

90. By the time we were in Haig house Ben Philip had the nickname 'Dungeon Master' after the character from Dungeons and Dragons. The character in the cartoon was a little guy who would appear anywhere and everywhere. Ben Philip would just appear when the lights were out and we were having a chat. He would appear out of nowhere unexpectedly. That could be in Wavell or in Haig. If he caught you talking he would give you a massage on your back. He would then say something like "right that's enough Master [REDACTED]"
91. Ben Philip would take us a lot to Callander near Stirling when we were in senior four. He would take groups of boys out which isn't something too unusual in itself. I remember him telling us on those journeys that his brother was a local police officer and, I'm fairly certain, also a mason. He would drive at crazy dangerous speeds with all of us in the car. It was all done out of bravado and to show off. His comeback when we questioned his driving was always that his brother was a police officer who had shown him how to drive like that. I was never part of it but there were times when he would take boys back to his office to have a drink with him. I heard about that from other boys like [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They told me that they would have a beer and a chat with him there. That happened regularly from senior four onwards. Looking back, there were boys who were getting suspended and expelled for drinking yet Ben Philip was drinking in his office with boys at the same time.
92. I have looked a little bit into Ben Philip over the years and am aware that there is mention of him potentially knowing Thomas Hamilton who was the gunman involved in the Dunblane shootings. My friend [REDACTED], who was in the same year as me, mentioned to me that he remembered seeing Thomas Hamilton with Ben Philip on numerous occasions at cross country meetings. He immediately remembered it was Thomas Hamilton after seeing the reporting of the massacre in adult life. He is adamant that Thomas Hamilton and Ben Philip were very close to one another on a friendly basis. [REDACTED] also mentioned that he was aware that Thomas Hamilton would use the firing range at the school and further use the plantations at the back of the school for either the Boys Brigade, the Cubs or whatever it was he was involved

with. I clearly remember being told by Julian Hankinson not to enter the grounds which comprised the plantation at certain times when those camps were happening.

93. Looking back, irrespective of the time, Ben Philip's behaviour was inappropriate. The massages were certainly a bit weird. I don't think he was just being friendly. My gut feeling is that his behaviour was inappropriate and that he was a paedophile.

Unnamed abuser

94. I am aware of another pupil who ended up leaving the school because he was being abused by a teacher at the school. I am aware of that through a third party and not aware of the detail. I don't wish to reveal the detail I do know in this statement but it all makes sense to me now. When I look back at the way that pupil was as a boy he was from a good strong family background with good role models but after going to the school and leaving he went down the path of drugs and a life of violence. Unfortunately, I don't believe the former pupil has come forward to the Inquiry which I can totally understand why.

The Friends of QVS

95. I am aware that there was a teacher who was at the school after I left who made all sorts of complaints. I am aware he made allegations that boys would be taken out of the school by people, abused and returned to the school with money in their hands. In amongst his allegations he mentions 'The Friends of QVS' as being a group who would take boys out. The Friends of QVS was a very real thing. I don't know who they were, or what they were about, but I remember it being a thing during my time in Wavell and around the time of you having your confirmation. If your family was not there for your confirmation someone from The Friends of QVS would come along and take the boy out for the day afterwards. On my confirmation day, another boy called [REDACTED] and I didn't have parents present so we were taken out by the headmaster, Julian Hankinson, and his wife. Other boys were taken out by other adults from The Friends of QVS to different places. I couldn't say what checks, if any, were undertaken

as part of that. I don't know what happened with those boys when they were out but The Friends of QVS was definitely something I was aware of.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Queen Victoria School

96. I was never aware of any formal system where a pupil could report things to staff members or anyone else at the school. The closest you would get to that would be having an informal word with your matron or the hospital nurse. Even then the response would likely be "there there, crack on." There might be a little bit more sympathy but that would be it.

97. The only time I attempted to report something surrounded the bullying I was suffering from [REDACTED] in senior one. It was significant enough that I went to speak to Bill Webster. He was the head of Trenchard house and taught English and Modern Studies. I think [REDACTED] had arranged a fight with me later that day in the toilets in Cunningham and I was petrified. I approached the Bill Webster at the end of his class and told him that I was being bullied and I was really scared. I don't remember his exact words but his response was pretty much "pull your socks up, get on with it, I don't want to hear about it." I felt disappointed but my overriding feeling was fear because I knew what was going to happen later that day. I also realised that what was happening with [REDACTED] was just going to continue to happen. [REDACTED] did later end up getting expelled but I don't know what that was for. It wasn't connected with me reporting what was happening to Bill Webster.

98. Boys didn't talk amongst themselves about Ben Philip's behaviour when I was at the school. I'm one hundred percent certain that there was no one I would have felt comfortable enough to speak to about Ben Philip's behaviour when I was at the school. Even were I to have approached the more approachable teachers, like Graham Beattie, I don't think they would have been able to do much. I would have been very surprised if anyone would have taken any interest.