

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MBI

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is MBI my date of birth is the 1966. I am 50 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

### Background

2. I was the youngest in my family. I have four older brothers called and and an older sister called I was brought up in Perth, Scotland. My mother and father split up when I was very young. My mother struggled for a few years until she found her feet. My mother was a drinker and my sister had to do all the housework. My brother did all the cooking. I am very close to my family. My father died about fifteen years ago in London and was brought home and buried in Perth. When I was working in London I did visit him. My mother is still alive.
3. The institution I want to tell you about is St Ninian's School, Falkland, Fife. I was resident there for two and a half years between 1979 and 1982. The Roman Catholic School was run by the Christian Brothers. Some of what I am about to tell you is the first time I have publically had an opportunity to reveal to anyone.

### Life before being put into care

4. When I was age ten I became ill with asthma. I was having to take a lot of time off school with my illness but I was also playing truant. I was playing truant because I didn't know how to do an essay and there was one required to be handed in to my

English teacher Mrs Carroll every Friday. When you didn't hand it in you were given four of the belt on Friday afternoon. I never went to school on a Friday. I couldn't do sports because of my asthma and had to stand on the touchlines.

5. My father was a drinker and had left home. My mother was in a violent relationship with another man. I was put before a Children's Panel because I had broken another boy's bike and was not attending school.
6. The decision of the Children's Panel was to place me into care at St Ninian's, Roman Catholic School, Falkland. I remember I went here for a visit and recall the big house near to Falkland Palace. I remember seeing all the priests and feeling scared. I knew that here was a friend of mine from Perth called [REDACTED] also in St Ninian's so that made me feel less apprehensive.
7. When the decision was made to send me to St Ninian's it was about two months before I actually went. I was taken to see the home by my social worker Miss [REDACTED] MCF. On my visit there I was attacked by other boys. I had a mate in the school called [REDACTED] who I had known since we were boys. [REDACTED] was asked to show me round. In one of the dormitories we encountered two of the other boys called [REDACTED] and his brother [REDACTED]. They tried to take the few pennies I had in my pocket off me and started to assault me. I managed to get away and went back to the reception. From day one at the school there was violence and I had two months to think about it before I went there. I had also told the staff what happened to me on the visit so I became a "grass" before I even arrived.
8. There was a social worker involved with me who was called Miss [REDACTED] MCF. She had something to do with the girl guides in Perth. She was involved with me and my family right up until the time I was placed in care but I am not sure when she first became involved with us. She was not a nice person.
9. I was aged thirteen when on the [REDACTED] 1979 I was taken to St Ninian's. The Children's Panel had told me that I was going there for six months and then they would review my circumstances. I should never have gone there in the first place.

**Institution: St Ninian's Roman Catholic School, Falkland, Fife.**

10. The school was all catholic run by the Christian Brothers. It was situated in Falkland in Fife. It was a large country house near to Falkland Palace. It was all self-contained and you would sleep eat and be educated all within the grounds. I remember that within the grounds there was a cove with a waterfall.
11. There were two groups at the school called Ramsay House and Stewart House. I was in Stewart House. We used to compete against each other at all the sports events.
12. When I first arrived I was put into dormitory twelve. There were thirteen dormitories in all. The youngest were put into dormitory thirteen and as you got older you moved down to dormitory one. There were between two and six beds in each dormitory. Halfway through my stay at St Ninian's the beds were changed from ordinary to hand crafted. It meant that we had a bit more privacy. This change was effected by Brother Farrell when he arrived as head of the school and [REDACTED] LNA . Brother LNA was still about at this time but left soon after.
13. You were issued with a uniform when you arrived. I was issued with plimsoles for inside wear and shoes for outdoors. There were both trousers and shorts to wear along with a blue top. All the shoes and football boots were numbered and there was name tags on the clothing.
14. After Brother Farrell arrived as head teacher the uniform rules were relaxed and you were able to wear your own trainers and clothes. The sports equipment improved and it seemed that the school had a lot more money to spend on things.

## Routine

### *Mornings and bedtime*

15. You would get up in the morning at a normal time and get washed ready to begin the day. You would have to do some housework like polishing the floors and mopping the bathrooms. You would then get breakfast and it was off to school. You were taught all the subjects. The older Brothers **MBS** and **MHJ** taught **██████** but you never learned much in their classes they must have been at retiral age.
16. You would stay in class till twelve thirty then break for lunch. After lunch you played sports until tea time. You played sport in all weathers. You would have your tea and then you got some free time till you went to bed about eight. You had to have a shower every night. Brother **LNA** always supervised the showers. It was always the junior boys first followed by the senior boys.
17. When you went to bed it was lights out at nine. They would play piped music through a public address system. This would be on for half an hour and then you had to be silent. If you were caught talking you would be punished. You would be taken out of the dormitory and made to stand outside till the other boys were asleep.
18. We would go to Perth swimming pool every Wednesday for two hours. We would also do a lot of cross country running. When I first arrived I could hardly run at all but after some medication and treatment from the local doctor I was able to run three and a half miles. You would run over the Lomond hills and the record for running was 27 minutes. I finally managed to run it in 48 minutes. I could also play football, rugby and cricket. I won the most improved rugby player of the year award and was given a Scotland rugby strip which was later stolen from me. I was a boxer before I went into the home.
19. After I had been there for a while I realised that the only way to survive was to take on the bullies amongst my peers. No one was going to listen to my complaints and I had to sort it out myself. I was getting revenge on the rugby park but I needed to

assert myself around the school. I recall hitting one of the worst bullies called **MCU** **MCU** with a stool. It resulted in him receiving stitches in his head. He was murdered in **██████████** Glasgow a few years ago. Some of the other bullies were **██████████**, **██████████**, **██████████** Alec Shannon and brothers **██████████** and **██████████**

20. There were boys at the school who would stand up for me and they included **██████████** **██████████** and his brother **██████████**. They were older and intervened to protect the younger ones. There was a gang culture at the school. The staff would be too frightened to interfere. It was the Glasgow boys against the rest.
21. The routine changed slightly when Brother Farrell took over. The food improved and the way it was served was better. I don't know where the money came from but we got a mini bus and a coach. We also got better sports equipment.
22. When I used to go to the swimming baths at Perth on a Wednesday my family would come down and visit me. My brothers took it on their selves to administer justice to two boys who had been bullying me. They were **██████████** from Dundee and **██████████**. As a result of this my family were banned from going to the swimming baths to see me.

### *Staff*

23. The members of staff that I recall when I first arrived were Brother **LNA** **██████████** **██████████** Brother Kelly, Brother **MHJ** and Brother **MBS**. They were all Christian Brothers. Mr **MBV** was the **██████████** he would hit you. Mrs Nichol or Mitchell I can't remember her surname was an English teacher. Mr **MIK** or **MIK** was the **██████████** teacher. Mr **MCG** was the **██████████** teacher, he was a bully. Mr **BHB** was the **██████████** teacher. He was a very fair man who I had a lot of respect for. Father Shannon was a priest who travelled from Perth Monastery to do the religious services. Father Shannon seemed to be a nice enough person but I had few dealings with him.

24. During the course of my time at the school the staff did change. Brother Brown arrived and he was a very nice man who would listen to you and show you sympathy. There was a small Brother who played the guitar and make jokes with you. He looked like the actor John Belushi and was alright to deal with. Brother Farrell [REDACTED] He was not as bad as Brother LNA but he was still evil. Mrs Baines was the matron at the school and her husband acted as groundsman. They came from Auchtermuchty. There was a lady called Carol who worked in the kitchen and lived locally on a nearby farm. Ethel Phillips used to help out at the home and her husband Jack also called in and I found him to be fine. Ethel originally lived in Freuchie but moved to Methil. She was known as Ethel from Methil. Brother MHG also arrived at the school and he was on the staff. He was a bit strange and I was wary of him.
25. Brother LNA was the most evil of all the staff. He was at the school one day and gone the next. I don't know what happened to him. He passed away a few years ago and avoided his appointment with the courts. Mr [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] was also evil and was known for slapping and punching the boys. He lived in Kirkcaldy. He [REDACTED]

### *Food*

26. I often missed meals at school because I would be last in from the cross country runs and I would be too late to get my meal. Some of the more sympathetic staff would sneak you into the kitchen for a cup of tea or a cake.

### *School*

27. When I first arrived at the home I had very little schooling. I had a teacher called either Mrs Mitchell or Nichol I can't remember. She was very good to me. She saw me on a one- to- one basis and taught me to read and write. I also enjoyed the art, woodwork and metalwork classes. When I first arrived at the school I wasn't able to take part in sport and had to stand on the touchlines. Although as my asthma

became controlled and time went on, my fitness did improve and I was able to join in all the activities.

### *Holidays*

28. At first you would get weekend leave to go home every two weeks. If you behaved you would earn leave every weekend. You went to the bus stop in Falkland on a Friday afternoon to get the bus to Perth. Some of the other boys who travelled further used to get the school bus to different drop off points. I usually got a lift back on a Sunday evening on the back of my brother's motor bike but this stopped when there was an incident at the swimming pool and they didn't want my family coming near the school. I can recall being stranded in Falkland with no bus available and the local policeman called PC Toad would call the school to pick us up.
29. I was kept back on two weekends during my stay at the school. On one occasion when I had not been allowed to appear at the Children's Panel and I ran away. I didn't get home leave for a month as I was only getting leave every second weekend. The other occasion was when I stood up to one of the bullies **MCU** **MCU** and hit back. He was under the protection of Brother Kelly and so I was punished and lost a weekends leave.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

30. The Brothers were not keen on letters being written to the school in case bad news came and affected the mental state of the boys. You always got a birthday cake on your birthday. You got sweeties and a bottle of lemonade. You would spend Christmas at home.

### *Holidays*

31. You had normal school holidays and would also have midterm breaks between these holidays. You were at home most weekends. The first two weeks of the summer holidays were always spent on a trip with the school down to Wales. The place was

called Fairbanks or something similar. It was in north Wales and we used to camp there at a theme park. We would also go pony trekking when we were in Wales.

32. We would go skiing two or three times a year if they could arrange it in time as we got short notice to go. The army would do the ski training with us. It was held at ski slopes in the Cairngorms of Scotland
33. I remember being taken to Leitcham House for a short break. I am not sure of the spelling of the name. It was a place where the older Christian Brothers stayed and was like a retirement home. It was a big estate. I remember being told a story about one of the boys who had jumped through a window there. He was supposed to have been sleep walking and was startled by one of the priests. I can remember him screaming in pain when he came back to St Ninian's when I was there. I think that his name was [REDACTED] or something similar. He had the nickname [REDACTED] because he was badly hurt when he jumped through the window. The inference was that it was the priests sneaking about the dormitories that had caused him to jump. I don't know I was only told about it by the other boys. There was something not right about Leitcham House.

### *Running away*

34. On one occasion when I ran away I managed to get to Carlisle by hitchhiking. I caught a bus and headed to Manchester. I was only trying to go and visit old neighbours who stayed in Tamworth. At the bus station I asked directions to Tamworth from a Pakistani man. He tried to grope me so I hit him with a bottle. I handed myself in to the Manchester Police. They arranged accommodation for me overnight in a hostel in Manchester.
35. The next morning I was put on a train to go home to Perth to be met by Miss [REDACTED] MCF. When I arrived I managed to leave the station by another door avoid her. I made my way to my brother's house where I stayed for two days. My brother persuaded me to go back to St Ninian's. I went back to my mother's house and contacted the social work department to come and get me.

36. I tried to tell Miss MCF what had been going on and why I had run away. She told me that I was talking crap. Every complaint I made had no effect and nothing was done about it. There was no point in complaining as no one believed me.

*Visits/Inspections*

37. After being at the school for six months there was a Children's Panel which I was not invited to attend. My mother and sister did attend. I think that it was decided because I was attending school and making progress with learning they would keep me at St Ninian's for further period of time. The decision was made without consulting me. I was devastated as I was convinced I was leaving St Ninian's after my six months assessment.
38. Miss MCF came to visit me on one occasion. She was not a nice lady as she used to pull you about and smack you. She was always bossing you about and telling you what you had to do. I ran away to Manchester. I handed myself into the police and was put on a train home. I knew that she would be waiting for me at the station and I couldn't stand the thought of her meeting me so I ran away as soon as I arrived.
39. The only Children's panel meeting I attended was the first one when I was put into St Ninian's. I knew the six month review date and the excited feeling of being released. I remember how upset I was when I was told that I had to remain.
40. My older brother and my sister used to come and visit me at the swimming pool on a Wednesday but that was stopped when there was an incident involving one of my brothers trying to sort out the bullies that were giving me a hard time. They also stopped my brother from bringing me home on a Sunday as a pillion passenger on his motor bike.
41. The man who owned Falkland Palace called Ninian used to come and visit once or twice a year. He used to walk round the school and speak to the boys. I think that he owned the building where the school was. He seemed to be a nice man.

42. I used to get a visit from a friend of mine from Perth who was working for Bon Accord delivering bottles of juice. I wasn't supposed to talk to him but he used to slip me a free bottle of lemonade.

#### *Formal Discipline*

43. The formal method of discipline was the school belt. It was not used often as you were usually punished by missing a meal or having your weekend leave withdrawn. I don't know anything about a formal discipline book being in use.

#### *Medical care*

44. There was a Matron called Mrs Baines who would treat minor injuries. We also had access to the local doctor who called once a fortnight. If required there were also local hospitals. There was plenty of medical help available.

#### **Abuse**

45. There was no complaining about your treatment when you were at the school. You had no one to speak to or to tell about the way you were feeling. It was just constant violence and threats from both the staff and the bully boys who were running wild.
46. When I first arrived at the school my friend [REDACTED] who was known as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MCU would get up in the night gather up their duvets and go into Brother Kelly's room to sleep. After a couple of months [REDACTED] also joined them in sleeping at Brother Kelly's room. At the time I thought that they went there because Brother Kelly had a large bottle of cough medicine and they were drinking the contents and getting high. I remember [REDACTED] saying to me that he would go out like a light. On reflection I think that a lot of the boys would get cough medicine when they didn't need it. The room itself was no bigger than a "box

room” and all it had in it was a bed and a chest of drawers. This went on the whole time I was there.

47. [MCU] was very close to Brother Kelly and he would be invited by Brother Kelly to beat you up to punish you.
48. Brother [LNA] used to wander around the dormitories after lights out. He used to creep about dormitories twelve and thirteen. Brother Kelly was also someone who wandered about and he was given the nickname “Snoopy”.
49. Brother [LNA] would come in after lights out and sit on your bed and touch you. When he was about I could hear other boys screaming or yelping when he went to their beds. They shouldn’t have been making any noise as it was lights out. He used to go to [ ] bed. [ ] came from Edinburgh. He also went to [ ] bed. Brother [LNA] never went to [ ] bed as he was a bully. I could also hear Brother [LNA] in the bedrooms of the younger boys.
50. When Brother [LNA] came to sit on my bed I could smell the drink on him. He used to ask me how I was settling in. He would put his hands on your back and then slide them under the covers and touch your private parts. Brother [LNA] used to hit you with his knuckle on the soft bit on the top of your head. It was very painful. He would not give you any warning. He would tell you that this is for what you are about to do wrong or what you have done wrong and not been caught for. I hated that man.
51. I wasn’t the only boy that Brother [LNA] was picking on. I recall a boy called [ ] who came from Edinburgh getting a really hard time from him. There was a boy called [ ] who suffered badly at the hands of Brother [LNA]
52. There was never much chat amongst the boys about what was going on. We used to talk about the creeping about but such was the hold they had over all the boys you just couldn’t say anything about what was happening to you. We were too scared. There was no talk about sexual abuse despite the fact that [ ] and [ ] were my best friends and sleeping in Brother Kelly’s room every

night. I just thought they were swigging the cough medicine. All we wanted to do was get out of that place.

53. Brother Kelly assaulted me on a number of occasions. I had no trust in him and kept out of his way. He didn't really bother me and kept himself to himself until the day I fought back against [MCU]. It had happened in Brother Brown's room when I was listening to music and [MCU] told me to turn it off. He hit me so I hit him with a chair. When Brother Kelly heard about what happened to [MCU] he caught me and held by the neck against the wall. He then gave me a few digs to my body. [MCU] got away with anything in front Brother Kelly.
54. Brother [MBS] was also very fond of hitting you and give you the odd dig or a slap in the face. Brother [MBS] would try and touch you up in class. He spent a lot of time in his room. He was also a heavy drinker. Most of the other Brothers were all okay and there was no problem with them.
55. There was an occasion when Mr [BHB] the [redacted] teacher did assault some of the boys. Three of the boys [redacted] from Perth, [redacted] and a boy called [MNA] broke into the [redacted] room and stole all the Evostick glue. Mr [BHB] found out and pinned them against the wall with a workbench. He was very angry but was not a violent man. He was usually very good and would not report you to the Brothers when there was a problem as he knew you would get a beating. He dealt with issues himself and was not violent.
56. There was a boy called [redacted] who came from Cowdenbeath. I remember he got a healthy doing from Brother Kelly on the rugby park. His arm got broken and he received an eye injury. It wasn't part of the game it was violent abuse.
57. There were never any staff in the basement area where the boot room was. This was one of the places where the bullies liked to operate. They used to make you run the gauntlet of boys and you would be kicked and punched. It was all done in the dark as they turned the lights off. You could not afford to fall down or you would get a beating. There were also games played at the school like dodge ball where there

was a chance to hit out at other boys without being punished. The staff knew what was going on.

58. On one occasion Brother Kelly came into the class room where Mrs Nichol was teaching. He wanted to see me and it was obvious that I was going to get a physical punishment from him. Miss Nichol read the situation well and told Brother Kelly to leave and not to interrupt her class again. That was a rare occasion when a staff member stood up for you.
59. Brother **MHG** also came to the school while I was there. He was another strange character that I didn't trust. There was just something about him that I didn't like. I just kept out of his way. He always much more friendly with the younger boys.
60. Mr **MCG** was the **MCU** teacher and was also guilty of the odd hit. He would ask me to wash his motor bike. He used to give me a 'mars bar' as payment. I was washing the bike when **MCU** appeared and gave the bike a kick leaving a mark on the exhaust. At the time I was inside eating my 'mars bar'. Mr **MCG** new that **MCU** had done this but he slapped me and punched me in the stomach. Mr **MCG** knew that I had not been responsible but he blamed me. It was as if the staff were afraid of **MCU**
61. I know that Mr **MCG** **MBV** after a complaint from one of the boys called **MCU**. I had mentioned Mr **MCG** to the police fourteen years ago as being an abuser but nothing was done about it then. I know that another boy called **MCU** who came from Govan also made a complaint but nothing happened as far as I can understand.
62. I was playing football one day when one of the bullies **MCU** from Glasgow known as **MCU**, spat in my face. Enough was enough I set about him on the field. The teaching staff Brother Kelly and Mr **MCG** were on the pitch. I punched him and the staff told no one to intervene as **MCU** needed taught a lesson. I was hoping that someone would stop it as **MCU** was not fighting back. Eventually it

stopped and we went to the changing room. [REDACTED] was sent to fetch the corner flag poles and he came into the dressing room and stabbed me with one of them. I ended up at matrons and she cleaned me up. [REDACTED] got a doing from Brother Kelly for stabbing me. Nothing else came of it.

### Reporting of abuse

63. Whilst I was living at St Ninian's I tried to tell Mr [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] that I had been assaulted by Brother [REDACTED] LNA but he just went mental at me. It was the same story with the social worker Miss [REDACTED] MCF she didn't believe me and wouldn't have done anything about it anyway. I was sure that both [REDACTED] MBV and [REDACTED] MCF knew what was going on but they appeared to be in league with the Christian Brothers and anything we told them would go straight back to the brothers and we would be made to pay for it. It was the same story if we reported the social workers to the brothers and again we would be made to pay.
64. The only Brother you could speak to was Brother Brown who would listen to you. I got the impression that Brother Brown was silenced by the other Brothers so although you could speak to him his hands were tied. Mr [REDACTED] MIK was also approachable but had no clout in the school. He would not report any bad behaviour to the brothers as he didn't like to see the boys being punished. This did lead to him being in conflict with the brothers and Mr [REDACTED] MBV over the treatment of the boys.
65. About fourteen years ago my name came up in a police enquiry and the police came to see me. They arrived at my door but I was shocked to see them. They wouldn't tell me what their enquiry was about and they were being very guarded about what they were saying. I gave them a statement at that time. I think that they were police from Dundee.
66. Four years ago the police again came to my door. I was shocked to see them again. I mentioned all the names that had been in my head for many years and the police were amazed at my memory. It was the same thing as fourteen years ago and I was

sure it would not go anywhere. It went to the trial and I gave evidence. I gave my evidence by video link as I couldn't be in the same room as the accused abusers. The judge was too lenient and they all got off. I have since had counselling and now recognise that all my peers at the school who were bullies were just victims like myself.

### **Leaving the institution**

67. I left St Ninian's just before I was sixteen as I managed to stay within the catchment date by about two days. There was no real help given to me when I left.
68. I returned to St Ninian's two years after I left. I went with my niece and nephew. I met Brother Brown and he chatted to me. He went into the building and returned with a couple of crosses which he gave to me as a present. I gave the smaller cross to a friend and kept the larger one which I still have. I was very angry with Brother Kelly but Brother Brown calmed me down.

### **Life after the institution**

69. I was living with my sister and got married when I was seventeen. I had fallen out with my mother and my brothers. My marriage to [REDACTED] lasted for seven and a half years when my wife and I split up. My wife was seeing a man in the RAF who was based in Lossiemouth. I was working away from home a lot.
70. My wife left to go to Elgin with my two step children and my daughter [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has four children and I am in regular contact with her and my grandchildren.
71. When I came back from working in Brussels nineteen years ago I met my partner [REDACTED] and brought up her two boys. She passed away four years ago. One of her boys [REDACTED] is in the army and the other [REDACTED] is a mechanic working for Honda I

also had another step daughter from another partner who I brought up as my daughter. Unfortunately we had a fall out a year ago and are not speaking.

### **Impact**

72. About seven years ago [REDACTED] ex-partner [REDACTED] who lives in Perth and is about mid 40's told me about the sexual abuse involving [REDACTED] that had happened to him while he was in St Ninian's. I couldn't believe that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] didn't tell me about it before. [REDACTED] had become a drug addict and had died of an overdose a few years before.
73. [REDACTED] also became a drug addict. He was with [REDACTED] before [REDACTED]. He had severe mental health issues through the abuse he suffered at St Ninian's and the drugs he abused. He was put into a mental hospital and died in a vegetative state when he was about 25 years old.
74. I asked the police when they came to see me if I would be able to go back to St Ninian's and have a look round and speak to the staff. I was told that the school was no longer in the hands of the Christian Brothers and to go there I would need to be accompanied by a police officer as it was still a functioning school. I just felt that I needed to visit the place to help with my mental state.
75. I have been receiving counselling since March 2016 and found it to be brilliant with the help Sylvia and Hazel I have been learning to deal with all the issues and see some things in a different light. The counselling was arranged through the Procurator Fiscals Office. I was very downhearted after the court case I gave evidence at and the help was provided.
76. I have suffered from depression and mood swings since I was in care. These conditions are directly attributable to my time in care. Those people who abused me were the "devil incarnate".

77. I have always been a fighter because of the bullying I suffered. I feel that I have been moulded into what I became. I was very violent. I had no fear. I would say that 99 per cent of my troubles are not mine as I feel that I have to stick up for people. I have even stuck up for the police. I have a bad name in Perth for fighting.
78. I can't sleep without a light or a television on and I think it is because of that half hour when the piped music was played at St Ninian's.
79. I have taken medication for depression. My step son committed suicide and a very good friend of mine was murdered in Perth. When the police came to my door to interview me about St Ninian's I couldn't tell them about some aspects of my abuse. They were strangers and I hadn't told anyone before.

### **Records**

80. I have not made any attempt to recover my records. I am trying to deal with one issue at a time. I will definitely be looking to recover them at some time.

### **Lessons to be learned**

81. I think that there should be more inspections. I do not think that it is right for the staff to sleep in the same accommodation as the pupils. There should be other ways of keeping control through the night. There shouldn't be music playing through the night when you go to bed. There should be cameras to see who is going in and out of the area of the dormitories.
82. I couldn't really speak to the police because of the way that they approached me. It was out of the blue. They were strangers and I didn't know them. I didn't get any warning that they were coming. I didn't tell them everything as they were strangers to me. I felt that they should have given me a bit more time to prepare myself. I'm ashamed of what happened to me and find it hard to speak about. I accept that it is part of the police procedures.

83. Staff should not have ignored the bullying by the other boys. They should have spoken out and not allowed the pupils to do their own thing. I know that the staff knew what was going on and they should have been responding to it. The staff knew that would lose their jobs if they were to report their fellow staff members for abuse. There should be more supervision of the staff. The staff should not be afraid to stand up for the children in their care. There should be regular external inspections by independent people who have no connection to the institution they are looking at. They should be able to give confidence to the residents and should be available for confidential private consultations out with- the hearing of the staff.

### Other information

84. It would be easier if I give you a list of the pupils at the school when I was there. There are some that were bullies and others that were abused or were friends of mine.

#### Peer Bullies

MCU a bully. He is now deceased as he was murdered a few years ago.

and they were brothers who assaulted me on my first visit to St Ninian's

Alec Shannon

He came from Springburn in Glasgow and his nickname was

: Originated from Dundee and his nickname was

85. My friends at the school were:

came from Perth and a good friend. He was known as

He died from a drugs overdose some years ago.

who also lived in Perth. He also died of a drugs overdose.

[REDACTED] is deceased  
 [REDACTED] he came from Cowdenbeath.  
 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they were brothers at the school  
 [REDACTED] he was friendly with [REDACTED] MCU [REDACTED] but stopped him bullying people.  
 [REDACTED] he was bullied  
 [REDACTED] he came from Perth  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they were also brothers at the school.  
 [REDACTED] I think was abused in the next room to me. He came from Edinburgh.  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] who I used to protect from the bullies. He was a half caste boy  
 who came from Springburn in Glasgow.  
 [REDACTED] came from either Rutherglen or Govan in Glasgow.

All my friends listed were the subject of abuse it would appear that all the boys from Glasgow were left alone as they were more of a handful for the staff.

86. I have some photographs from my time in St Ninian's they include pictures of the staff my peer bullies and other boys who were there at that time. A lot of the boys that were there with me have since passed away.
87. I have been advised that I can offer to give oral evidence to the Inquiry. I will need to think about that. I was hoping that it would all end with the court case and my involvement with the police. It is one of the reasons I wish all the information passed to the police at this stage to be anonymous. I am hopeful that after this disclosure I will find my own closure.
88. I have now thought about giving evidence in public and feel that I have a duty to tell about my experiences. I owe it to the other survivors of abuse. For that reason I would be prepared to give oral evidence to the Inquiry should I be required.

89. 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... MBI .....

Dated... 6.6.17 .....