# **DRAFT**

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Witness Statement of
AAD
Support person present: No
1. My name is AAD I am known as Frank. My date of birth is 1934. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
Background
2. My father didn't
We came from the slums of Glasgow.
3. Before Smyllum we lived in Calton in Glasgow. I slept on the table
After I met Frank Docherty he took me past the houses in It brought back a lot of happy memories.
4. When we lived in with my mum and dad they were the happiest days of my life. We also lived in which was near Glasgow Green and they were also happy days.
I had love when I was there. I also remember being evacuated to Busby near East Kilbride. The house had gas

mantles. I remember sitting round the fire with Mum and Dad. It was a great feeling.

- 5. I remember things during the war. I used to go out and watch the soldiers marching and I remember the blackout blinds. I remember going for messages for my mother and getting them wrong. It was a normal life.
- 6. I went into Smyllum when I was 11. I think this was in 1945. I was in 4 care homes. The first home was called Towerwood. I remember having my pirthday in Towerwood. I think I was there for about 9 months. The second home was Maybole. This was during the war. I don't know how long I was there for. The third children's home I went to was Bellvue. This was run by the Sisters of Charity. I ran away from that home with another boy and ended up in the Smyllum because of it. I think I was in the Bellvue for more than a year.
- 7. I went into the Smyllum at the end of the war. I was coming up for twelve years old then and stayed until I was fifteen. I left in 1949. When I got out of Smyllum, I was sent to a working boys' home. Mine was in Partickhill in Glasgow. It wasn't regimental. You went there and were sent out to work. You had to be back by 10 pm at night or you would be locked out. You gave them the money you earned and you were given pocket money. After that I went to into digs. I then went into the army but went AWOL. I ran away with another solider and we were caught. I was sent to an open Borstal. I spent almost three years there.
- 8. I thought I was a hard man and mixed with "corner" boys in Glasgow those days. I also did boxing but won too many second prizes!
- 9. I met a girl called who was staying at the same digs as me. She was a divorcee. We had an affair and had a daughter. I married her just before our daughter was born.
- 10. I went to the coal mines at in Rotherham. It was Colliery. That was the
- 11. I broke up with my wife. liked to be with other people too. The marriage didn't last. She went to see her mother and left me with the baby. She

dign't come back for a long time. I couldn't bring the baby up and I was drinking. I
took the child to where where lived.
12. Religion plays a big part in I am Roman Catholic and I was a Protestant. Her family lived in a staunch Protestant area. Her father was a Freemason. I had to pretend that I was a Protestant. He got me a job with the Corporation dustbins.
13. After that we broke up and I went to London. I lived there for twenty years. I mixed with real hard cases. I ended up in 4 or 5 different jails. I didn't break into houses; I went to jail because I was having fights. I had a reputation then for fighting. I spoke to someone who had been at the Old Bailey with me. We looked back at those times and thought that we were foolish. I'm not sure why I ended up like that. It was maybe because of what I saw in Smyllum.
14. I moved to sixteen years ago.
15. All my care records will be held by the Glasgow Corporation.  When I was living in London, Glasgow Corporation told me that they had my records but they never sent them to me.

### **Bellvue**

23. Bellvue was about half the size of Smyllum. I ran away from Bellvue. The nuns had made me and a boy called scrub a big wooden floor. We decided to run away and planned to jump on the back of a train. The home was in Rutherglen, Glasgow. We slept at the bottom of the football pitch that night and then went into town. We broke into a hut at St Columbkille School and the janitor must have seen the broken padlock. The police came and took us back to Bellvue. There was no bullying from the staff there but there was punishment. The punishment was harsh. You could be deprived of football or sent to bed early but there was no violence. If I hadn't run away from Bellvue I would have stayed there and not gone to Smyllum.

- 24. At Bellvue two other boys ran away. The Miss there caned them six times on their bare backsides. This would have happened in the Miss' room and wasn't in front of others. I was told about it.
- 25. There was one cruel nun in Bellvue. She was called Sister AFG She would hit your head or anywhere. She would sometimes cane you and hit you mostly on your legs as we all wore short trousers. Meal times there were different. You were called out by table to collect your food. You would line up. Girls and boys ate together in one dining hall, but they had separate quarters. I had a girlfriend who was called She used to put half bar of chocolate under my cup. We were in love.
- 26. I remember there was a girl called who was in the same class as me. There was a Sister AFH there who would smack you too. But Bellvue was a paradise in comparison to Smyllum.
- 27. I remember who was at Bellvue. I knew the all stayed and stayed at the same digs that I stayed in. He stayed there with his big brother.

  One brother was called I remember the air raids at Bellvue and going to the air raid shelters.
- 28. I remember I once ran after my dad when he was visiting and said I wanted to go with him. The Sister Superior, Sister FAC gave me a telling off but she didn't hit me. I think I ran away from Bellvue just to be adventurous.

### **Smyllum Orphanage**

- 29. When I was there it was called Smyllum Orphanage. Its name was later changed to Smyllum Park School. The building is still there. I went there once afterwards, and it brought back a lot of memories.
- 30. I have been shown a photograph of Smyllum Orphanage ([document number to be inserted]). I recognise the front of the house and there were parks to the top

left. There were farmers who lived on the grounds. We went to the chapel in Smyllum which was quite big. This photograph is familiar but it looks like it has been taken at a different time from when I was there.

- 31. There were about fifty boys in my dormitory. There were about fifty in St Joseph's dormitory. In St Vincent's there were about thirty boys. In Sacred Heart dormitory, the children were about 7 or 8 years old. There were maybe thirty of them.
- 32. There were more boys than girls there. I think there were at least three or four hundred children at Smyllum. The nursery also had the babies.
- 33. Some of the nuns at Smyllum Orphanage would hit you. One had a cane. She would hit you on the face or anywhere on your body, especially your legs.
- 34. I was lucky because I was older. I was eleven years old and stayed there until I was fifteen, but I saw awful things. We were not called by our first names; we were just called by our numbers. My number was
- 35. The staff would sometimes call me Only my friends used my first name. We called staff "Sister" and you put your hand up to speak. You would hold your arm out and it looked a bit like a Nazi salute.
- The nuns were quite severe. They also hit you in the face. There was a man called BAC He had been in Smyllum as a boy and had stayed on there. He lived there in his own quarters. He was paid to be in charge of the boys. He was cruel. BAC was in his thirties at the time. I saw awful things.
- would blow a whistle for dinner. I ate in the refectory with over a hundred other boys. We would stand, say grace and then sit down. You could sometimes talk during meals, but when you were told to stop, you must stop. If you spoke you were told to get out. The bigger lads in BAC club would make you go over to a corner of the refectory. Once you were in the corner you had to stand with your head to one side.

the flat of his hand. He would hit you maybe two to six times. BAC was a big man. This happened every single day. Sister BAH was also present at mealtimes.

- 38. I was in BAC club. I got into the club because I was older. The older boys could hit the other boys. I perhaps did it too.
- 39. I was an altar boy. When I came home from school I would go to the refectory with Sister BAH and darned the children's socks. I also learned Latin as Mass was said in Latin then.
- 40. We would help lay out the breakfast in the morning. There would be one or two slices of bread and a very small disc of butter. It was a size of a small coin, maybe a bit thicker.

  BAC would ladle out the porridge and we'd get a wee drop of milk. If you were lucky you would get a thick end of the bread called the "cudger". The boys would ask me for one and I would give it to them.
- At meal times if a child didn't want to eat they were made to eat their food. But that very seldom cropped up because everyone was always hungry. If they didn't want to eat they would maybe slip their food to someone else.

## School

- 42. We went to St Mary's Roman Catholic school which was near St Mary's Cemetery and Church. It was close by. Lots of the Smyllum boys and girls went there. It was a school for older children. The staff at St Mary's knew what was going on at Smyllum.
- The local children also went there and we had friends at the school. We looked different because the Smyllum boys were all dressed in corduroy green jackets and short trousers. The local children sometimes gave us a comic like the Beano, Wizard or the Dandy. We would have to hide them from BAC wouldn't allow that. We'd go and read them in the lavatory. I remember one day I sneaked out of Smyllum and ran into Lanark to buy the Wizard which was a periodical. I wasn't missed.

### Leisure time

- 44. There was not much play time. When you came in from school, we went out to the yard to play football until teatime. I did play football for Smyllum.
- 45. On a Tuesday and a Friday BAC took the boys in his club to the gym where we would play badminton, ball games and do boxing. If you were in BAC club, you played football on the pitch. Others had to play with a tennis ball elsewhere. I loved football, but I preferred boxing.
- 46. One time the boys in the club were to go into the gym hall. Approximately twenty of us sat on the floor. There were 4 inches of snow outside but it wasn't snowing. I passed wind.

  BAC put me outside for 2½ hours and I was wearing short trousers. The door was shut and I had to stand there.
- Once a year we were taken to Portobello or to Port Seton for the day. We came back on the bus at night. We could paddle in the sea. We would hide eels and other things in our pockets.

  BAC wouldn't allow us to take them back but we did it anyway. It was one day out in the whole year.
- 48. I remember before I left Smyllum we went to Aberfoyle for a week. It was like staying in an army camp and we enjoyed it. This was the last year I was there. It was excellent.
- 49. I remember every Sunday we were made to go for a two hour walk which we looked forward to. We went with Sister BAH or another nun. It was not Sister Patricia because she would stay in the kitchen. It would maybe be Sister Vincent who was a good sister. We walked in rows of fours like a march

BAC

50. If you were in BAC club you had to comb the boys' hair in the morning and made sure they were tidy for school. This took place in the drill hall. The

would tell you if you got lifto his club. It was known as
"BAC club". It was a privilege to be in it. If you were in it the rest of the kids
would be a bit frightened of you. You could hit others across the ear. You could take
someone out at mealtimes and put him in the corner and BAC and Sister
BAH would hit them. I think that some of the children preferred to
hit them rather than Sister BAH
51. Once I got into the club, I was not hit as much. I was about
years old when I joined. BAC picked me.
52. There were some good points about BAC. He would sometimes
pick you for football. We played at the big park on a Sunday.
53. We got that bit extra, for example sports. If you were not in the club you had
breakfast, your dinner, tea and then went to bed. The only football would be in the
yard with a tennis ball. You could also play hide and seek. Young and old boys mixed
in the yard. We would use the nursery wall and the dining room wall as goals.
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57. I remember BAC used to make us sing war time songs. I don't know why. It was just for something to do.

Sister Patricia and Sister Anthony

- 58. Sister Patricia was the nun who worked in the kitchen. She was very good. We would hope that she was working. She was a perfect lady. She wore long rosary beads, a long habit and a wide white hat.
- 59. Sister Patricia was loved and was perfect. She worked in the kitchen. She was pleasant and kind. We would go in and there would be 8 places at each table. We were to put a slice of bread on each plate at dinner time and put out a spoon. Sister Patricia would make sure that everyone got a thick "cudger". This was a thick slice of bread. She would make sure that the slices were not too thin.
- 60. Sister Patricia wouldn't have seen what was happening in the refectory, as she was in the kitchen and made the meals. But she would have known what was happening. There was a civilian called Mary Crowe who worked with Sister Patricia. She only worked in the kitchen and didn't deal with the boys at all.
- 61. Sister Anthony was also good. She was in charge of the clothes, but she was not always on duty.

Sister BAH

- 62. I'll never get Sister out of mind. She was there the whole time I was at Smyllum. She hit you on the head and legs. We wore short trousers then. You could be hit for talking in the queue. If someone did that today they'd be charged with cruelty.
- 63. I think there has to be ex-Smyllum boys who are deaf or nearly deaf because of Sister BAH hitting them on the head. She would also do it to the younger ones who were 9 or maybe younger. She would use her open hand and you would put your head to the side and be hit. You would be hit 6 times if you were bad or maybe

twice or 4 times. You felt it all day. People got hit so hard that they sometimes they fell down. I saw that happen.

- 64. Sister BAH had a room at the bottom of the dormitory near the sinks. When the lights were out she would sit on the bed nearest her room. I swear she was kissing a guy there. His name was and he was from He was one of the older boys in Smyllum and was ready to get out. There might be other things which took place between them or others.
- There was a civilian woman. We called her the "Miss". She covered for Sister when she was on retreat. She was an employee. She was alright. I have nothing to say against her.
- Ball was good with me. She talked to me. She slapped me when I was younger, but it was usually a Ball who hit me. Once I got into Ball Club that didn't happen either.
- 67. Sister BAH would go on retreat. Another Sister would come for one day or so to cover. Sometimes they would do the same. But they weren't there for long.
- 68. I think Sister was in her thirties. She was just a little bit older than BAC I will never get Sister BAH out of my mind.

Sister Superior

- 69. The Sister Superior was in charge of the home, but she was in the offices.

  Sister BAH was in charge of the boys. You wouldn't dare to tell on Sister BAH
- 70. I only saw the Sister Superior once. They were sending children to Australia and she asked if anyone would like to go. My father didn't let us go. I wanted to, but he didn't let me.

Girls at Smyllum

71. told me things about when she was	in the girls' part of
Smyllum. The girls would get their periods and they wouldn't	know what it meant.
They were never told about periods.	de to display her bed
sheet in front of others if she had stained it. They were made to	do this so that they
wouldn't do it again and would use the necessary things. She	would have to wash
the sheet herself. I think the girls got it worse.	
72.	
became an alcoholic but I have been years sob	per. I got help from
Alcoholics Anonymous. I stayed at	lid have a slip once
when a girl I was living with left me but I got help again and I hav	e been sober since.
73. You would	get hit if you were to
dare to go to try and see the girls. We were well separated.	

# Sexual Activity

- 74. I saw sexual things at Smyllum. It was done by older boys. They would try stupid things on younger boys. There was no rape. They would try and masturbate others and there was a bit of oral sex. All of it was forced on the gullible. They couldn't do it to me because I was older. I could look after myself. The younger boys were frightened.
- did not know that this was going on. He was against anything like that. BAC once told everyone in the drill hall about an older boy who had been there before us and what he had done. BAC had made an example of him so he would never do it again. He more or less threatened us not to do sexual things like that. He was against all of that.

Medical care

70. I hever saw a doctor when I was at Shiyildin. I hever heeded any medicar
treatment after being hit at Smyllum. I broke my arm but that was my own fault and I
went to the hospital and got a stookie on it. You would go and see Sister Anthony
and she would deal with any injuries or if it was bad you went into the sanatorium at
Smyllum.
77. Several boys died in Smyllum. I remember a boy called
remember talking to him the day before he died. He died the next morning. We later
heard that he died of TB. He was in the dormitory. I have wondered why he was not
in hospital. That sister wouldn't have known if he had TB.
78. I also remember He was aged 12. He was a good guy. I
remember he was at the sanatorium in Smyllum. He died but I don't know how. If a
child died he was just taken away. We were never told anything.
school with me, so was
Bed wetting
79. I was in the big dormitory near room. Because of my age I
was moved from there and put in charge of the younger boys. I had a bed near the
door.
80. People who wet the beds were cruelly whacked.
bed. I saw and others getting slapped. I didn't like it.
81. BAC would talk to us all in the new dormitory which was called
Sacred Heart. He would tell us all about the bed wetters and that we were to shame
them. If a bed was really wet the boy had to hold up his sheet in front of the rest of
the boys.
82. There was a guy called from Dundee who wet the bed. These boys
were all lined up and were called the "wet the beds". In the morning
would ask the boys to put their hands up if they had wet the bed. They would also

have to sleep in the dirty sheets that night. I don't know what happened to the sheets after that.

83.	The bed	wetters w	ere in St Joseph's d	ormitory. In the r	morning they were		
check	ed by	BAC	They suffered for it	BAC	and Sister BAH		
shamed the kids who wet the bed.							

## Night time

- 84. At night there was a night light on all the time. Sister BAH room was at the bottom of the dormitory. Facing her was where a civilian woman slept. She was called the "Miss" and she didn't hit us.
- 85. No one checked on us at night. If you needed a toilet at night you could go yourself. You were left alone. You would never knock on the door to get the nun. They could not be seen without their habits.

### Bath time

- 86. When we had to wash, there was a stone trough and there were about 5 places at it with a curtain. There were about 4 or 5 inches of water in the trough. The trough was 1½ feet wide. The whole trough was about 5 feet long. We used the same water. Two boys went into the trough at a time. The water was mild not hot. We had to put on a very small costume to cover ourselves up. We would wash each other's back and be inspected by Sister

  BAH

  Sometimes you stood on the boards next to the trough to show Sister

  BAH

  you were washing yourself with soap. Then we would then rinse ourselves off. If you had not washed properly you were made to go back but you were not hit.

  BAC

  would usually have finished by this time unless he was working overtime.
- 87. Across from the trough was a proper bath. I had the privilege of using the bath when I had left school. I was doing manual work there before I left the home. I don't know why the proper baths were not used. No-one else used them.

88. We washed like that every evening. We went dormitory by dormitory. It took a long time. We all used the same water so if you were getting washed at the end you had to use dirty water.

## Birthdays and Christmas

- 89. If it was your birthday, you would be the only person who knew about it. Maybe you told your pal. Maybe your father and mother would send you a card but that was it. Staff didn't know about the birthdays. They didn't care because there were so many of us.
- 90. Christmas was a bit special. We got goodies like a couple of buns or custard and a bit of dumpling. Sister Patricia and Mary Crowe made these.
- 91. You only got Christmas presents if your parents sent them in. If you were an orphan you would get nothing from the staff. It was just another day but I don't think there was any slapping that day.

### Visits and reporting

- 92. When your parents came to visit they maybe give you two bob and you had to hand it in. It was a lot of money those days. Once a month Sister BAH and BAC would bring sweets in. They would take a price off of them. They were paid for out of our money. No one ever knew how much money they had left. But there were many people there who had no parents so didn't get money at all.
- 93. Mum only came to Smyllum once or twice. Dad and Mum were still together. When we were in Smyllum, they moved around as they didn't have a house.

94.		

- 95. Visiting Sunday was once a month. The room could get packed as we were all in one place. Dad managed to see us most times. He was a newspaper seller.
- 96. I didn't tell Dad what was happening in Smyllum. It was so nice to see him and we were interested in what he was giving us for example a bar of toffee. That was what was on our minds. I didn't say anything and in my case beatings were rare. Others got beaten daily. I was older. I was more focused on what he brought us like money or sweets.
- 97. I never heard of children telling their parents about Smyllum. When I was at Smyllum I didn't tell anybody how I was being treated. I never went to the police. I couldn't tell BAC because he was the one who was doing it.
- 98. I never saw any official visitors from the Corporation or anywhere else. I remember that there were some inspectors who came. The kids there were from all over Scotland, even the Islands. So inspectors would come from Glasgow and all the Glasgow children would stand in front of them. They would be asked if everything was ok and we would say yes. The same thing would happen with Ayrshire. The Ayrshire kids were brought in and would say everything was ok. This happened only occasionally. There were no individual conversations with the boys. The staff, including Sister BAH were there and could hear what was being said.
- I went to the funeral out afterwards that my mother had been in the local hospital. I could have walked to the hospital from Smyllum. She died there. I wasn't allowed by Smyllum to go to the hospital and see her. I didn't know she was in hospital.
- 100. When my mother died she was buried in Bridgeton.

101. I did consider running away from Smyllum but I was scared. I had nowhere to go and no one to come with me. I was scared of being on my own.

## Life after Smyllum

- 102. On reflection I realise that I didn't know what love was. I didn't know my parents' love. I would qualify that and say it was the same for everyone in Smyllum. It was the want of love. There was no affection in Smyllum.
- 103. I was deprived of the love of my parents and a normal life. I had to live under these regimes. Maybe this caused me to become a tough guy. I know from being sober all these years that I'm not capable of doing what I did in the past. It is not my way of thinking.
- 104. BAC comes to my mind a lot. He was a bully. It was not just me who was bullied. There were hundreds of boys there before me. I got the same as them.
- 105. I wonder if being in four different homes and not being brought up in a house with my parents led me to be the way I was. Maybe this also broke my marriage up and turned me into an alcoholic. I saw my father drinking but he wasn't an alcoholic. I was though. It was only until I went into the got sober.
- 106. When I watch TV and see pictures of children smiling at their parents, I can get emotional. It is the way the kids are looking at their dad. I think I had my chance of that and I didn't take it.
- 107. I can get past the other homes I was in, but not Smyllum. If they treated children that way today they would be charged by the police.
- 108. When I was younger I was ready to fight anyone. Any copper. Now I only have respect for the police. I don't know why I had no respect for them at the time. I

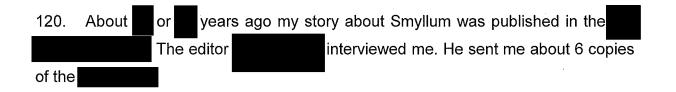
wonder whether it was all the homes. It was the way I had to live under their regimes. For example, we couldn't go to Mass with clothes unbuttoned and our shoes had to be polished in Smyllum. Otherwise you would get a slap.

109. I was an altar boy. After school I went to the refectory where the cutlery was kept. Sister BAH would be there and BAC would be outside. We darned socks and learned Latin at the same time so we knew how to answer the priest at Mass. This has never left me. I consider that a good thing because once I got sober I became spiritual because of that. That's something good that came out of Smyllum. But the treatment was bad. It would be closed down today. You'll hear similar stories from others who were there.

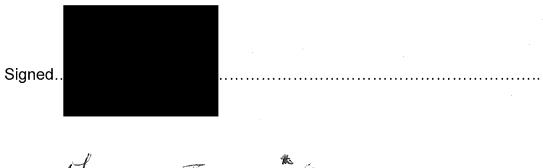


Support

- 112. I am a member of INCAS. I speak to Frank Docherty over the phone. I sent a wee donation of £20.00 once to INCAS. My contact is through Frank. He gives me information on what is going on. I admire Frank for what he does for INCAS. He sends me pictures of the members. I have known him for about 10 years.
- 113. I have never received support for what happened in my childhood. I haven't been given counselling.
- 114. I would talk about other things rather than say I had been in a children's home. Being in a children's home was something to be ashamed of and I had been in four of them.
- 115. You are the first to talk to me about what happened in Smyllum. I have also spoken to Frank Docherty. I don't tell people that I have been in a home. Now I feel that this is off my chest.
- 116. I could have had a loving family if I had had an ordinary life or upbringing. I could have had my wee girl hold me and I could have walked with my kids. I think it was being in these homes and learning their regimes that was the cause.
- 117. In Smyllum and Bellvue I was an altar boy and can quote Latin. It was a good thing. I found that the religious upbringing stayed with me despite the life I led. Since I stopped drinking I turned to spirituality. We didn't get religious instruction but I was in and out of the church all the time. I was also in Catholic schools and I said prayers. Religion has stayed with me and made me a good Celtic supporter!
- 118. I am spiritual and my parish priest visits me. There is also a lady who comes to do a service with me. If they can't visit I do a little service myself. The contact with my priest gives me help. It is so true and right and it helps me think.
- 119. Frank Docherty took me to see Smyllum to see somebody's grave. We took a trip around Smyllum as it was closed by then. I saw the front of the building. That was where we stood waiting for the visits. I have seen a picture of the memorial put up in the cemetery in Smyllum. Frank works hard for INCAS.



121. 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.



Dated Tuesday June 28 2016