

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

AEG

Support person present: YES .

Others present: Richard Souter, More & Co, solicitor for AEG
Lesley Allan, Clyde & Co, solicitor for the Daughters of Charity of St
Vincent de Paul

1. My name is AEG I was also known as Sister AEG In 1967 I became known as Sister AEG I was born on 1932. I am 84 years of age. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul

2. I joined the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1960.
3. When I first became a sister, I went to a grammar school for girls in Darlington. I was there for three and a half years.
4. I then moved from there back down to London where I did a childcare course for a year from January to December 1966 at North Western Polytechnic. It was a full-time course which involved study of the early stages of life of children from babies through their lifetime, what they would go through, and how you would deal with it. I have produced my certificate dated 2 January 1967 [Delium Reference WIT.003.001.0691].
5. After that I was placed in Smyllum. I was in Smyllum from 1967 until it closed in 1981. The children moved out in 1981, but I did not leave until 1982. I did not

apply to go to Smyllum, but I did want to work with children and was asked to go. There was no interview or official introduction. I am not aware of there being any checking processes about working with children. There was a liaison between London and Smyllum, and I suppose it was taken if you had done the course you should have an idea of what you were in for.

Smyllum

First impressions

6. My impression when I went to Smyllum was that it was a big open place with plenty of space all around. There was a great warmth about the place. All you could hear was children's voices, out playing, climbing trees or whatever. It was a really happy place. All the years I was there it was really happy.

Layout of Smyllum

7. There was the main building in which there were three different groups or houses of children, plus another group that was attached to the main building. Outside there were two houses on their own, so at that time there were six groups of children. Then in a short time we went to five, being three in the main house and two outside.
8. The houses had names. St Kentigern's was mainly boys, and then there was Ogilvie House, St. Mary's, Holy Angels, St. Joseph's and Roncalli.

The children at Smyllum

9. Smyllum had boys and girls. The age range was from tiny babies in their earliest days to age 16 or 17. When I went, there were the six groups and normally there was up to about 20 children in a group. Everybody was different. Some of the children were there for years. In the house I was in, the children were "long-stay". Usually there were families. I remember one family of five and their mother had died, so they were really quite young and they would be there four to five years.

Management structure and staff

10. Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] was in charge of all of Smyllum. Next in charge would be all the sisters who were in charge of the houses. They were all under her. There was no other person like a depute. Although there was a Sister [REDACTED] BAF [REDACTED] and you could say maybe she was a deputy. She hadn't anything to do with the children.
11. The sisters in charge of the children were Sisters [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED], [REDACTED] AHN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ADE [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] AHO [REDACTED]
12. There was also a kitchen sister, a sister doing the dining rooms and that was it in the main house. Sister [REDACTED] was in the kitchen. Sister [REDACTED] was in the dining room. Sister [REDACTED] FAM [REDACTED] was the nurse.
13. There were staff who weren't sisters. Normally each group would have three. Two would be on all the time. They did childcare work. They helped with the children. The staff usually did the washing.
14. I remember the names of my own staff who were [REDACTED] AGR [REDACTED] Anne McGarrigle and [REDACTED] FBN [REDACTED]. These are the ones that were there the longest. I can't remember other names. The staff could go to Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] with anything and they would have meetings and she would be with them.

My role in Smyllum

15. I went to a group of boys and girls in Roncalli. Roncalli was out in the grounds of Smyllum. The sister that was already in the group was moving on. I replaced her and just took over the group then. I was not given training. I worked with the staff in doing things. We looked after a group of children. My duties were the same as the staff. I was just as involved in the washing and looking after the house.
16. As for training, while we were there, we were always encouraged to go to childcare meetings and conferences and things. I would go to these meetings, and sometimes there would be one in our house. Social work organised them. These arrangements

weren't really the same throughout my time at Smyllum, but I don't know how I could explain. I mean at the beginning as childcare in itself moved on, you went along with it, because you were going to these meetings and getting the knowledge of them and trying to work it in.

Children's routine and life at Smyllum

Admission

17. When children were admitted to Smyllum, they'd just come to whatever group they were assigned to. Sister [REDACTED] EAL would meet them and she would send for me, if it was me, and I would go and meet the children and then bring them to the house. The social worker would come with them and I just kind of introduced them to the other children. We had no knowledge of anything that had happened to an awful lot of the children that came. None of the children had any difficulty coming in because most of them had been in other children's homes.
18. The new children were kind of protected from a lot. The staff always watched and minded new children. Then very often they made their own friends very easily and they would be away off.
19. The children got up in the morning at about quarter to eight. They got washed and dressed and came down for breakfast. They were then off to school immediately if it was school term. If it was school holidays they were a bit later, and there was no rush. They came back for their lunch and then they were hardly in school and they were back down again. Just the normal every day.

Mealtimes

20. We ate in the dining room in our house. The food at Smyllum was very good. We had a great butcher. He came from the town. We had the best of food and it was varied. The children liked mince for instance. There was always mince and sausages

and bacon. We couldn't always afford it but we tried to have meat on a Sunday to make it special. They had good food at all the meals.

21. If the children didn't like their meal, they were left with it for a bit, but not after dinner time. They would just try and have a little bit of it, which was alright and then it would be taken from them.

Bedtime

22. Roncalli being a house, the children had bedrooms. Some of the big rooms were divided. Up the stairs from the kitchen there was one bedroom. Next to that we had three beds in the room, one beyond that again, and then we were up a step into the boys' bedroom. That was the biggest bedroom and they had five or six beds in that room. Then there was a smaller room with three beds, and another single room. We used to try and give the older ones the single rooms.
23. The children's bedrooms had just the usual bedroom furniture. The children had drawers and the wardrobe to keep their own belongings.
24. One of the biggish rooms was divided into two little rooms and a bigger one. I slept in one of these, so the children were just outside the door. The staff also lived in the house.
25. We always had bedwetters, but they were no problem at all. In our house, being on its own, we had our own facilities, a washing machine, so it wasn't a problem. The procedure was just that we folded up the sheets or rolled them up and took them downstairs. We always left them in a big sink for the staff to do when the children had gone to school. The children were free to get up in the night if they needed to.

Washing and bathing

26. The children didn't have a bath every night, but they all got washed thoroughly. You couldn't wash so many in a bath in a night, but they all got washed. We had a washroom and a few sinks, toilets and baths.

Clothes

27. The children didn't wear a uniform. In our own school there wasn't really a uniform laid down, but when they moved on down to the primary school outside of Smyllum, they had a uniform there. We bought the children's clothes and the staff and I washed and ironed them. The children had their own clothes, and they weren't shared.

Personal possessions

28. The children had their own belongings including toys.
29. They had pocket money every Saturday. They didn't get all the same amount. The older children got more. They all got it at the same time.
30. If a family member gave them money, the children usually would come to me or one of the staff, whoever was around at the time and it would be kept then. They would give it over to me and it would be kept for them for whatever way they wanted to spend it.

Work

31. The only work the children ever did was they might tidy their room at the weekend. That would be it. The children didn't believe in work! They might help lay the table or wash the dishes but that's as far as it would go.

Leisure time

32. The children had plenty of leisure time. They had swings and roundabouts and then you had the fields. The boys played football and they were always down the field with a football. Others would be climbing trees. This is ordinary time after school. The children were always out and round about chasing one another or something.

33. The children had access to television and radio. They had toys and games to play with. Smyllum didn't have a library, but the staff could take the children to the library in Lanark. They were encouraged to read, but in the summer they would rather be out playing.
34. On usually a Saturday they would go down town. There would always be one staff member at least, but they wouldn't have that many children with them. It would only be a certain age who wanted to go down. They would be able to spend their pocket money, and sweets was the first thing.

Trips and holidays

35. We had our summer holiday. We went away for two weeks in summer. The children went down to Holy Island for two weeks for two years, and then we went to St. Andrews a few years.
36. We didn't have organised sporting activities other than school activities, but we always had a gala day out. This was usually the second Thursday in June. The children would be on a lorry or floats.

Christmas and birthdays

37. We had a lovely Christmas. The children always of course had a list like any child would have a list. One Christmas, we didn't take the children to the midnight mass, except some of the bigger ones that wanted to go. Most of the young ones, they didn't go. Then we had our mass in the morning in our own church. We used to leave all the presents until after mass and then they would come home. As you can imagine they were as happy as could be. We even parcelled up dog food. We had a dog and he would have his Christmas as well.
38. Children's birthdays were always celebrated. They always had a party and brought in whoever from the other houses they wanted

Schooling

39. The children went to nursery and school in Smyllum for the early years, and then they went to St Mary's junior school in Lanark. The staff in the two schools were usually in touch even if it was for a child being in trouble.
40. The staff in the school in Smyllum were ordinary lay teachers. I remember there was Mrs AEW and then they had Ms Sweeney, Ms [REDACTED] Mrs FBL and another lady but I can't remember her name.
41. The children got homework which they usually did in the dining room in the house.
42. I don't remember there being anything specific that was taught to children to equip them for adult life.

Healthcare

43. If the children had any health problems, we had a nurse, Sister FAM and a Dr Allan who came every week from Lanark. If children needed to be seen in between his visits we brought them to his surgery in Lanark. If they ever needed to go to hospital, it would be Law Hospital.
44. Normally the children had a health check maybe once a year or something like that. Dr Allan again would do that.
45. The children also saw a dentist in the town, but I can't remember his name.

Deaths

46. I remember there was a child living at Smyllum who died during the time I was there. This was a girl called Patricia. She was the only one.

47. Patricia came in from her last school in Gallowgate in Glasgow. She wasn't attending school because she was out the window looking at what was going on the street the whole night. This is what I was told anyway. So, we were asked to take her for a little while. She came to Smyllum. She was in maybe a couple of months and she had this letter from her mum. Her dad had died, so it was just her mum, her brother and herself. She had this letter from her mum who she said she was coming at the weekend. However, the weekend came and no mum came. She was terribly upset. She got the letter, screwed it up and threw it in the basket. She went down to see her friend downstairs and they went away. They were going to walk to Glasgow. So they set out, decided to run away. They were on the Lanark top road. There's no pavements. It was dark and she was knocked down. She was hit on the head with the wing mirror.
48. She was taken to Law Hospital and then she was taken to Killearn as it was at the time. We went in the car and followed the ambulance out. She was very bad and she had major surgery. They said that we would have to leave her for a couple of hours or something and go back in again. However she died. That was really quite sad because she really had no home life. I was speaking to the mother and the mother was a wee lady in poor health. She was always in and out of hospital. They had nothing. Really, they had nothing. Patricia was brought home to her own home in Gallowgate. There wasn't even linoleum on the floor. It was just a bare room. When you look at the difference coming out of that into Smyllum, where they really had everything they wanted, but still home is home. It was a very sad funeral. The day of the funeral we went into Glasgow. She was buried in Dalbeth, I think it was St. Peter's you call it.
49. It was sad really because the children had to work through that as well you know. So we had to do a lot of talking, trying to help them through it. They were very good I must say.
50. With regards to procedures if a child died, the social worker would be contacted first of all, and then the families.

51. We always heard that the children from Smyllum were buried in St Mary's in Lanark, but I never experienced anything about that.

Religious instruction

52. The children got religious instruction at school. At home, the group I was in were funny really. Some nights after supper they'd say "What are we going to do?" and they would sit up and have a discussion. They would start telling you all the things that happened at home, some horrific, some terrible, but that was their choice to have a discussion.
53. They would say their prayers in the morning when they got up and off to school, and grace when they were having their dinner. It was just the usual, you know. We all went to our own church in Smyllum on a Sunday. That was the only day that children would really come other than they might have an evening benediction on a Sunday. That wasn't every Sunday. Some of them couldn't be found when it was time.
54. I don't think they would be forced to go with their arm up their back if they didn't want to, but I never experienced it.
55. We did have children of other faiths than Roman Catholic at Smyllum, but there weren't many and they were just tiny. We didn't have anything for the little ones. There was a minister that used to come up to the house. He was from the local church, the Church of Scotland.

Visitors

56. Some children had parents who visited. Some didn't and it was just the social worker. Visitors could come at any time and would see the child as long as they weren't in school.

57. There was a small sitting room where they had a television and that normally was where they would go. They weren't pinned down anywhere. They could be in the big sitting room and then sometimes they would take them out down town.
58. There was no formal visitors book. I used to keep it in a book but I just got rid of everything when we left Smyllum. I always had a big diary where if anything happened in the day to whoever, I'd just write it down.

Inspections

59. I remember the man who was the head of social work in Glasgow who came out. He was out a couple of times but it wasn't really for an inspection. It was just a friendly visit. I don't really remember any inspections, other than the firemen who came.
60. Social workers visited. Some were better than others, as always. A good social worker might come out once a month, but then some might come once in the time the child was there, or not come at all. They would speak to the child or their family. They would speak to them on their own. The social workers would speak to me too. They only really asked how the children were, how they were settling and if there was anything to be said about the family home, if there was one, and if the family had been in touch with them.
61. I don't remember anyone else visiting or inspecting.

Review of care

62. I am not aware of there being any procedure within Smyllum to review a child's continued residence at Smyllum. Usually we would talk like that if the social worker had come out, because I think they were the only ones that would have been in touch with the families.

Families

63. If siblings could stay together they would be together in Smyllum. It would depend on what vacancies would be in what group or what house. Although siblings might be in different houses, they weren't separated finally. All the children were out together and saw each other even if they were living in separate houses.
64. Some children would keep in touch with family by writing home or phoning. Some family members phoned in to children on a few occasions, but not many of them.

Access to the children at Smyllum

65. Mainly the sisters and staff from their own group had unsupervised access to children at Smyllum.
66. The children were also visited by their school friends.
67. We had some priesthood students that used to come in the summer time and they would they would go and see the staff and the children.
68. People from the local community in Lanark did not really come to Smyllum other than the ones who were working there.
69. I am asked whether there were any arrangements to check whether people who had contact with the children were suitable. There would need to be. For instance, some people would take maybe one or two children at weekends. They would be in touch with the sister in the group and then it would have to go to Sister EAL Then normally it would be the parish priest who would be contacted to recommend them.

Discharge from Smyllum

70. It was very simple when a child was discharged from Smyllum. Of course the social worker would have to be notified and it would depend, I suppose, if they were leaving care. There would then be another social worker from wherever they were going and they then got in touch with them. The children that left me normally went back to family. So they would have been visiting their family any way during this time. They'd be going home for holidays and that sort of thing.
71. I only had a situation where a child was moving to another care setting at the end of Smyllum. I used to go to the other home and take the child and just show them where they were coming to and what it would be like. They would meet the children and the people who would be looking after them.
72. When a child was leaving care as a young adult and not returning to their family, we had a hostel in Glasgow for the boys and one for the girls. If there was no home setting, they often went to the hostel and it would just be an on-going thing because the sisters in the hostel knew the children that would be going. We always made sure that children had a place to go to. I was never involved in finding jobs or training.

Discipline and punishment

73. I don't remember anything about punishment, not even the word. If something had gone wrong seriously, usually we would have a long talk with staff and then with the child. The child then would be maybe kept from seeing his television programme and have to tidy up the cloakroom, or do the shoes or something like that. I wasn't aware of any written or unwritten rules about either conduct or punishment.
74. The type of behaviour that resulted in a child being deprived of television or having to clear out the cloak room could be anything from fighting or maybe one of them pretending to run away. There were no big disasters. Anyway, when they'd come back they may be deprived of television, their books that they'd be reading and they

had to do wee jobs. I really didn't know of any child being physically disciplined. I don't really know how they did it in the other houses because I am sure everybody's different. There was no overall policy that I was aware of.

75. I'm not aware of any records being kept about discipline or any punishment book.

Abuse - general

76. I never saw any behaviour towards a child at Smyllum that I consider was abuse. I never saw any behaviour towards a child there that caused me concern. I really didn't. I never saw it. I never knew or heard of anything like that.
77. I would have thought that hitting a child with a belt or a cane would have been abusive.
78. I would not have punished a child for bedwetting or point to them and bring attention to them. If someone had done that, I don't know about it being abusive, but it would be wrong.
79. I was not aware if any child needing medical attention because they had been hit.
80. If a child had wanted to complain about you, they would probably have gone to Sister EAL I didn't hear of any child complaining to Sister EAL to my knowledge.

Specific allegations of abuse against

AEG

June Smith

81. I have been asked about allegations of abuse made about me by someone called June Smith. I am told that she was born on [REDACTED] 1965 and was in Smyllum from 1969 to 1981. I am told that she was in Roncalli house when I was in charge there.

82. I do not know the name June Smith. There was only one June and she was June Miller. That was the only June we had. I wonder whether Smith might be a married name.

83.



84. I have been told that June Smith has said that she wet the bed on a regular basis until she was fifteen; that when she wet the bed, I pulled her out of the bed; I dug my knuckles into the top of her head; put her in a cold bath and threw liquid disinfectant over her which made her skin red, and stood over her throughout the bath.

85. I know nothing about that either in relation to the June Miller that I knew or anyone else.

86. I have been told that June Smith says that she was made to strip the bed, wash the sheets and hang them out so everyone knew that she had wet the bed.

87. That never happened anywhere.

88. I have been told that June Smith has said that there was a time when she went on holiday to Holy Island and she bed- wet there; that I threw her into the shower and I made the staff there watch her and she didn't have any clothes on, and I was laughing at her.

89. I don't know any of it either in relation to June Smith or anyone else.

90. I have been told that June Smith has said that I made her say the rosary twenty times to stop her bedwetting.

91. That is definitely wrong.

92. I have been told that June Smith has said that older children gave her a pill for bedwetting and the older children would hit her if she didn't take it.
93. That is ridiculous. I didn't know of any children being given pills for bedwetting. The June Miller that I knew did wet the bed, but she wasn't with me until she was fifteen. I don't ever remember having to punish her or her misbehaving. She was a funny wee character you know, comical, but she never had that problem. I have never behaved in an abusive way to a girl called June.
94. I have been told that June Smith has said that I hit her for reading in bed.
95. That is a tale. That's not true.
96. I have been told that June Smith has said that I forgot her birthday and when she told me I forgot her birthday, I "battered" her.
97. No. This did not happen.
98. I have been told that June Smith has said that I took her personal possessions from her, her chain and her alarm clock.
99. Never, I don't even remember any of them having an alarm clock. This is definitely not something I would even have done for misbehaving.
100. I have told that June Smith has said that another child made her get into bed with the other child and when I found her in there I hit her.
101. That's not true. It never happened.
102. I have been told that June Smith has said that I locked her outside and she had to stand on the porch until 11:30 at night and it was cold and dark.
103. That's not true at all. Not a bit of it. That would never be done.

104. I have been told that June Smith has said that I hit her with a clothes brush and belt.

105. I definitely didn't.

106. I have been told that June Smith has said that a member of staff hid her glasses and when she couldn't find them, I blamed her and I slapped her and pulled her hair.

107. That's not true and the strange thing is the June that I had, she wore glasses. But June Miller was up to see me not long ago. She came up last year on Lanimers day in Lanark.

I have a photograph of us together.

108. I have been told that June Smith has said that I battered another girl called [REDACTED] with a belt and kicked her up and down the hall and pulled her hair because [REDACTED] had allowed the bath to run over.

109. I don't remember that. I don't remember any time when the bath ran over.

110. I have been told that June Smith has said that [REDACTED] and that I must have been listening in as she got hit for talking about it on the phone.

111. This did not happen.

112. I have been told that June Smith has said that I hit a boy for trying to tell a social worker about being badly treated.

113. I don't remember any of these things ever happening. I have not hit a child at all.

- [REDACTED]
114. I have been asked about allegations of abuse made about by [REDACTED] am told that she was born on [REDACTED] 1965 and was in Smyllum from 1969 to 1981.
115. I remember [REDACTED] There was three of them who came in, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was the eldest, [REDACTED] was only ten months and I can't remember what age [REDACTED] was. [REDACTED] was a great girl. She was like an old granny, always fussing about the smallest one. If there was a baby, [REDACTED] would be with the baby doing all for it. Well, she thought she was, but she was a good girl. [REDACTED] wasn't with us at the end when Smyllum closed in 1981. She went into the girl's hostel.
116. Maybe I shouldn't be commenting here, but she was in [REDACTED] When I heard she was there, I really felt sorry for her. I wrote to her there and I said in the letter "If you want to contact me you know where I am and if you don't that's alright, I understand". She didn't contact me, but that was some years ago now, in about 1998 I think.
117. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is the nun that she remembers being most cruel. I am told that this might be me. I am told that [REDACTED] said that she was beaten with a clothes brush when in Smyllum.
118. I am unaware of [REDACTED] being beaten with a clothes brush.
119. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was put in a cold bath for wetting the bed.
120. [REDACTED] never wet the bed.

121. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was punched in the face and slapped by the nun with anything that the nun had in her hand. I am told that she might be referring to me.
122. No, this did not happen. [REDACTED] really was a good girl too. She was very good. She was very good in the house. If somebody wasn't very well, she would be around them. I remember a wee while after she left us. She had a child and she lived near Rutherglen. It was her 21st birthday and I thought I must give her a surprise, so I went to see her. I was going elsewhere but I went in on the way and she wasn't there. She was at the dentist, and it was her friend that was minding the child. After that there was just the youngest sister, [REDACTED] was always on the phone to me and she said "I had a surprise, [REDACTED] visited". [REDACTED] never really took [REDACTED] on as a baby. She didn't have anything to do with her, but she came to see her. That's years ago [REDACTED] forty-five now. I'm still in touch with [REDACTED] The last time I was in touch with her was about the beginning of September this year.
123. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was sexually abused by older children in Smyllum, and that the nuns knew about this, but instead of helping her she got battered and was made to feel dirty.
124. That definitely never, ever happened.
125. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said she was made to eat lumpy, salty porridge and lumpy custard.
126. They had very good food. There was no lumps and bumps.
127. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that at the age of ten she was made to wash clothes and polish shoes for thirty children.
128. That's definitely wrong. She was rather on the lazy side about that kind of thing.
129. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was battered for taking her periods at eleven and making a mess of the sheets.

130. Nothing is true.

131. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was battered for the least wee thing, having lice or making a noise eating her dinner.

132. Not at all. That is so ridiculous.

[REDACTED]

133. I have been asked about allegations of abuse made by someone called [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have been told that he was in Smyllum from 1969 to 1980. I have been told that he has said that I was the most cruel nun. I have been told that he has made allegations about the way he was treated in Smyllum and some of these allegations might relate to me as he was in my care.

134. I remember [REDACTED] He put a stamp on his life. He was a loner. The other boys were all fond of football and they would go out, but he would never go to football with them. He was always pottering about outside. He was one who ran away a couple of times. One of the times he ran away, he was down in the yard for the council workers where they had all the machinery. Seemingly, he was in and out of tractors and everything. We were always chasing after [REDACTED] He was into everything. When he left, he was on the phone every day. Then it was every couple of days he would phone. He was always on the phone. He moved down to Stoke on Trent and then eventually he met his girlfriend. He told me all about her. They got married and he sent the wedding photographs which I still have, but I haven't heard from him now for quite some time.

135. I am unaware of anyone behaving in an abusive way to him at Smyllum. I couldn't see any abuse.

136. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that children were not allowed to drink after tea if they were a bed-wetter.

137. No, that did not happen.

138. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that he was beaten for bedwetting.

139. He never was beaten at any time for bedwetting. Bedwetting was just something that came with every day.

140. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that wet sheets were wrapped around him and children who bed-wet, and that they had to wear them so everyone saw that they were bedwetting.

141. That never happened.

142. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that he had the Catholic religion forced upon him and he was baptised a Catholic without his parent's consent.

143. No. I don't remember him being baptised. I don't think he was baptised here.

144. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that when his parents tried to visit him they weren't allowed to see him, and then they were banned from coming to see him, which he thinks is because they were Protestant.

145. The father never visited. The mother visited and she was really a poor soul. If he thought that she had sweets, he would go and sit beside her, but he didn't bother much. Another time he might be with her all the time. He used to come and go, but they practically never saw their father, and the mother's visits weren't regular.

146. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that he was told that his mother had died when in fact she was alive for another two years.

147. No, the mother died and they had another sister who at the time was going to [REDACTED] When the mother died, one of the sister's support workers came with her for the mother's funeral or cremation as it was in Daldowie. They got to Daldowie

and there was Mrs [REDACTED] It turned out that they were in the wrong cremation. It was a different Mrs [REDACTED] altogether that was getting cremated there. By the time they got to the other one, it was all over. [REDACTED] was asked did she want to go, she said no, and [REDACTED] wouldn't go. I don't know whether maybe [REDACTED] had something to do with it, because she was very much against it. When the mother came she never had anything to do with her, only [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

148. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that a child was beaten who had threatened to say that she was being abused or being mistreated.

149. I don't know about that.

150. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that children were forced to appear happy in front of third parties or the police and would be beaten if they tried to say that they were being mistreated.

151. That's definitely not true.

152. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that that on one occasion he was made to eat cigarettes because he had been found smoking.

153. Not at all. There would be someone there ready to grab the cigarettes I would say, rather than let him eat them.

154. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that there was an occasion when he was told that he was being given a present, and he got excited about getting a present, then he was given a bath plug, and the purpose was to humiliate him.

155. I never knew about that.

156. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that children were slapped and their hair was pulled if they were too long in the bath.

157. Not at all.

158. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that at one stage he was hit with a pool cue although it is not clear who hit him.

159. No, or where we got it from. There wasn't a pool table in the house. There was one in Ogilvie House. I'm just thinking maybe the boys went over there to play.

160. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that Christmas and birthday gifts were removed from children, and they weren't allowed to keep them.

161. No. they always kept their own presents.

162. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that he was beaten for being sick in his bed overnight.

163. That's something that wouldn't happen.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

164. I am told that the Inquiry has information to the effect that I was charged previously with various offences alleged to have been committed between 1967 and 1971 against two brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

165. It was only one, not the two. It was just the wee one, [REDACTED] I don't know if he was two when he came in. The mother had gone and left the dad with them. He couldn't look after them so we had them. There's not an awful lot, because he was such a wee tiny tot. I can't remember the dates he was in Smyllum, but I do have some photographs of him.

166. I remember there was a long letter read to me about what I was supposed to have done, like locking him in a cupboard and things. We did have the cupboard at the back door. That was true, but everything else was a story.

167. In relation to all the above allegations, I have been asked whether the passage of time might have affected my recollection of events. If these things happened in my house, I would be aware of it. I couldn't say why they have put all this down, because it definitely never happened.

AAT

168. I have been asked about allegations of abuse made about Sister AEG by someone called AAT. I am told that he was born in 1959, and was in Smyllum from 1961 to 1976. I am told that he was in Roncalli House when Sister AEG was in charge there, and that I am the Sister AEG to whom he refers.

169. He was the youngest in a family of five children. He was a spoiled wee boy. At the time, there was no big deal with him. He just settled in and got on with the others. I have photographs of him.

170. I have been told that AAT has said that the entire time he was at Smyllum he lived in fear of me and what I was going to do next.

171. Not at all, no.

172. I have been told that AAT has said that when checking for head lice each week, I ran a steel comb through his hair so roughly that it caused his head to bleed.

173. I've never known anyone's head to bleed.

174. I have been told that AAT has said that I would bath the whole of Roncalli House in the same tub of bathwater. If a child was at the head of the queue, the water would be scalding hot, and if a child was at the back of the queue, the water was cold and filthy, and the children had to use carbolic soap.

175. There was never any day that all the children would be bathed. The boys had their own bathroom and the girls had their bathroom. They had different nights for their bath to make sure that they all did get one.
176. I have been told that [REDACTED] AAT [REDACTED] has said that I was the cruellest person, and I regularly hit and slapped him; and that I kept a brush in the sleeve of my uniform which I used to hit him.
177. I never heard of that one. I don't know how I would go about with a brush up my sleeve.
178. I have been told that [REDACTED] AAT [REDACTED] has said that after he and a child called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ran away, they got "a doing" from me to teach them never to run away again.
179. I never remember him running away or [REDACTED]
180. I have been told that [REDACTED] AAT [REDACTED] has said that I would inspect the cleaning that he did in the morning, and that it was his job to clean the launderette floor; and if I discovered even a spot of dirt, I hit him as a punishment.
181. They never did much work. We had domestic staff to do the housework. The only time the children did work was at the weekends when they might tidy up their room, but that was it.
182. I have been told that [REDACTED] AAT [REDACTED] has said that he had water blisters on his skin from being badly sunburnt when on holiday in Girvan; and that he must have done something wrong because I "set about" him and the beating I gave him burst all the water blisters.
183. I never remember anything of that.
184. I have been told that [REDACTED] AAT [REDACTED] has said that the worst beating he ever got from me was when he was eleven years old and had broken a light by throwing a pillow. I have been told that he has said that he was crying before I entered the room, that I

took him to the laundry, made him strip naked and stand for about three hours; ground my heels into his feet; and then took the brush out of my habit and set about him. I have been told that he has said that I used to have a system of hitting where I would strike at his elbows, then his head and then his body; that when he tried to defend himself, I hit where he was exposed. I have been told that he has said that on this occasion he pushed me back; that I told him he should never have touched me and I went on a frenzied attack; that I was so angry I was sweating with the amount of effort I was using.

185. That is so outlandish. It is definitely not true.

186. I have been told that [AAT] has said that he had limited or no contact with his siblings; and that the only time he had dealings with his sister [] was when she visited him in hospital after he was seriously attacked by me.

187. The thing was that he was living with his siblings in the same group. He had one other sister, [] who was living in Sister [AGD] group. That was only because we didn't have one extra bed in our group. He had one brother and two sisters in the same group as himself. I have photographs of [AAT] and his siblings together. I don't remember him being in hospital and he definitely was not in hospital due to being beaten.

Allegations against members of staff

[BAC]

188. [BAC] [BAC] used to take the football team at one time. That's all I know of [BAC] He was just there every day.

189. I never saw [BAC] with the children. I never saw him discipline or punish the children. I have been told that it has been said that he hit a child with a belt called "Lochgelly". I can't understand that. I've never heard of a belt called "Lochgelly".

190. I have been told that it has been said that he was a violent man and was violent towards the children. In my time, I never saw [BAC] violent to any of the children. He might have shouted at them or something, but I never saw him lift his hand.

Miss [IAQ]

191. I have been told that that a member of staff called Miss [IAQ] is alleged to have severely beat the children including with a belt, and a child lost consciousness. I don't know where that name came from. I can't remember that name at all.

Brian Dailey

192. I remember Brain Dailey. He was just a young man from the town. He would have been about thirty. He used to come up, but he was never in our house. He more or less was in the boys, St Kentigern's. He took them out for walks and kicked the ball with them or whatever. It was only now and then he would come up. He wasn't ever employed.

193. I have been told that it has been said that he was cruel to children. I never heard of it.

Miss [ACV]

194. I have been asked about Miss [ACV] She was in Sister [AGD] group, that is [AGD] group. Her surname was [] I don't know if that was her own name or her married name. I don't remember much about her. She was a very good worker to have in the group. She was a kind, generous person. I only saw her working with her own children. I wouldn't really have anything to do with her at all.

195. I have been told that it has been said that Miss [ACV] bullied the children. I couldn't really see her do that. I wouldn't have known her to do that.

Unnamed member of staff

196. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that a female member of staff forced him to touch her in an inappropriate way when she was in the bath. The staff bathrooms were not where the children were. The staff had their own bathroom and bedrooms.

Allegations against other sisters

Sister [REDACTED] AGD (Sister [REDACTED] AGD

197. I have been asked about [REDACTED] AGD Her name was Sister [REDACTED] AGD when she came to Smyllum, I don't know of any other names. She was the sister in charge of St. Mary's which was in the main building. There were mainly girls in that group, but there might have been a couple of small boys. She was always a happy and cheery person. I just saw her around and about with the children, walking about or playing with them. She was good to the children. I never saw her punish the children.

198. I have been told that it has been said that a girl was hit by a car after running away with a child in Sister [REDACTED] AGD care because they could not take it anymore. I have already said what happened about the girl, Patricia, who was run over. She was on the road at that time at night because of the letter from her mum who then didn't come to see her.

199. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AGD may have been involved in forcing a child to eat inedible food and drink sour milk. I wouldn't think that would ever happen.

200. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AGD gave a child, who refused to eat, the same meal at a later meal until the food was eaten, and sometimes force fed a child. I don't think so. I never saw any if it or heard of it.

201. I have been told that it has been said Sister AGD may have forced children to share cold and dirty bath water with twenty other children. There was no need for that. No. I don't think she would do that.
202. I have been told that it has been said that children in Sister AGD care were beaten with various instruments including a cane and a broom handle; one sibling was forced to watch while another sibling was beaten; and a child was hit with a wooden coat hanger, a clothes brush and a heavy metal spoon. No, I never saw or heard of it. I don't see that as true.
203. I have been told that it has been said that Sister AGD may have been involved in washing a child's hair with Jeyes fluid and used carbolic soap to wash her body. I can't say any of that would happen.
204. I have been told that it has been said that when a child in Sister AGD care wet the bed, wet sheets were placed around the child and the child was made to put wet underwear on her head. I'm not aware of that.
205. I have been told that it has been said that Sister AGD may have been a sister who hit a child's head repeatedly whilst washing her hair. That would never happen, no.
206. I have been told that it has been said that children in Sister AGD care had to sit on sailors' knees and give them a kiss and a cuddle, and if a child refused, they were beaten. We did see sailors. We went out to the Gareloch, to the submarine called Neptune. They were American sailors. They used to come to Smyllum on Guy Fawkes days and things like that, and bring sparklers. At Christmas they invited us through to the submarines. None of the children would ever have to sit on their knees.
207. I have been told that it has been said that children were told that siblings in Smyllum were in prison. I never heard that one.

208. I have been told that it has been said that a child was forced to kiss Sister [AGD] feet every day. No, never.

209. I have been told that it has been said that girls were told that periods were dirty. I don't know. It would be more likely that we would try to be quiet about it rather than make a scene about it.

210. I have been told that it has been said that a child in Sister [AGD] care was forced to wear shoes which were two sizes too big. I've never heard of that one either.

211. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AGD] allowed other members of staff to abuse children. That wouldn't be done.

Sister [EAC]

212. I have been asked about Sister [EAC] She wasn't known by any other name. [EAC] had one of the houses on its own, Ogilvie House. It is quite difficult to answer for somebody in a different house, because you were in your house and you were working round there all day. When we as young sisters were together, we always had fun and laughed about things that the children would say that were funny. [EAC] was a nice sister.

213. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [EAC] slapped children across the face and arms. I wouldn't think so. I didn't see that. I could never imagine her even to do these things.

Father [ADC]

214. I am asked about a Father [ADC] To my knowledge there has never been a Father [ADC] at Smyllum.

215. I have been told that it has been said that Father [ADC] sexually assaulted a six or seven year old boy in the book room, and that he forced a child to masturbate. I don't know about this. I didn't even know we had a book room.

Father ADB

216. I am asked about a Father ADB I don't know a ADB

217. I have been told that it has been said that Father ADB conducted mass at Smyllum and abused children. No. The only time children would be at mass would be Sunday, and we would all be there and we would all leave.

Allegations about the regime at Smyllum

218. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved children being lined up and selected for beatings; children being beaten for bedwetting; a male member of staff being instructed to beat male children with a belt; children being beaten by sisters and staff, and the beatings included slapping, punching, kicking and using a cane. I have never heard of any of that.

219. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved putting wet sheets around a child's neck after bedwetting and making that child walk up and down the dormitory; being given inedible food; force-feeding children if they refused to eat; making children eat their own vomit; locking a child in a cupboard; placing children in shared cold baths, and allowing children to abuse each other. I have never seen or heard of any of that. There was always plenty of hot water for baths.

220. I have been told that it has been said that a child was placed on a nun's breasts, and other children were tied to the bed and their mouths taped. I have never heard of that either.

221. I am asked why people would make these allegations if none of that happened at Smyllum. I really don't know. I think it would be abuse if it did happen.

Prior Statements

222. I am asked whether I have given any statements before about my time at Smyllum. I gave a statement recently to Clyde & Co, solicitors who act for the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. Before that, the only time I gave a statement was to the police in Helen Street, Govan, about the [REDACTED] child. It must have been ten or eleven years ago.

223. As well as the allegation about locking a child in the cupboard, I think he said something about putting his hand on the cooker and burning his hand. The police man just told me that he had to do this because it had come from another police station down south. He said he was really only reading it to me. He said there was nothing to be done and there was nothing against me.

Reporting of abuse

224. If a child had any concerns, they could go very easily to Sister [REDACTED] EAL or one of their teachers or one of the priests. I am not aware of children ever raising concerns. I never had any concerns about the care of the children. If I had, I would have gone to Sister [REDACTED] EAL

225. Other than what I have already said, I am not aware of any of the behaviour discussed today being reported to the police, except when [REDACTED] ran away and made such a mess of the county yard. That was when him and another boy went away one night. They went into the county yard where they hold all the big tractors and stuff. They went quite mad, breaking all the windows. That was the only thing.

Records

226. I don't think there was much record keeping. Individuals might have kept books, but on the whole, I don't think there was any record keeping. I kept a book which was

just something I did. If children had gone for a weekend, or were getting visits from their family or social worker, or something like that, I would write it down. I think they were just thrown away when we closed the house.

227. I don't remember anything about admission records on the whole, Sometimes we never got anything with the children when they came in, or sometimes we would get a paper from the social work. It was just their name and date of birth and the reason why they were here. I think we kept our own. I can't remember what happened to these records when a child left. I think they would have all been there until the end, and then in a big clearance things were put out that you wished you hadn't.

228. I don't remember any care plans for the children, or records about a child leaving Smyllum. There would just be whatever wee bit you had yourself about where they went and if there was a follow-up. Sometimes there was no follow-up.

229. I don't remember there being a punishment book or visitors books or inspection records. I can't remember keeping records about money children had been given other than just putting it away for them.

230. There were health records. It wasn't in a big scale but the children had a medical record. They'd be in your own house in the files that you had for your own children. The records were paper. The medical records were different, stronger paper. I don't know what happened to the medical records when a child left.

Closing thoughts

231. I have been asked that given all the allegations of abuse at Smyllum, if there was such abuse, whether I can explain why I wouldn't have been aware of it. I think the only way I could have been aware is from the children telling one another. It might come round that way. They might not have told the sisters, but they very often did speak to the sisters.

232. I have been asked why I think the Inquiry has received a lot of information about the effect on people's lives of their experiences of abuse at Smyllum, if no abuse took place. From the beginning, when we first heard about it, there was a famous or infamous lawyer in Glasgow. One of the boys, [REDACTED] ABZ [REDACTED] said to me that he always went to the pubs and went round asking if you were in Smyllum. You only had to say you were in Smyllum and you got £10. It was years ago, but that was the beginning of the thing. If you tell a story, you'll get money. He told me the infamous lawyer was Cameron Fyfe.

233. I have been asked whether, on reflection, given the allegations that have been put to me both personally and generally, I have any views which might help the Inquiry. At the beginning, when it all started, I felt really saddened by it because the years that I was there were very happy and the children were happy. We were looked after. We were well fed and everything. I couldn't really understand how people would try and drag things out of the youngsters to say the things they've been saying. Then they tell one another so they add something else on.

234. 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.....

[REDACTED]

Dated.....

11 / 10 / 17

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF SR.

AEG

AND IN THE PRESENCE OF HER.