

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

QYG

Support person present: No

1. My name is QYG. My date of birth is 1975. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before boarding school

2. I was born in Forfar and grew up in . I went to the local primary school from the age of five. My parents were hill farmers. It's not a rich life, not like arable farmers with large subsidies. I have a brother, , who is three years older than me. I have a sister, , who is five years older than me. We were fairly active most of the time.
3. When I was born my parents set up an educational trust with the hope of obtaining a better education for me than the local schools in Kirriemuir and Blairgowrie could offer. Kirriemuir had lots of problems.
4. When I was eight years old I went to boarding school in . My father had gone to before going on to Winchester School. My brother went to too. My sister went to Butterstone, briefly St Leonard's school and Kilgraston which was run by nuns. I had visited before going as my brother was there but there was no entrance exam I had to sit.

5. My brother was meant to be my guide and my mentor but to be honest I didn't get on well with my brother. We had our fights and disputes but that's what brothers are like.

██████████ boarding school, ██████████ September 1983 to June 1989

6. They had boarders from eight to thirteen years old. I think there were 150 boarders and about 20 or 30 day pupils. Some of the staff had pupils there as did some of the locals. It was co-ed, mixed the whole way through.
7. ██████████ was almost like a family. There were good days and bad days as things could go wrong at any time but the staff were supportive.

Routine at ██████████ boarding school

Mornings and bedtime

8. We were woken by a bell in the morning, got dressed, brushed our teeth, and lined up to go downstairs for breakfast. After breakfast we would have about 15 minutes to muck about and then we had assembly which I think was around 8.50 am. Assembly lasted about ten minutes. It was notification of anything like events happening that day, or of someone being exceptionally good, or achieving something like a Duke of Edinburgh Award.
9. There were about eight or ten pupils in a dormitory and there was to be no talking after lights-out, but there was always someone trying to cause trouble and talk after lights-out.

Mealtimes/Food

10. You sat with your year on benches at a big long table or two tables attached together. It was not dissimilar to Hogwarts but a slightly differently set up. The food was then brought out to the table. The person who was the head of the table would then serve the rest of the table. You were encouraged to eat everything that was put on your plate, sometimes unfairly. You had to sit there until your plate was clean. They wouldn't force a spoon in your mouth but you would have to sit there until you finished it and it would get worse the longer you left it because the food would get cold.

11. The worst experience I ever had was being given ox liver. I was unlucky enough to have the part where tubes go into the liver. I remember trying to eat it but it was inedible gristle. The teacher tried to force me to eat it but I said I couldn't. I think the teacher was Miss Arthur. I was eventually allowed to leave the table. I think I was then punished with an X being put in the school's merit record for that week because I hadn't eaten it.

Washing/bathing

12. You didn't get a bath unless you were ill or you had been injured and had to soak in a bath. I think in my whole five years of being at [REDACTED] I only had a bath twice. We had showers regularly. I can't remember if we had showers in the morning. I'm pretty sure you could have a shower in the morning.

Clothing/uniform

13. The uniform was grey shorts all year round until there was a certain amount of snow on the ground, then you were allowed to wear long grey trousers. We had green Lovett socks which were knee high with garters to keep them up. We had black shoes. We had white shirts, a tie and a green jersey. The uniform was quite comfortable. We weren't cold. If it was really miserable we were allowed to wear outdoor jackets.

Leisure time

14. I think [REDACTED] was good for me. It gave me perspective on life. It helped make me independent. They used to do lots of extra-curricular activities like cooking, pottery, and lots of other things. It gave me the opportunity going forward not to be blinkered. I don't know if you would have got that from a day school.

Schooling

15. My first teacher at [REDACTED] was Miss Prendergast. I don't know what has happened to her. She used to coach me after hours and to teach me the basics of maths and English to get me caught up to where the rest of the class was. I am very grateful to her for doing that.
16. School started at 9.00 am and lessons were 40 minutes long. We had a break about 10.20 am. That lasted for 20 or 30 minutes. It was usually then you would get any mail, such as a letter from your parents. Then there were further lessons until about 12.00 pm for lunch. There were further lessons after lunch on Monday and Friday afternoons. On a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoon there were games or sports, such as Hares and Hounds and Cross-country running which were done on the hill behind the school, or other sports such as Rugby, Football, or Tennis, amongst others, depending on the time of year. These could be pretty miserable if the weather was bad. Wednesday afternoons were for other activities, either playing sports at other schools and there was something else on a Wednesday afternoon but I can't remember what. There was an outdoor swimming pool which was always cold but they had an arrangement with [REDACTED] to use their pool too.
17. On three or four Saturdays in the summer term we would go on barvicks, which were amazing adventures. You signed up for abseiling, canoeing, fishing, and hillwalking. You could do whatever you wanted as long as not too many people had signed up for the activity. If there wasn't a space, you were allocated a space next time around. We

would build a fire and did things like roasting marshmallows and sausages, and building bivouacs. The school did really try to give you things to look forward to and work towards. In the winter, on Thursdays and Sundays, the school would book coaches to take us up to Glenshee for skiing. They did generally go above and beyond.

18. I wasn't the brightest spark and I struggled academically. It's like anywhere, if you're good at something your boss or whoever supports you and promotes you. If you're not good at something you are pushed to the bottom. I felt a bit like that at [REDACTED] but you get that everywhere. There were teachers who did spend time on me and did try to encourage me. It didn't help that when I had been at the local glen school they really weren't interested in me. I had basically been stuck in the corner because I was considered to be a problem child. This was when I was in Primary 1 to Primary 3 at The Glens school. I don't remember too much about it but I was told I wasn't very academic. My teachers there were Mrs Eamond and Mrs Pollock.
19. I repeated second year at [REDACTED], which was the equivalent of primary four. That was basically due to an element of dyslexia. They felt I wasn't up to the standard that they wanted me at to go into primary five.

Sporting activities

20. I struggled with sports to a degree. Teachers and pupils used to make fun of me. One time someone chucked a rugby ball at me. I tucked the ball in to my chest as I had seen rugby players doing. I ran back, not forward up the pitch and the other kids were laughing at me.

Healthcare

21. The matron that we had was called Mrs Russell. I think she barked harder than she bit. You were always a bit scared of her when she came round the corner but she wasn't a nasty woman, but all the pupils feared her.

Religious instruction

22. At [REDACTED] you would have to walk to church every Sunday. We walked in pairs to and from church, it was about a two mile walk. It was all done with teachers supervising us and we weren't allowed to talk or do anything in church. We went to a different church each week. One week it would be a Catholic church, the next it would be Scottish Presbyterian, and so on.

Birthdays and Christmas

23. If a pupil had a birthday during term time the school would often organise a cake for them. It was up to the pupil themselves to decide how they wanted to distribute the cake. They would almost go out of the way to have a birthday party for the child. I never experienced it.

Bed Wetting

24. There were instances of pupils wetting the bed at [REDACTED]. It was something that I was part of. I don't really know why it happened. The staff were fairly supportive. They didn't humiliate you or punish you for it. It was just a fact of life and they did their best to sort it out. Back then it was thought that bed wetting could be dietary, or an allergy.

Family contact

25. Parents were allowed to come and see us if we were playing in school sports matches. They were not supposed to come to school apart from that. If you weren't playing in a school sports match you were supposed to watch your school team so you could go and sit with your parents if they had come to watch the match.
26. The third week of term you were guaranteed to get a weekend home. You were picked up after the rugby match on a Saturday around 3.00 pm and returned to school by

7.00 pm on the Sunday. If your parents weren't able to pick you up, you were allowed to go with someone else's parents.

27. We had to write to our parents every week. That was part of our lessons structure. It was always believed that your letters were taken away and proof read to make sure you hadn't said something you weren't supposed to say but I don't know if that's true. You would usually get a letter back each week from your parents telling you how things were at home. I have to say my parents were very good at writing to me every week. We weren't able to telephone our parents at that age.

Discipline

28. The school was quite strict. The headmaster at the time was Mr [REDACTED]. You definitely had to toe the line. They had a certain format, it was slightly regimented. Because I wasn't the brightest spark and couldn't remember poems I got punished, I got crosses against my name and given extra time to learn the poem. You weren't punished too badly. Mr [REDACTED] was a very good Headmaster, he was quite strict but fair. His wife was very supportive of the school too.
29. You earned rings for your house, these were circles put on your work if it was exceptionally good. You also got rings for being helpful, like if you noticed a mess and cleaned it up without being asked. They were also put on a scoreboard. At the end of the year the house with the most rings would get extra treats. If you were a favoured child you got a ring. If you got three rings you got extra treats. If you got something wrong, you got a cross. If you got three crosses in a week, you got detention which meant you couldn't watch the film on Saturday night with all the other boys and girls. Sometimes the teachers might be lenient and let you out of detention early so you could catch the end of the film.
30. You could also be prevented from going to the tuck shop to get sweets. Sweets were allocated on a Wednesday evening and a Saturday evening. It felt like the teachers sometimes gave out punishments because they had a certain number of rings to give out and a certain number of crosses. It seemed like the ones who normally got rings

would get more rings and the ones who normally got crosses would get more crosses each week.

31. You got crosses for talking during assembly, or talking when you weren't supposed to, misbehaving in the playground, or damaging something. The only kind of corporal punishment they had at [REDACTED] was the old fashioned slipper. I only got it once. It used to only happen for misbehaving after lights-out. There would usually be the Headmaster or a teacher walking about the school at night to make sure everyone was alright. There was always a Matron too. Some of the Matrons were good but some were like dragons. There were usually two Matrons. One or two were incredibly nice, like Mrs Duncan. I can't remember all their names.
32. If you were going to be hit with the slipper you would be ordered out of bed, sent to the Headmaster's office, and made to stand outside until you were called in. I was not aware of any written record of punishments being kept. When he was ready the Headmaster would raise his voice at you for a first or possibly second offence. He would tell you not to be a silly boy and get to sleep. If you were a frequent offender, he would tell you that you had been warned about this behaviour and then put your hands on the edge of the desk and slap you over the pyjamas with the slipper, once. I was only aware of it happening once when I was there but you could get six of the best, if you had been continuously naughty, disobeyed all the rules, and didn't heed any of the warnings. We used to joke and comment about it.
33. When he was going around the dormitories at night, the Headmaster would test everyone's slippers by hitting his own hand. If the slipper was too stiff, he wouldn't use it. I never heard of any child coming out of the Headmaster's office black and blue or bleeding. They might be crying.

Prefects / senior pupils

34. There were prefects at [REDACTED]. It was said that had I not disobeyed the rules by having not watched a rugby match and going out of my way to go conker hunting out of school grounds, which was a strict no-no, that I was destined to be a school prefect

or even follow in my brother's footsteps and become head boy. I can't remember if it was my Housemaster or the Headmaster who told me this.

35. The prefects did not have the power to hand out punishments, but could notify teachers and have you punished. The seniors of the school used to have what were called, Fags. The Seniors would have been in the last year of school, so for [REDACTED] that would have been thirteen years old. The junior pupils doing the fagging would have been about eight years old, or Primary 4 equivalent. They would be allocated to one of the senior pupils and were effectively their slaves. They would polish the senior's shoes and do various other bits and pieces for them. If you got on well with your senior then life was incredibly easy. You would get lots of extra bonuses and treats. If you got one that was not so good then you would have a pretty rough time. By rough time I mean that he or she would give you silly tasks and more jobs when they wanted to. It might be polishing shoes, carrying books, or doing something else they had made up. I wasn't aware of any senior abusing the fagging process to the point that the school would intervene. I can't remember if I had a junior pupil fagging for me when I was a senior pupil. If I did, they would have had a pretty easy life because I don't like the idea of slaves. Some senior pupils would give gifts to their fags at the end of the year, but not all of them.

Abuse at [REDACTED] boarding school

36. I did get bullied at [REDACTED] although I don't remember too much about it. It happened throughout the majority of my schooling. I don't really know why. I didn't fit in with the academic pupils and because I wasn't good at sports I didn't fit in with the athletic kids. It was easier at Strathallan, after Keil, because you were encouraged to be more independent.
37. The bullying at [REDACTED] was from a whole lot of children. I can't remember if there was anyone we were supposed to be able to talk about bullying at the school. I don't think I talked to anyone about the bullying I was subjected to. The bullying wasn't

particularly aggressive. There wasn't violence as such, it was basically people calling people names.

38. One of the people who bullied me was [REDACTED]. I think it was basically just name calling. I can't remember the names of the others involved. I can't remember the names people called me. On one occasion I lashed out at [REDACTED] and I got into trouble for that physical act. It didn't help that my brother was one of the high flyers. People looked at me and wondered, "What the hell happened to you." That was one of the things that informed my choice of my next school.

Leaving [REDACTED] boarding school

39. For boarding schools, to get from a junior school to a senior school you had to do what was called a Common Entrance Exam. Everyone had to go through this. The school advised my parents that they didn't think I was academically bright enough to pass the exam and suggested that I should seek education elsewhere. I don't know the exact details of what was said. At that point my parents spent a lot of time looking at other possibilities.
40. We went and looked at a lot of schools such as [REDACTED] Fort Augustus and Keil. I didn't really fancy [REDACTED] or Fort Augustus. I thought they were schools that didn't take girls, apart from senior girls. I think I decided that I didn't want to go to a single sex school. I think that was the basis of my decision, I'm not sure. Keil school had certain positives going with it. It was mixed boys and girls throughout the school, it was only 25 minutes away from where my cousins lived [REDACTED] in Dunbartonshire. I thought if I was at Keil I would have family relatively close by. My brother had gone to Loretto School in Musselburgh but I didn't want to go there.
41. I think I had to sit an entrance exam for Keil but I don't think it was as onerous as the common entrance exam. I seem to remember sitting the entrance exam at the school. I think there were several pupils there for the exam at the same time.

42. I think I might have had another visit to Keil before I started there.

Keil School, Dumbartonshire September 1989 to June 1990

43. The main building was a fairly decent sized old fashioned stone house over two or three floors, I'm not sure. The classrooms and other school rooms were mainly in the old building. There weren't that many pupils at Keil School, probably no more than there were at [REDACTED], about 130 to 180. The pupils were from age 13 to 18. There were two school houses, with about four dormitories.
44. Keil School mostly comprised of day school pupils. There were two school boarding houses. I can't remember the names of the two school houses. There may have been a girls' house too, I'm not sure. The house I was in was across the courtyard from the main building and the other one was 200 metres up a driveway. I don't think that inter-house competition was a big thing at Keil School possibly because they had so many day pupils.
45. There was a differentiation between the boarders and the day pupils. The day pupils would arrive just before 9.00 am. Usually, by 4.00 pm they would all have disappeared home. As soon as the sports part of the day was finished or afternoon classes they were free to go unless they had extra studies or tuition like computer class or electronics, or whatever was happening. The day pupils would get some of the luxuries of home life. That wasn't available to me because public transport wasn't such that I could have utilised that to get home.
46. My Housemaster was Mr [REDACTED] who was a horrible man. He was grumpy, unreasonable, and didn't particularly like me. I didn't like him in any shape or form. Everyone knew Mr [REDACTED] for either the right or wrong reasons. From my perspective, I didn't get on with him, I didn't like him. He was the one that caught me at the railway station and punished me. I thought he considered me insignificant, he didn't care about

me. I think Mr OCQ was something to do with the [REDACTED] and if you [REDACTED] you got on well with him, but that wasn't my scene.

47. I think that Keil School would like to say they were taking pupils from slightly worse backgrounds and give them a chance. In my opinion they weren't focused on the pupils as much as they were focused on getting people in and getting the money from the government or the parents to pay for these places and beyond that whatever happened happened.
48. I believe there was a drugs problem at the school. I don't know if it quite happened whilst I was there but I did later hear that various characters who had been there had been involved in drugs either whilst I was there or after I had left. I got this information from KPC [REDACTED] after I left school.
49. I can't recall there being any initiation ceremony for new pupils.

Routine at Keil School

First day

50. I don't remember my first day at Keil School.

Mornings and bedtime

51. The House I was in at Keil School was a longish house with two floors. It had two dormitories. The Housemaster's flat was at the end of the building and was on two levels with access to the dormitories upstairs and downstairs.
52. When you went in the main door of the building there was a dormitory off to the left hand side which was the room I was in. The room off to the right I think was the showers and the toilets. The staircase went up to another dormitory above and I think a Prefects' room off to the right, above the showers. Each dormitory had about ten

beds in them I think. The dormitories were mixed in terms of age, from thirteen to eighteen years old. I would guess that there were about 25 to 30 boys in the house.

53. I can't remember if there was a buzzer or bell to get us up. I think it was down to the Housemaster to come through to the dormitories and tell us all to get up and get organised. We would then go to breakfast.

Mealtimes/Food

54. I can't really remember much about the food at Keil School. I think we were allowed tuck boxes. Any time we used to go out of school with our parents, we would often spend our pocket money on sweets. These sweets had to fit in this box. They were about 1 foot tall by 1 foot wide and 1.5 feet long. They all had padlocks on them because if you didn't lock it someone would steal the contents. Even if you did lock it very often someone would find a way of removing stuff that they wanted. The key to that was to make sure your tuck box had multiple locks on it so no-one could gain access to it. The tuck boxes were usually kept beside your bed.

Washing/bathing

55. The washing and bathing was all communal but not mixed sex, it was all just boys. If you were lucky you were able to have your shower in peace and quiet without any hassles. One of the things that used to happen was that the big boys would come in and think it was highly entertaining to flick you with a towel, a bit like a whip. I can't remember what it was actually called. I think it was a Cat something. If they did that and it hit you it was pretty sore. I can't remember if that happened to me or if I dodged that but it did happen, I did witness it.

Clothing/uniform

56. The uniform at Keil School was long grey trousers, a white shirt, a tie, and a green blazer with yellow on it. I think you were also allowed to wear a tweed jacket.

Leisure time

57. After games you would have a little bit of time to entertain yourself. You could play tennis or computers. Some of the day pupils used to come back in and kick about a football. There would then be afternoon tea which was about 5.30 pm. That could be for as long or as little time as you wanted to make it, generally it was not more than an hour though. Then there was a bit more spare time where you could entertain yourself and then about 7.00 pm you would go and do homework in a classroom. Once you had done between one and two hours of homework you would be allowed a short period of about 30 minutes, where you could entertain yourself before going to get ready for bed. The younger children finished their homework earlier so the amount of this further free time was dependant on your age.
58. There was usually a little time between finishing your homework and going to bed. You might be lucky to get some time to do something else. You could please yourself as long as it was in school grounds. I can't remember if Keil had a television. Some of the outside girls who were nothing at all to do with the school would try to sneak in to see some of the pupils. Some of the girls were really attractive. I think they were referred to as The Bakies. I think it was a Glasgow term.
59. The weekends were more or less your own as long as you weren't in lessons or in sports, but there were still roll calls at set times, which you had to attend.

Trips and holidays

60. We went on a French exchange trip to Paris and I stayed with a nice family for a week. They took me to the Eiffel Tower and I ate interesting French food. It was in my first year at Kiel School, I was fourteen years old. However, a couple of times during the week I also had to meet up with the rest of the school that was in France for the exchange. We had lessons and there was bullying and a lot of it was unpleasant but then it was totally different again in the evening when I was back with the family I was staying with. I don't remember huge amounts about it but I remember coming back to this country having had an interesting time. I managed to persuade the family I had

been staying with to allow me to bring back the finest French cheeses and a bottle of Moet et Chandon champagne for my parents, which they purchased on my behalf despite the fact that I was underage.

61. Mr William Bain used to take a hill climbing group out on a Sunday. It would have been open to all boys and girls at the school but as with most things there was probably a core group who went all the time. I don't know if Mr Bain made any selection of who went. I did participate in those once or twice. They were quite good fun.

Schooling

62. I think it was Mondays and Fridays that we had lessons all day. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays were sports or games in the afternoon. Wednesdays were normally other activities, but I can't remember the exact details. Sports matches were generally played either on a Wednesday or Saturday, depending on events.
63. I would say that the quality of the education at Keil was poor. I don't think a lot of the education in this country is good, full-stop. I don't know if they were up to the mark. Education in general is poor. I am certain there is good education but it depends on the teacher, the student, and the structure of the curriculum. Obviously the school shut down, it didn't get good reports.
64. Because my time at Keil School was so unhappy due to the way I was made to feel by others to all intents and purposes I probably shut down and closed myself off from others. I would say that Keil School had a negative impact on me and my education. As far as I am aware I didn't achieve anything at Keil School.
65. I think if you are one of the academics and you have got the brain power to read, understand, and recite a book then that's fine, but not everyone is like that. I got a bit of extra support from KPC and Ian Bain. They both gave me that little extra bit of encouragement. There was never anyone else about. You would make an appointment to see one or other of them. On one or two occasions I did knock on Mr KPC's door to see if he was in. Mr Bain was always in the science lab. There

was nothing untoward about it at the time. I wasn't aware of them offering this assistance to anyone else. They had that bit of empathy with me. They weren't allocated to me as people I could go to with problems. People always bond with some people more than others.

66. You tended to always go to the same classroom for English lessons, another classroom for French lessons, and another classroom for science lessons. After every class you would get up and stretch your legs and move to the next classroom. The next classroom might be 20 metres away or 300 metres away.

Sporting activities

67. You had to participate in sports to a degree, but if you were selected, you had to play. I can't remember if I was part of any teams at Keil School, I don't think I was. I think I was too junior. I think that instead of playing sports I would probably have sneaked off somewhere I couldn't be seen. I didn't smoke then, but others did.
68. The rugby pitch from what I remember was not too classy. I think it overlooked the Clyde.

Healthcare

69. We didn't have a matron at Keil School, as far as I am aware. We possibly had the Housemaster's wife who may have assisted or got involved now and again. There wasn't much extra support on that side of things at all. I can't remember any particular instance where if there was a problem or if you were ill that they were able to do anything to help you.

Religious instruction

70. I don't think we went to church at Keil School. I'm not hugely religious. When the school asked, my parents described our family as Non-denominational Christians.

Work

71. You had to clean up your own mess. You had to keep your own little area around your bed clean and tidy and if you didn't you got into trouble. It had been like that at [REDACTED] School too. I have always been a fairly tidy character anyway.

Birthdays and Christmas

72. As my birthday is at the start of [REDACTED] I didn't have my birthday at school. I don't know if anything was done for pupils who did have a birthday during term time.

Personal possessions

73. I didn't really have many personal possessions other than my tuck box. The more things you have, the more someone wants to take them. It was discouraged that you should have many belongings. You could have a teddy bear and basic bits and pieces but less was reckoned to be better.

Running away

74. When I decided I had had enough of the school I tried to run away. I had stolen a lot of money from my parents in desperation. It was around £1000 and it was in the Autumn term of 1989. I'm not sure if it was before or after Christmas when I tried to run away. I had pleaded to my parents that they get me out of the school but they said they couldn't get me out mid-term. That was probably true but I was in a state of desperation. I had planned what I was going to do.
75. When I was at [REDACTED] I had learned all the basic skills like how to build a shelter. I took a knife, some string, and maybe a fishing hook. My intention was just to disappear into the countryside for a couple of weeks in such a fashion that I could get basics from a shop, hence stealing money from my parents.

76. There were a couple of other pupils at school who were unhappy at Keil School and they found out I was going to do a runner. Basically they blackmailed me into running away with them, otherwise they would have grassed me up. One of them was called [REDACTED]. He wouldn't hurt a fly but he got picked on because he was short and fat. He was a nice lad. I can't remember the name of the other lad I ran away with.
77. I reckoned I could get myself relatively easily to Perth where I could have hitch-hiked home. I wasn't going to use public transport like a bus or a train until I was well and truly out-with the school area but the two boys I ran away with insisted on going to the local train station, which is why we got caught. We missed the train by about one minute and Mr OCQ the Housemaster drove up in his car and said, "Get in the car you stupid boys."
78. When we got caught we were dragged back to school and punished for trying to run away. I was found with the money I had stolen so I was seen as the instigator and given more punishment than the other two even though they had been planning to run away for a long time.
79. We were punished by both the Housemaster, Mr OCQ, and SNR [REDACTED], Mr CGC [REDACTED], for breaking school rules and leaving school grounds. We were put on cleaning duties. I can't remember the extent of what we had to clean but there were the refectory dishes and cleaning outside in the grounds. We were also prohibited from doing things at weekends. We were basically put under house arrest.
80. My parents were informed of the incident where I tried to run away and I was found with all the money I had stolen from them. They were asked if they were missing any money. They were asked to come down to the school and speak to me about it which they did. I explained that I had told them that I wasn't happy at the school but they felt unable to move me mid-term so I ran away. I think I ran away because of a build-up of pressure and tension with the continual name calling about the way that I spoke because I was an outsider. I wasn't from Glasgow and they commented that I was English.

81. There must have been an inquiry at the school about the incident but I don't recall any of the teachers asking me why I had run away. I don't think they were that interested. Perhaps **KPC** and William Bain, or Ian Bain as he was also known, became supportive of me because it was recognised that I may have some problem at school and they were told to look out for me. Or perhaps they recognised me as a weak child that perhaps they could prey on. William Bain never did anything wrong to me but he was in the newspapers a few years ago over an incident with other children. It was reported in the Perthshire Courier and Advertiser May 18 2016, where it stated that he had been sentenced to 6 and half years imprisonment after pleading guilty to using lewd and libidinous practices in respect of five boys at a school in Dumbartonshire. I think Mr Bain's correct name was William Bain. I don't know why he used two different names. I wasn't aware of any adverse suspicion of Mr Bain by the pupils when I was at Kiel School.

82. Every day was pretty much misery at Keil school. There didn't seem to be very many positive days. There wasn't much opportunity to relieve pressure and stress. The way the school was an old fashioned building, built with so many blocks and so many classrooms you could usually find a place to be alone and cut yourself off from everyone else, even if it was a large cupboard in a classroom. That is something that I did every now and then.

Family contact

83. I think there was a payphone that we could use to phone home but I don't remember where it was. I can't remember if I wrote to my parents. I think we were supposed to write to them. They frequently wrote to us.

Discipline

84. I am not aware of any discipline by teachers at Keil School, but Housemasters did discipline or punish pupils in the house. You may have had detention or rustication which is a form of suspension. I never saw any teachers giving out punishments but I

was probably too junior to understand it all and I wouldn't have known what was going on higher up in the school.

85. There was no rule book as such at Keil School. There was an official school rota for classes and important events and everything was set in stone in advance and nothing changed. Out-with the curricular aspects that governed other parts of the day, there were rules about who to associate with, not going out of school grounds, not drinking, smoking, or taking drugs. However the truth of the matter is that it doesn't matter which school you are at, unless you are caught these rules just disappear.

Prefects / senior pupils

86. Fagging went on at Keil School. It was known about by the school and was tolerated. I'm not sure if the school knew all the physical side of fagging but if they didn't then they turned a blind eye. The senior pupils could give out punishments like making you carry their books. They might deliberately make a mess and then tell you to clean it up. I have a feeling that cleaning toilets with toothbrushes occurred too. It wasn't that common for things like that to happen. I know some people who went through school with the right mentor and had a great experience at school. That was the case when there was mutual respect between the junior and senior pupils rather than an abusive form of slavery.
87. All new pupils were allocated to a senior pupil, neither of you got to choose. The senior pupil was supposed to guide the junior pupil through the school and in return the junior pupil would carry out menial tasks. All senior pupils were supposed to do this although not all senior pupils were Prefects. I can't remember who my senior pupil was. I suspect it may have been someone like [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. My experience of fagging was cleaning or fetching and carrying. Some of it was fine and sort of semi-acceptable and some of it was not so acceptable. I cannot remember an incident or give an example of something not acceptable because I was probably too opinionated back then that I either didn't do it for which I probably got more abuse or something else happened, I can't remember.

88. If you refused to do something that your senior pupil told you to do the Prefects would gang up on you and make you do something pretty horrible. I did hear that at some schools people could be grabbed and got bog-flushed, which was where their head got stuck down the toilet and the toilet was flushed. It didn't happen to me, but I think it probably did happen as I had heard about it at Kiel. I never witnessed it though, so it's speculation.

Abuse at Keil School

89. I used to get picked on at Keil School. One of the things about ██████████ School was that they taught you how to speak the Queen's English reasonably properly. I know that sounds snobbish and I don't mean to sound snobbish. They basically taught you to speak without a regional accent and without regional dialect, like a Glaswegian dialect. When I went to Keil School I found myself surrounded by Glaswegians who were not all very friendly towards someone with an English sounding accent and who came from a different background. I didn't fit in terribly well with the pupils at Keil, right across the age-range, not just my peer group.
90. I remember there was one pupil called ██████████ and another called ██████████ or ██████████. They were in my house and neither of them were particularly nice to me. ██████████ would call me names. I can't remember what names he was calling me. One day he was calling me names outside the school buildings, towards the games fields. He was persistent and wouldn't stop despite me pleading with him. I picked up a stick from the ground. I don't know if I was going to throw it at him or hit him with it, I'm not sure what my intentions were. He came towards me and said, "What the hell are you going to do with that?" and he hit me in the mouth. He broke my front tooth which is now a permanent crown. Nothing happened with that incident. I was probably shouted at and told it was all my fault. I don't recall the actual conversation. I was probably told by staff that I was an outsider and had probably provoked him. I don't know if ██████████ was disciplined for breaking my tooth and I don't know what happened to him long-term.

Reporting of abuse at Keil School

91. I can't remember what happened in terms of any action being taken about my broken tooth. I remember being taken off to the dental hospital to try and fix my teeth. This subsequently cost several thousands of pounds to sort, and had to be done privately.
92. The teachers I confided in throughout my time at Keil were KPC [REDACTED] and William or Ian Bain who was my science teacher. You could talk to either of them and it wasn't weird. Neither of them were allocated to me as being someone I could talk to about problems at school, it's just that some people always get along with some other people.
93. I don't know if I highlighted to William Bain or KPC [REDACTED] what had happened with [REDACTED], I probably did but I don't know what went on behind the scenes. I don't know if the teachers actually did anything, if they tried to speak to anyone, or if anyone was punished. My SNR [REDACTED] at that time was CGC [REDACTED]. He was a strange character. He had a lot of black fuzzy hair. I didn't like him. I didn't believe he was all that good a SNR [REDACTED]. He probably wasn't as bad as I make him out to be but there were quite a lot of pupils who didn't like him.
94. My parents found out about the incident with [REDACTED] breaking my tooth. I'm not sure the school did anything about it.
95. Once I left Keil School I never returned. I didn't make any report of what Mr KPC [REDACTED] did in the summer holidays after I left Keil School.

Leaving Keil School

96. From what I can remember I believe that when I left Keil School it was a monumental day in the sense of relief of getting out of there.

97. After trying to run away at Keil School my parents said that they would try and move me and they did research on other schools for me. It was decided that I would go to Strathallan School. Keil School were informed of this change in good time. I certainly informed Ian Bain and KPC [REDACTED]
98. When I told him I was leaving KPC [REDACTED] said to me, "I have never been north of Perth. Perhaps if I am at a loose end in the summer holidays I can come up and you can show me around?" In my naivety I never thought anything of that. I did probably leave Mr KPC [REDACTED] my parents' phone number and contact details for Strathallan School, which I believe after contacting the school office he obtained my house's phone number to contact me directly.

Abuse after Keil School

99. From what I remember Mr KPC [REDACTED] made contact in the summer by phoning up and asking my parents if he could come up and visit. I would say Mr KPC [REDACTED] was in his fifties but he may have been younger. Everyone looks old when you are fifteen. He came up and had lunch. Apparently my parents were uneasy during lunch but they didn't know why. They just felt there was something off or wrong about the way he was behaving. I can only go by what they told me at the time.
100. After lunch which was in my parents' old house, [REDACTED], Mr KPC [REDACTED] and I got into his car. His car was a small Ford Fiesta style and shape. It was light blue or grey. It might even have been silver. That's the type of coloration I remember. I said to my parents that I planned on taking him to show him the Reekie Linn, a relatively small but quite spectacular waterfall. From there I suggested that we went up to the Backwater Reservoir in the neighbouring valley a couple of miles away. We crossed over the foot of the reservoir and parked in a lay-by on the right hand side of the single track road. He leant across in front of me and went into the glove compartment which was in front of me. From there he drew out two adult magazines like Men Only or Fiesta, that sort of title. He informed me that I should read them or look at them whichever you want to call it. He then grabbed my hand and whilst doing so said,

“Have you got a hard-on yet? I have.” He put my hand in his lap and went to put his hand in my lap. I don’t know if he had an erection or not. His trousers were done up and so were mine. There was no contact with flesh.

101. I can’t remember exactly my initial response but I think I said, “I think it’s time to go.” Or something to that effect. He did oblige in turning the car round and heading home. I did look at the possibilities of what I could do there but I was basically surrounded by a reservoir and there was a lack of opportunity of anywhere to go. West was quite boggy and I don’t know how safe it would have been. North and south was the main road. East was up a hill into fields where there might have been sheep or cattle. The opportunity for escape was not brilliant.
102. He drove back to my parents’ house where I tried to be hospitable by offering him tea or coffee before he disappeared. I believe he did have something to drink and some of the shortbread my mum made to my granny’s recipe. My parents weren’t there at that point in time. They had gone to Balmoral Garage in Blairgowrie to either take in or pick up a car for a service. Mr **KPC** eventually finished his drink and shortbread and got back in the car. I think he left the magazines behind, I don’t know if that’s important or not. He disappeared off and my parents then got back from the garage. They asked if I was OK. I said that I was fine. I can’t remember any other discussion at that time but a couple of years later they told me that they thought there was something not right but decided not to try and get more information from me because they didn’t know what the information they might get out was.
103. I am not entirely sure if Mr **KPC** tried to contact me again that summer or whether it was other times throughout the next two years. He did telephone my parents’ house on multiple occasions supposedly just to catch up.

Strathallan School September 1990 to June 1994

104. Strathallan in some ways was much closer to being like a senior version of **██████████**. You still had rules, you still had regulations, and you still had boundaries you weren’t

allowed to cross. The good thing about Strathallan was the ground it covered was fairly extensive. It was situated close to Bridge of Earn and was surrounded by trees and fields. The nearest village was called Forgandenny.

Routine at Strathallan School

First day

105. I arrived at Strathallan and went into the Leaburn block which was basically a concrete block. It was very basic and a bit grotty. Even though it was basic it was relatively comfortable. It was a temporary study block which we were utilising whilst the school was undergoing a new build of new housing for the pupils. They had got two blocks built called Simpson and Freeland. My house which was Ruthven and the other house which was Nicol. We shared resources with the houses that had been done up but we didn't sleep there. We slept in the main building of the school itself and showered there.

Mornings and bedtime

106. At Strathallan you were allowed to feel a little bit older, a bit more mature. They gave you a bit more responsibility. When I got passed the concrete breeze block study block and was staying in the main building in year 1, we then went into brand new houses. As a third year, which was their first year, you went into dormitories. That would have been aged 13 or 14.
107. Once you went into the second year which was basically 4th year you were moved into shared study bedrooms. However, Year 3 of Strathallan I was at Keil. Because I went to Strathallan in year 4 when I was between 15 and 16. Year 4 I was in the concrete block. Year 4 guys who were below me went into the shared study bedrooms. Year 5 you had individual study bedrooms. Year 6 which comprised of the Lower 6th and Upper 6th, you were also in your individual study bedrooms. They were comfortable,

about 2.5 metres wide by 3.5 metres long. You had a bed, a desk, under bed drawers, a wardrobe, a sink,

Schooling

108. When I was there they had a fairly high academic standard. They encouraged you to try things and experience things.

Leisure time

109. There was an area of school called The Valley which was out of bounds. It is where everyone who smoked went to smoke. I used to walk passed this valley when I went between the House and the classrooms. It always annoyed me that it was untidy. The people who smoked liked it untidy because it meant they could hide there. I turned round to one of the teachers and asked if I could have permission to go into the area and tidy it up. They asked what I wanted to do. I said I wanted to take out all the rubbish trees, take out all the bushes which were not doing so well, and open it up so that it is a really nice bit of ground that you can look into. I wanted to re-plant trees, bushes, and different things, that would grow at different times of the year. The teacher asked what would be involved in doing this. I said that I would like to bring in a chainsaw. I was sixteen years old at the time and had no qualifications with a chainsaw. They said that if I was prepared to abide by certain rules and store the chainsaw off campus in a secure location at one of the Masters' houses, then they would see what they could do. A short time later they asked if I wanted to set up a group and they would see if anyone wanted to help me. I was delighted.
110. I set up a group called The Land Management Group. We set ourselves with the task of tidying up and clearing this area. It was good because it gave me my freedom. It gave me an escape route whenever I needed it because I was allowed to go into this area where very few other people were allowed. Any evening when I wasn't doing a two mile run or doing other jobs I would go to the Valley and lose myself in the wilderness. I would make a plan of what I was going to do and I went down there every Wednesday afternoon when others were doing army training and everything else. It

was great because it basically took me out of the whole school environment. I got my hands dirty and covered in mud. It was a great positive feeling but it turned into a case of too many cooks spoil the broth. They wanted to put one bit as a flower border, I explained we had to clear the place first and they could then plan what to do.

Sporting activities

111. They had fairly high sporting achievements. They also understood that it wasn't necessarily the life for everyone doing certain sports and activities so there was more scope to be individual. If you were interested in the army, you would have a period of time every week where you would dress up in your Army Cadet uniform. You would do drills and other army related activities, all on the school grounds. They would take you to the shooting range and they would allow you to fire weapons. You could focus on sports like golf or badminton. They provided lots of opportunities and if you had goals they would try to help you achieve those goals. There were a lot of very high achievers from Strathallan who went on to high positions in the military amongst other places.

Work

112. Because I had been at Keil School for the first year, I joined Strathallan School a year later than everyone else so I didn't have to fag for anyone else.

Family contact

113. At Strathallan we could telephone home but at that time it was quite expensive. I remember that 20p would not last more than maybe thirty seconds if you were lucky. It wasn't cheap to do.

Abuse at Strathallan School

114. Mr KPC [REDACTED] phoned the office at Strathallan and told the school who he was and was just trying to find out how I was getting on. He asked for my contact number. The school gave out the information. Mr KPC [REDACTED] then phoned the house that I was in and we communicated through the phone at that house. I think he made contact with me fairly quickly after I got to Strathallan. I think it was the first term I got there. Nothing was hugely awkward or uncomfortable as such. I had tried to put what had happened to me during the summer holidays behind me, pretended it didn't happen.
115. Thinking back it seems like Mr KPC [REDACTED] contacted me fairly frequently but it probably wasn't more than once a fortnight. He used to write letters frequently and I would sometimes write back but I was lazy so he would phone me. I remember getting phone calls during homework time when I was told that my father was on the phone. I don't know if Mr KPC [REDACTED] said that he was my father or if that was an assumption by pupils and staff answering the phone.
116. The letters that Mr KPC [REDACTED] sent me are now in the hands of the police. I would say it was spring or summer that he sent me those. As well as sending me letters he was phoning me up saying that I was to stop making excuses for not going down to see him. He said he had organised a big party at his house in [REDACTED]. There were going to be lots of girls and boys, and alcohol and lots of other bits and pieces. I would still have been under-age for drinking at this time but that didn't seem to matter to him. Before then he had frequently asked me to go and visit him. I had always made excuses. In the summer holidays I worked for my uncle rearing pheasants and ducks and the other holidays weren't really suitable either. I had weekends off but I didn't have any money so how was I going to get there? I don't think my parents would have been hugely supportive if I had said I was going to get on a train and go down to [REDACTED] for a weekend of God knows what.
117. Mr KPC [REDACTED] was living in [REDACTED] by that time. From what I understand he had left Keil School a year after I left. He had gone to [REDACTED] school in [REDACTED].

Middlesex which is a day school for girls between the ages of three and eighteen. I don't even know when Keil School closed its doors.

118. I was at my Schoolhouse at Strathallan one morning during break time. You could walk back to Ruthven House, the house I stayed in at Strathallan, during break time and then still get back to classes. I went in and checked my mail. I power walked to class and read Mr KPC's latest letter as I went. It informed me to stop making excuses, that he wasn't taking no for an answer. He insisted that I book myself a train ticket to get down there and everything else was sorted. If you didn't know his character you might think it was an ok letter but I basically flipped out. I held it together fairly well initially. I got into my class being taken by Mr Smith who was my Management Information Studies teacher. I sat in the front row of two rows of desks. One of the other pupils turned to me and asked if I was ok. I nodded but I was shaking and the other pupil again asked if I was ok. The teacher then came in to the room. He was informed that there was a problem. One of my classmates was then asked to take me back to Ruthven House and try and find my Housemaster or someone similar.

Reporting of abuse at Strathallan School

119. Following my distress in Mr Smith's classroom I went back to Ruthven House and sat on the sofa outside the Housemaster's office, Mr David Barnes, until he appeared to find out what was wrong. Mr Barnes also had two Deputy Housemasters, Mr Streatfield-James, and Mr Murray who was also my English teacher. He asked me what was going on. I explained to him that I had received this letter and I told him what had happened during the summer holidays two years before with KPC. My Housemaster tried to make sure I was ok to the best of his abilities and he went to find the Headmaster, Mr Pighills.
120. Mr Pighills was an extremely nice Headmaster, I had no issues in any shape or form with him. He was old-school, he was understanding, and sympathetic. I told him that on no account were my parents to be told about what I was telling him. They were just about to leave on their annual holiday. The Headmaster said he should still contact

them but I said I'd rather he didn't as it would put a downer on their trip. He did contact but did it in such a way that it was like a casual request to discuss some minor details when they came back from holiday.

121. Within a day or two of my parents coming back they were at the school and were filled in on some of the basic information. I was called to the Headmaster's office and asked to explain what had happened and explain why I hadn't told them before. It was at this point in time that my parents said that the day Mr KPC came to lunch they felt that something wasn't right, that there was something suspicious about the way he was behaving. I told them what he had done that day. As to why I hadn't told them before, I explained that I was the child who was not always a good boy, who had stolen from them, who was perhaps referred to as the black sheep of the family because of the way I had behaved. I asked them if I had told them what Mr KPC had done, would they believe me? They said that they would have believed me. I explained that it wasn't an easy thing to talk about back then.
122. The school then wrote to either KPC or his employer at the time and stated that on no account was he to make any further contact with me. We then had a change of Headmaster at Strathallan and I believe he followed it up with Mr KPC etc. We had a copy of the letter sent by the school to Mr KPC or his employer at the time. The letter advised Mr KPC to cease all communications with me at that time. I was not aware of any response from Mr KPC
123. My Housemaster Mr Barnes' impression was that I wasn't in a fit state mentally or physically to speak to Childline which would have been the normal thing to do back then, so Childline never came up again. I think Mr Barnes is still working at Strathallan. There was never any further offer from Strathallan School to take it further. There was no police involvement at that time. I think the school did inform my parents about what was going on. There was communication by telephone and by letter. My father did keep hold of a copy of some of the written correspondence and the police have that now. I didn't have any further involvement with Mr KPC

124. It was suggested to me at Strathallan School that I may have done something to lead **KPC** on but I am not aware that I ever led him on in any shape or form. The suggestion that I may have lead Mr **KPC** on came from the teachers at Strathallan but I don't know which one. I would say that Strathallan didn't provide any pastoral support following disclosure of Mr **KPC**'s abuse.
125. The end of 1992, the beginning of 1993 was when things really kicked off. I had received multiple letters from Mr **KPC** I was doing my Higher exams. Strathallan did Highers over two years. They said to me that my writing and comprehension skills were very poor. I asked what they meant which was when they tried to clarify the process of essay writing. They had asked me to write an essay about a real life experience. I wrote about what happened with Mr **KPC** I wrote an essay that was two A4 sides long, about the abuse I suffered from Mr **KPC** at the reservoir.
126. I submitted my course work to Mr Murray, who knew about the incident in Mr Smith's class and me going to see Mr Barnes my Housemaster. Mr Murray threw the essay back to me saying there was no story, no details. I was to take it away and do it again. He didn't make any comment to me about the nature of the subject matter I was writing about. I was shaking as I re-wrote it. The pen just did whatever it did and it ended up being five sides of A4 with all the details about the magazines he took out of the glove box and the light glistening off the water of the reservoir. When Mr Murray got hold of this he said it was too graphic and too detailed, they couldn't submit it as part of my course work for my Higher English. He still didn't make any comment about the nature of the subject matter. I believe there was communication with my parents about the essay I had written. I am not certain but I believe there was a statement made to the effect that **QYG** has written an essay which was too graphic and what did they expect the school to do with it. My parents responded by saying that the school had asked for a more explicit essay and that the school should therefore submit it. Although I had disclosed the abuse by Mr **KPC** to Mr Barnes previously, there was no mention about referring the matter to the police after I wrote the essay. I think they wanted to avoid any bad publicity for Strathallan, I don't really know what to think.

Life after boarding school

Employment

127. When I left Strathallan I went to college for a year at Queen Margaret College from September 1994 to June 1995 and studied hospitality management. After college I went and worked in a few hotels. I had a mixture of experiences. I was involved in a couple of car accidents, one of which was fairly detrimental to my health. I went to work in Australia for ten months from December 1999 to September 2000. I returned to Scotland and went back to working in hotels and a call centre. Then in 2003 I went to work in the off-license trade.
128. My brother was destined to have a share in my parents' farm. As the eldest son it was pretty much half being passed to him. I was to go forth and disappear, there was to be nothing here for me, which is why I studied Hospitality Management and went to work in hotels and off-sales.
129. My brother turned to my father about fifteen or sixteen years ago and said that if he was to be expected to continue to run things, that he would need certain things from my father. My brother wanted some of the employees who had been on the farm since we had been children to be moved on. They weren't fit for their jobs anymore. They were like a dead weight around the place and they meant that my brother couldn't employ new people to do the job in half the time. My father said no and said to my brother that if he didn't like it then he should go elsewhere. My brother said OK, he said he would sell his share and leave.
130. The next thing that arrived through the post was the prospectus for the top bit of the hill which my brother owned, the most profitable bit with red deer. My father did not expect that. My brother sold his part and emigrated to New Zealand. I never used to get on with my brother at all and I could see a wedge being driven between the family. I was living in Edinburgh at the time. My brother asked me to give him a lift to the airport as he thought it would be less emotional than my parents doing it. I agreed and

I wrote him a letter trying to bury the hatchet, wishing him the best for his new life, and asking him to keep in touch with me. It took nearly three months before he contacted me. He said he had opened my letter on the aeroplane and found it really emotional. He realised how badly he had treated us all. Since then, I have got on better with my brother. I have been out to visit him in New Zealand in 2010.

131. When my brother sold his part of the hill, there was a need to for someone to come back and help my parents and be the general dogsbody. When I worked in the off-license trade from 2003 to 2007 my boss in the off-license had left and the assistant manager took over. He did not play by the book. He was costing the staff a lot of money because if you had significant losses the management took on some of the losses in wage cuts and the staff took on the rest of the loss in wage cuts, so that the business could keep its head above the water. I tried to report it to head office but they said I hadn't used the proper channels so I quit. I had always wanted to be part of the family farm and came back here to work in 2007. The money is diabolical but it's a way of life.

Reporting of Abuse

132. I got back from work one night, when I was working in off-licenses in Edinburgh. I don't know exactly when it was. It would have been between 1997 and 2000. Crimewatch was on TV and although I didn't catch the full details of what they were talking about, I did catch that the police were looking for a white male in his fifties or sixties from the [REDACTED] area who was wanted in connection with an incident involving a rape or similar offence. I think there was also something linking this to a missing person. It just hit me like a sledgehammer, thinking about what Mr KPC [REDACTED] had done to me and that it shouldn't happen to anyone else. I forced myself to pay attention to the report that went on for two or three minutes, although there was nothing further mentioned that made me think of Mr KPC [REDACTED]
133. At that point in time I sat on the sofa right beside the telephone and phoned the number they asked people to phone with information. I got through but I was told by whoever

answered that wasn't their department. They asked me to wait to be put through to someone else. I got put through to someone else, who told me I needed to speak to another person. I can't remember if they gave me a number to call or if they put me through. I got pinballed around eight different people and I think I ended up being put through to the person I had started with. I got frustrated and put the phone down.

134. I had no further contact with the police until I saw an advert from the SCAI that my mother brought to my attention. As a result of speaking to the SCAI I have spoken to the police again in 2020. When I did so, I mentioned the earlier Crimewatch report that I tried to respond to.
135. I have never been back to or been in touch with Keil School since I left. Strathallan School did communicate with Mr **KPC** and **SNR** of Keil at the time, Mr **CGC**. His initials were **CGC**. I remember that because pupils had derived a nickname for him based loosely around those initials. I don't know if there was much correspondence back from Keil School to Strathallan or if Mr **CGC** ever sent a letter back to Mr Pighills or the Headmaster after him, but I do know that the police have now got letters signed by Mr Pighills and the Headmaster after him.
136. When Mr **KPC** abused me in the summer holidays he was still working as a teacher at Keil School. When he wrote to me at Strathallan I think he was still teaching at Keil School initially. I think he worked at Keil School for a year after I left.

Impact

137. I had a lack of confidence with women for most of my life. I don't know how much of it is Mr **KPC** and how much is me, my background, and my upbringing. I never found myself managing to get a girlfriend at **[REDACTED]** School. There were various people I fancied at different times but it never happened in any shape of form. Keil School was pretty much a right-off. After the incident with Mr **KPC** there were lots of people I had crushes on but I never found it easy to speak to them. I lacked a lot of confidence. Apparently according to people I talked to, the problem was that I

was too nice. Whatever that really means, I have never found out. When I was at Strathallan I fancied various people but they didn't fancy me. That's just the way it goes sometimes, you can't have everything.

138. When I went to college I found complete freedom and tested it to the limit. In fact I went over the top of the limits in every aspect. I lost the plot completely. I went to lectures with a hip flask in my pocket and drank through lectures. I drank in the student union, I drank in my accommodation on campus. I smoked a ludicrous amount, and I gambled, I basically flipped out. I can remember being intoxicated and walking up the middle of St John's Road in Corstorphine, Edinburgh, with cars honking their horns at me. The more I did, the worse things got in the sense of communicating with others. I had gone into a depressive state. I did have a couple of guys who looked out for me and tried to get me back on the straight and narrow which eventually they did. I am still in contact with one of them.

139. I used to find that some guys used to hit on me rather than girls, which pushed me further. One of my college friends slapped me round the face metaphorically, not literally, and told me to pull my finger out and sort myself out which I did. I am eternally grateful to him for getting me to wake up about my self-destructive behaviour.

140. I met my wife online, on a dating site. We had some things in common but I stopped being careful and just jumped in to the relationship. We had a child on the way after only three months. I'm not saying it went downhill from there because I now have two amazing kids. I love my kids and I would do anything for them in any shape or form. However my wife and I are not on the same page. I don't think we're on the same book in the same library.

Treatment/support

141. My parents did what they thought was best for me as a child. I don't hold them accountable. My wife doesn't like that my parents are on the doorstep and that they are my employers in the family business. She doesn't like that I spend time mending

their taps or painting their windows when they need done. She thinks I should spend that time on her. My relationship with my sister is pretty good. It didn't always used to be as good.

142. I haven't sought any medical treatment in relation to the abuse I suffered. When I met my wife, before we were married but after my daughter was born, we were having some issues and on my wife's advice I did seek the advice of a psychotherapy type meeting of a sort. My wife organised this and was there for the first meeting. I informed them of what was going on, why I was the way I was, and a lot of the background. I then had a further one to one session with them. My wife told me it was my problem and I've got to deal with it. OK, it is my problem, it had made me what I am over the years but a lot of what's happened shouldn't have happened but it does happen every day.

Lessons to be learned

143. In society these days, are you ever really sure that who you are speaking to is honest and has got your best interests at heart?
144. People who are out there who have genuinely been abused, assaulted, or raped in whatever fashion should know that there are people out there who hopefully can help and advise, especially with the way technology is these days.
145. To a degree I have lost faith in society, in a lot of people who are around about. My confidence is increasing again because of people I have had a connection with since March this year. On a good day I'm on top of the world. On a bad day I am pretty low like lots of other people are.

Hopes for the Inquiry

146. I would like to see that other people who have experiences should try and come forward and find the means of expressing themselves in whatever fashion. For all intents and purposes it's always going to happen but the more it is broadcast, publicised, and the more it is put to everyday people which is all we all are, the more it can be known that no matter how rich or poor you are if you think you have the power or ability to control, manipulate, or abuse others, you don't. It doesn't matter if you are from the poorest of poor backgrounds like Miss Saigon, they are important. They are not nobody, they are somebody. They are a lot more important to a lot of us than many of us realise. My hope is that other people will find the courage to come forward and put these dirty individuals where they should be.
147. We should not put them in a jail or some safe-house. For these individuals they should bring back corporal punishment. Why should we be protecting and looking after these people when all they are doing is destroying society and everything we should be looking out to protect?
148. As someone who is working in the countryside everything needs a balance. Everything needs to be monitored and looked after but these individuals are getting away with quite heinous crimes. I think these individuals who abuse or murder children unless they can turn round and admit and give good reasons why this has happened because you can commit a hideous crime and it wasn't necessarily deliberate or premeditated, these people should be dealt with severely.
149. If grown adults have interfered with children I wouldn't quite lock them up and throw away the key but it doesn't matter what age they are, I would punish them but I don't know how to do that. How do you quantify the punishment for what was done to me? I shouldn't have such bitterness and hatred in me but I have the feeling that with the way the system was for dealing with allegations of abuse, it was not good enough. I feel guilty about not coming forward until now but even if I had come forward as a child

to report abuse, back then it often wasn't treated seriously and investigated properly. We have seen that now with Jimmy Saville and numerous others.

Other information

150. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... 

Dated..... 13 November 2020