted to deal with it in other ways. I do regular meditation and I have done CBT so changing my thought habits and catching them before they spiral. Over the years I have become much better at it. In the lead up to speaking to the Inquiry I was very aware of the triggers and signs that I need to take some time out. Meditation, exercise, eating healthily, walking the dog, I know what to do now to help. I recognise the signs and I know what to do now to catch it before it's too big.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

161. Fettes reported Mr Stein after the case with my family had settled. My mum had brought up Mr Stein with the school and the school called in the police. I think that's how it went. The police spoke to me about Mr Stein in 1998 and I have very little recollection of giving a statement. The police in Scotland called the police in Cambridge who came to me for a statement. I don't remember the police turning up at my door but it was a really traumatic year and when I look back now I realise that I was clearly having anxiety attacks.
162. I believe Mr Stein's wife and daughters stood by him and carried on as normal. They said it was a vendetta against him or against the school.
163. I gave a statement in 1998 and then out of the blue I got a call from Fettes Police in 2015 investigating the whole thing again. I never knew the context of that or why that came up again. The investigation in 1998 was triggered by my mum and the whole thing between our family and the school. In 2015 I was quite blown away that it had started again. I was in Switzerland with my dad when I got a call from Fettes Police wanting me to give another statement. I wondered where that had come from and who had given my name. The police officer's name was Kevin.

164. I gave another statement when I was back in Sydney and although I can't remember giving the statement in 1998, when I gave my statement in 2015 I was told by Kevin that it was almost word for word what I had said in 1998.
165. In 2015 I was told by Kevin that Mr Stein had been called in by the police and he had used his right to remain silent and hadn't said anything. That was all I was told. I got another call quite a few months later saying it had gone up to whatever powers it goes to and it had been decided that there wasn't enough evidence and that what he had done by today's standard would be criminal but back then it was just a different era where different things were acceptable. It was Kevin who had called me. He was the one that I spoke to every time. He was the one who spoke to me in Switzerland and who took my statement. He was from Fettes Police. I had the impression that he was disappointed. In 1998 I think it had gone all the way to the Procurator Fiscal, I'm not sure if it went to them in 2015. In 1998 the Procurator Fiscal said there was insufficient evidence.

### **Records**

166. I didn't know I could get my records. I did contact Thompson's lawyers because I saw that they are representing people from the institutes investigated by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I signed a document giving them permission to look for the records.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

167. Lessons can be learned from what is in place now, certainly from schools in Australia, where there is a formal system in place for child protection. Children know, and are told, from a very young age what their rights are and where to seek help.
168. My kids begin the school year with their rights. They learn what is expected of their behaviour but also what they are entitled to. They are told that they are entitled to feel safe, to be cared for and respected. They are given a number of ways that they can

seek help including a well-being counsellor so they know who to talk to and where to go.

169. There was none of that for us, there was nowhere to go, there were no systems in place and nothing on the wall. My children have childline everywhere and they learn the number off by heart. We weren't told who to go to, where we could get help and we weren't told we were valued. I grew up thinking that we were children and they were adults so we were powerless and that was it.
170. I told my children from a very young that no one was allowed to touch them if they don't feel comfortable because it is their body. None of that was passed on to me. I think children should be empowered. I felt powerless as a child and children should never feel that way so I try and empower my kids. I tell them that it's their body so it's their rules. No one can humiliate them or touch them.
171. I hope that this can never happen to other children again. I hope there are formal systems put in place with external bodies. My understanding is that a law was changed in Scotland so that the police and child protection agencies can now go into private schools to investigate well-being. I understand that my mum had a role in that change. I believe that previously police and child protection agencies didn't have the right to go into private schools and that parents signed over the care of their children to the school.
172. Schools should be transparent and no one should be beyond accountability for the treatment of children. Agencies should be able to go into institutions and check. There should be a system in place where children feel safe and can talk openly. Reports should be kept and a child shouldn't be in a room with two adults if there is no one there for that child.

**Other information**

173. 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.

BPR

Signed.....

09 November 2020

Dated.....