

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

### Witness Statement of

EAD

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] I was born on [REDACTED] 1925. I am 92 years old.
  
2. I joined the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in Dublin in 1944. From that time, I had a number of postings within the order. From 1945 to 1948 I was at Cabra in Dublin caring for children. From 1948 to 1949 I was at Provincial House in London doing general duties. From 1949 to 1957 I was at St Vincent's residential school in Mill Hill in London caring for children. From 1957 to August 1964 I was at Smyllum in Lanark caring for children. I then helped out in Gravesend Children's Home in Kent for a few months. From 1965 to 1966 I was at Provincial House and doing a child care course. From 1966 to 1971 I was at Blackbrook in Liverpool caring for children. From 1971 to 1973 I was in Enfield in London in a family group home. From 1973 to 1984 I was [REDACTED] in Edinburgh providing pastoral care [REDACTED]. From 1984 to 1987 I was in Dunfermline as sister servant. From 1987 to 1988 I was in Cricklewood in London working in a hostel. From 1988 to 1994 I was in Pollokshields in Glasgow [REDACTED]. From 1994 to 2001 I was in [REDACTED] London providing pastoral care [REDACTED]. From 2001 to 2002 I was at Provincial House on sabbatical. From 2002 to 2004 I was in Sheffield providing pastoral care [REDACTED]. From 2004 to 2006 I was in Dumfries where I was retired and doing general house duties. From 2006 to 2008 I was in Pollokshields and I was retired. Since 2008 I have been [REDACTED] and I am retired.

## **Smyllum**

3. So, in terms of Smyllum, I was there from 1957 to 1964. Once I left Smyllum, I did the child care course in London in 1965. I don't have a copy of my certificate from that course.
4. I am asked about how it came to be that I went to Smyllum. We have superiors and they usually placed us where we were needed. We weren't asked if we wanted to go or not. We were just told to go at those times so that was all. I was just told to go to Smyllum and to work with the boys. I can't remember the name of the sister, the superior, who told me I was going there.
5. Before going to Smyllum, I had worked for about seven years in a residential school in Mill Hill in London for boys from age seven to about eleven. Then I was moved up to Smyllum to bigger boys between ages twelve and nearly sixteen. I was sent to Smyllum because someone else had left and there was a vacancy there. I don't know who was there before me. I probably knew then but I can't remember now who she was.
6. I can't remember what I was told about Smyllum in advance of going there. My thoughts when I arrived there were that it was a very big place and a lot of boys together. I know that at that time I was very zealous and I was hoping to do better things for the boys. By that I mean it was a bit old fashioned in terms of their clothes and that kind of thing. I thought I was going to do something about that, which I did while I was there. But the atmosphere was good at that time.

## **The boys' group**

7. My group at Smyllum was called St Vincent's. At first there were about 90 boys of all ages, between ages seven and fifteen, or nearly sixteen, together. Initially I was looking after all these children with the help of one

member of staff, Miss [redacted] IAQ [redacted]. After a while two more sisters came to help me and we divided up the group into three.

8. The boys were divided into three groups by age. Sister [redacted] EAC [redacted] had the group from about age six to nine. Sister [redacted] AGI [redacted] had the group above that, ages nine to twelve. And, I had the twelve to nearly sixteens - some of them were nearly shaving. It made a big difference once the groups were smaller. We had about 24 or something like that. It was marvellous then to have just a group like that. Miss [redacted] IAQ [redacted] was the staff member with me in my group.

### Other Sisters

9. I can't remember who the mother superior at Smyllum was when I went there, but Sister [redacted] BAF [redacted] came after a while. I can't remember any dates or anything like that. The mother superior was in charge. Apart from the superior, the other sisters were the same level of seniority. We were all responsible for our own groups. There wasn't a hierarchy.
10. I've already mentioned Sister [redacted] EAC [redacted] and Sister [redacted] AGI [redacted]. I remember a couple of other names of some of the other sisters who were there when I was. I've been remembering things, and I remember there was a Sister [redacted] ADG [redacted] she was with the girls. Sister Joseph O'Donnell was in the boys' kitchen. They are dead now. I can't come up with the names of the other sisters that were there.

### Staff

11. I am asked if staff, such as the staff member I had, Miss [redacted] IAQ [redacted] was accountable to the sister they worked with or to the mother superior. Miss [redacted] IAQ [redacted] was accountable to both of us really, to me and the superior. I don't remember the staff in the other two boys' houses. I don't remember

who was there. I was not involved in recruiting staff. I had no say in it. The way it was, she was with me all the time. She was there when I arrived and she went just before I left so I hadn't anything to do with the recruitment of staff. I don't think anybody had at that time.

12. I can't remember if Miss [redacted] IAQ had any child care experience before Smyllum. In terms of whether she had any child care qualifications, I wouldn't think so but I'm not sure. In terms of her age, I'd say she was in her fifties when I was at Smyllum.

### **My role and the running of my group**

13. In terms of who explained my role at Smyllum to me, that was the superior of the house at that time but I can't remember her name. In terms of an induction there was nothing really. After a few days we went straight back over to the boys and just got on with it. I was not given any training by anybody at Smyllum. The only thing I had was the experience from when I was in the residential school in Mill Hill. I had experience with boys and how to deal with boys and that. That was all.

14. In terms of the running of my group, the staff, Miss [redacted] IAQ and I arranged that between us, what times we were on duty and that kind of thing. I can't remember much really, but I know that in the morning time Miss [redacted] IAQ would call the boys. I hardly ever called them in the morning or got them up. One of us would take over from the other. We kind of worked it between us through the day. We arranged it between ourselves. I am asked who my supervisor was, who I was accountable to. That would have been the superior.

## **The Children**

15. There were boys and girls at Smyllum when I was there. I was always with the boys, all the time. The girls were more or less put into the same age groups as the boys I think.
16. I am asked how long children typically remained at Smyllum. The boys I had, and I can only speak for mine, they were there when I went to Smyllum. The boys who were there at that time, were there mostly until they left at sixteen. Most of them were long stays. We did get others in for short stays but not for very long. They left as they got to the age of sixteen, they either went home or the social workers got them jobs.
17. The children had a uniform for school. In terms of what they wore when they were not in school, I can't remember what they had when I first went there, but I gradually got them into jeans and t-shirts and all that kind of thing. They were just like ordinary kids. There was a sister in the laundry and everything went over there to be washed and laundered. The children's clothes, their sheets, their bed clothes, everything was done there. The children didn't share their clothes at all. They had lockers beside their beds and they also had lockers downstairs to keep their stuff.
18. When a new child arrived at Smyllum, I can't remember what the procedure was on their first day but I don't think there was any ceremony. They just fitted in I think but I can't remember actually what happened then.

## **Daily Routine**

19. The children got up, in the morning, I suppose, around 7 or half past, I'm not sure. There was a routine in the mornings because they were all going to school. They had to be ready for school so they had to get up at that time to get ready. I didn't really wake them up in the morning, very rarely. I

did it now and again, but the staff, Miss [redacted] IAQ [redacted] always did that because I was always over either having my breakfast or going to mass or something like that at that time in the morning. Once they got up, they just went for their breakfast. Then some of them had little jobs to do like maybe tidying up in the dining room or maybe sweeping the floor in the sitting room or something like that, but very small things. Just like they would at home really with their mums. They went to school at about 9 o'clock or something like that. They didn't have much time by the time they'd had their breakfast and that.

20. The meals were served in the dining room. We had two dining rooms. [redacted] AGI [redacted] group was in one part of it. We had a proper partition between the two parts. They were just dining rooms and they weren't used for anything else. The dining rooms were just for the boys. The girls weren't there at all. They had their own part of the house. The boys would dine in the same dining room for breakfast, dinner and supper. I can't remember what they did when they were in school whether they had their dinners or not, I can't remember that. I can't remember if they came back from school to eat.
21. In terms of the food, it could have been better. It could have been more varied but they were never hungry. Sister Joseph was in the kitchen. She did the cooking. She had staff to help her.
22. If a child didn't like their food or didn't want to eat it, I can't remember what happened really. I don't think anything happened. It was very rare anyway because those boys were always out playing football or doing all sorts of activities, and they were always hungry so I never found any problem with their food.
23. I can't remember if the boys had something to eat or drink when they got back from school. They must have done but I have forgotten. They had a meal in the evening anyway, at 6 o'clock.

24. In terms of what they did after their evening meal, it depended on the time of the year. Sometimes they would go down and play football again. In the winter time they would just watch television or play tapes or records or whatever they had at that time or played snooker. They had loads of games and we had several table tennis tables. They were all good at that. We had lots of things like that. In the boys' area, and I can only speak for that, they had loads of activities, they were never dull. The television was in a great big room.
25. In the evening, about 9 o'clock they would go up to bed and they could read for about an hour nearly. We had loads of comics and books and they had magazines and they'd just do that until it was time to go sleep. We'd just do a prayer with them until they went to bed. They did their reading and that in their beds. Ms [redacted] IAQ and myself took it in turns with being on duty at bedtime.
26. I am asked about bathing and washing. During the day and when the boys came in from school, they had showers. We had loads of showers. I can't remember any baths. I'm sure we had ten showers or more, and when they came in from school they had a shower. Upstairs there was lovely hot water and plenty of it. The heating was good as well, they were never cold. Upstairs, we had a row of basins and before the boys went to bed they'd pop in and wash their hands and faces because they had had their showers before. The showers were marvellous especially when they came up from football.
27. I am asked about bedwetting. There were a couple of boys who had a problem with bedwetting, yes. I think we always had somebody who would be bedwetting. They were disturbed, they were very disturbed some of them.
28. In terms of how bedwetting was dealt with, we would just send their things to the laundry. I can't remember how they managed about a shower or a bath because showers were downstairs and I don't know if there was a

bath upstairs. I don't think there was a bath upstairs so I don't know how we managed about that, whether they got a bath in the morning or not. I can't remember that. I wasn't there mostly in the mornings.

29. There was nobody on duty through the night. If the boys needed something during the night, I had a room at the bottom of their dormitory. They used to come to me if they were sick or anything like that. Miss [redacted] IAQ had a room at the other end and she would see to anybody who came to her if I wasn't there. It was between us, one or other of us would be there. If someone wasn't well in the night, they'd knock at one of our doors. If they wanted to go to the toilet, they'd just get up and go to the toilet. There was nothing to stop them at all. They didn't have to come to us about that. They just went. They were all big boys you know. They were quite independent. They were big fellows, bigger than myself.

30. For leisure time, football was the main thing they did. And as I say they had snooker, they had table tennis, and in the summer time they had golf. They had plenty of books to read and the television. They would go to the cinema in Lanark on a Saturday on their own. We also had the variety club coming in every month giving them a film which was up to date. They'd come in and show the films. The girls, and everybody, came together for this. We had a big hall, a gym they called it, they had some equipment in the gym as well which they used to use. The films happened every month. It was marvellous when the variety club came. They did a lot of things for us, helped us out with toys and things like that.

31. I am asked if they children were encouraged to play. Yes, but we didn't have to encourage them at all. In the playground we had kind of roundabout thing and some swings, and I don't know if there was a shoot. They had plenty of playing fields and open spaces for their games of football.



## **Trips**

32. There were trips during the year. I can't remember where we went but I know we did. Every summer we went away for a few weeks to an international camp up in Perthshire or one of those places. I can't remember exactly where we went. Aberfoyle I think. That wouldn't just be my group. The whole place would go, boys and girls. We all went for a fortnight and they had a marvellous time. They didn't have anything to do. Everything was done for them, their meals were served there and they had a great time there. They did mountain climbing and a lot of walking and swimming in the lakes. The sisters and staff would go and we also had a priest there, a Chaplin. He was to help out too. It wouldn't be the same priests every year – it would be different ones.

## **Schooling**

33. All of my boys went to St. Mary's School in Lanark which was a secondary school. They just walked down, it was only about ten minutes. I am asked about communications between myself and the school. There was one teacher, I can't remember his name now, that was very friendly with the boys and he was very friendly with us and he would always, I remember, if there was any problem or trouble he would come to me and tell me. He was good like that but I can't remember his name. He was the only one. I went to parents' evenings. The boys I had were the only ones who went there from Smyllum. I can't remember if the boys had homework from school. I can't remember that at all. Other than what they got at school the boys didn't get any other training at Smyllum. Not that I can remember.

## **Health and medical care**

34. I am asked about health and medical care and how medical issues were dealt with. We had one sister who acted as a nurse. She would deal with

medical issues. I don't know now whether she was a nurse or not. Sister **FAM** was the name of this sister but she is dead now. We had an infirmary, for the boys, with about five or six beds in it. This was in the boys' side. I don't remember anybody else having one but we had one and if a boy got sick or anything happened like that, they would go there and she would see to them and get the doctors. They could stay there overnight. They'd stay there if there was anything wrong with them, like if they had bad colds or things like that, they'd go down there. If the children needed to be seen by a doctor, I would take them to Sister **FAM** and she would get a doctor. We had two good doctors who were very good to the boys and very kind to them. If children were going to hospital for check-ups or anything like that, I used to take them myself or Miss **IAQ** would take them. The Law Hospital was the local hospital in Lanark. Then there was another one called Hairmyres. I just remember the name, and I remember taking one or two there. We used to go with them to other places but I can't remember the names of those.

**[REDACTED]**

35. I am asked if I remember any children being admitted to hospital for any lengthy periods of time. I do. There was one boy and his name was **[REDACTED]** I can't remember his other name. He died actually with us, and I don't remember what he died of to be quite honest. I can't remember what it was but as soon as I knew he was ill I took him over to Sister **FAM** and she got the doctors in and the next thing was he went, whatever happened he was sent into hospital and I can't for the life of me think. I can't remember what the name of the hospital was. I can't remember when he died. I can't remember being at his mass or at his burial, so I have no idea where he was buried. But I remember being really heartbroken because I loved them, I loved the boys, I really did, they were lovely lads.

36. **[REDACTED]** was about thirteen but I can't remember his name now straight off. I am asked if it may have been **[REDACTED]** and yes, that was his

name, [REDACTED] I am asked if he had been ill for a while. He must have been ill for a couple of weeks but as soon as I got to know he was ill I took him over to the nurse and after that I can't remember anything.

### **Francis McColl**

37. I've been thinking for the last few weeks about [REDACTED] but I've thought about him a lot during my life and another boy who died as well there called McColl, Francis McColl. He was hit. We were away at camp and he was hit with a golf club by another boy accidentally, pure accident. The boy was swinging and Francis stood too near him and he got a whack on his head and like that again I can't remember. I was there on the trip, but I wasn't there when it happened.

38. It was a summer camp. It was the day we were going home and it was a sad day. But he didn't die then, he came home. We saw the doctor there, where we were at camp, and he said it was okay. We brought him home and of course after that he went into a hospital. I don't know which hospital. I know he was buried in a Glasgow cemetery but I don't remember which one. I know I must have been there because he was one of my boys but I can't recollect anything about his funeral or if his people were there. I can't remember anything about it. I can't remember anything about the funeral of either of those two boys. It's completely gone out of my head.

39. I am asked where Francis McColl was when he was hit with the golf club. It was in a big field, like a park, a field near where the camp was. In terms of who told me what had happened to him, everybody told me together you know. I can't remember really but it was terrible. There was a priest standing with them watching when it happened and he told me about that. He saw it. It was the priest who was the Chaplain at the time. He was there when it happened, but there was nothing he could do about it. It happened before he could do anything. His name was Father O'Kelly but he's dead

now too. They're all dead now. It was definitely accidentally that the boy hit him. I can't remember the boy's name. I have forgotten his name. I know I was taking Francis to hospital quite a lot, before the accident. There was something wrong with his ear. He had something wrong with him, but I can't remember what. I can't remember if there were records kept if a child went to the doctor or to hospital.

40. I was in the vicinity but I didn't see it happening. The boys were all around and this Father was there as well and saw it. It was definitely true that this little fellow who was from Dundee was the boy who did it but I can't remember his name. He was only little too, he was even smaller than Francis but he was just swinging his golf club and he hit him on the temple. That's definitely what happened, I know it is. There's no two ways about it.

### **Sammy Carr**

41. I am asked if I remember any other deaths during the time I was at Smyllum. Yes I do. One, but he wasn't in my group. His name was Sammy Carr. He wasn't in my group so I don't remember much about it. I remember being at his mass. I can't remember his funeral but I remember being there. I do remember being at Sammy Carr's funeral. He was buried in Lanark in St Mary's Cemetery.

42. I don't know about how he died, I can't remember. Like [REDACTED] I can't remember what they had, what they died of. I must have known at the time, of course I must, but I can't remember it now.

### **Reporting the deaths of children**

43. I don't remember if there was a procedure for reporting the deaths of children to the authorities in any way. I'm sorry I can't remember anything about it at all. I can't understand why I don't remember. I also can't

remember how families and parents were informed when children died. In terms of other children and how they were told, I am sure they were upset but I can't remember anything about that.

## **Religion**

44. In terms of religion, children learnt about it in school just, that's all. They had a big chapel in Smyllum and they went to mass there on a Sunday. I think they went sometimes in between Sundays but I'm not all that sure about that. I can't remember, but I expect they did now and again anyway. It was not something they did on a daily basis. They had it taught to them in school that was it. At the time it was mandatory for children to go to mass just because for the simple reason there was no one to mind them if they didn't. If a child did not want to go, I don't know what would happen. I can't remember that happening.

## **Manual work**

45. I am asked if children did manual work in Smyllum, like polishing floors or laundry work. They never did any laundry work, definitely not. I think they did some cleaning on Saturdays and in the morning but I can't remember what it was. Just cleaning around sweeping the floors and tidying up. There was no rota system. They just did it, they were just given a job I think to do. As far as I can remember that's how it was. It wasn't much anyway. They would not be scrubbing floors. They were not paid for the kind of work I have described. For a week every year they went potato picking but it was a voluntary thing, they didn't have to do it, and I think it must have been the farmer who paid them. I don't remember who paid them actually but they were never forced to go.

## **Christmas**

46. Christmas was great at Smyllum. Very few of the children went home or went any place. They hadn't any homes to go to anyway as far as I know. In the house, we always celebrated with decorations and all that. Smyllum was a really happy place. You hear some people talking on the radio and that now, saying that it was terrible, but it wasn't, when I was there. When I was there it was a really good, happy place. And as I say the boys always had loads of things to do. They were never hanging around waiting to do something. They had loads of things and at Christmas time they got loads of presents from the variety club of Great Britain and from other places. Also from some places in Lanark or Glasgow, the people were so generous there that they would send out plenty of things to them, games and toys and there was never a shortage of that. I don't know what kind of toys the boys got. I know they got stuff but I can't remember what it was for Christmas. They were all big lads as I say.

## **Birthdays**

47. In terms of birthdays, we just celebrated the birthday in the group. We would just have a cake and that. That's all that I can remember. That would be what we did for all the boys in the group. And another thing, for their birthdays and for things like that, any celebrations, the boys and the girls got together in the gym, which is the room I spoke about earlier, because it was big. They got together several times like that during the year so they always mixed that way and at camp they always mixed, they were together.

## **Children's families**

48. If the children's families wanted to come and visit, they were free all the time to do that. It was free, anybody could come, you know. Very few

came as far as I can remember. A parent or family member could just drop in. There was nothing beforehand. As a matter of fact, I used to feel so sorry for some of the boys. They would stand at the windows looking out waiting for visitors to come. If they did say they were coming, sometimes they might promise to come. Often in cases they didn't, they never came, so it was terrible to see the boys waiting. They wouldn't get away from the window. On a Saturday afternoon they were free to go down to Lanark on their own and go to the pictures if they wanted. But they wouldn't. They would all just stay at the window waiting to see when their families would come, and in more cases than not they were let down. Parents and family were all encouraged to visit.

### **Other visitors**

49. In terms of other visitors, we used to have entertainments. I can't remember what it was about. I know that some parishes around Lanark, and even in Glasgow, parish would take on a group and bring them things and come and visit them and that kind of thing. A particular parish would take on a group of boys or a group of girls. Catholic parishes that would be. So, a parish might take on my group and come and see them and entertain them. That went on quite a lot. They really had a lot of things you know. Everything but the love of their parents or their parents being with them.

50. In terms of keeping a record of things, I know we had a log book and we put down what happened during the day, but I can't remember anything else.

### **Inspections**

51. I am asked about inspections and what my memories are of that. I think the Home Office used to come and visit unexpectedly. They would come to

see the boys, see how they were dressed, see how they were eating and their sleeping quarters. It was very strict, it was a big thing. We didn't know they were coming. I remember that happening. I remember them truing up and we would not know they were coming. It would be one or two people who came together from the Home Office. One would come to the boys, I can't say anything about the other groups. They would come and spend the whole day nearly with us. I'd forgotten about that before now. When I was doing my other statement I never thought of that, that this happened.

52. They would come unexpectedly see how things were going and how the boys were behaving, and if any boy wanted to complain about anything at that time they could say anything to them. Those people who came, they would be with us during the day. They went around on their own. These people went around on their own and there'd only be one or two of them. One might be with another group, but the one that would be with me would just walk around himself on his own and mix with the boys and see how things were doing. That's all I remember about that. I am asked if the person going round my group would speak to the boys on their own, away from other people, and away from sisters and staff. I can't remember at all about that but the opportunity was there.

53. The inspectors provided feedback after they'd left. The report went back to the superior of the house. All I can remember was that it was okay really. I can't remember if I would see the actual reports. I can't remember if there was ever anything said in the reports about suggested changes or improvements or anything like that. I would say the people from the Home Office came about three times a year and we never knew when they were coming. I am asked if they were carrying out an inspection of the whole of Smyllum as opposed to focusing on individual children. I can't remember that either, I remember they did the same thing when I was in a residential school in Mill Hill in London. They visited just the same, and they came from the Home Office. That's going back to the fifties.



54. I am asked if anybody came to visit particular children, like their own social workers or children's officers. Yes, they did. The social workers came about once a month I'd say to see them. On these occasions the social workers would see me, they would see the superior and they would see the boys. They would see the boys they had come to see. So, Lanarkshire would see the boys from there. We had some boys from Edinburgh, so they would come as well to see the boys from there. The Edinburgh people for example would speak to the boys who were from Edinburgh, their own boys. I can't remember if these people spoke to the children on their own. I'm sure they did, but I can't say. The social workers didn't come over to the group as far as I can remember. We went to a room at the front of the house and saw them there. The superior would see them as well. It was only in the last years I was there that they came regularly. Before that we didn't see anyone like that. But the Home Offices inspectors came to the house as I have said.

55. I am asked if I remember if Smyllum had to put together information or returns to submit to the Home Office or anything. I don't know. I was not involved in the paper work side of things. I am also asked if there was any kind of review system to see if they could go home or if they should stay in Smyllum. I'm afraid I can't remember. If this statement had been taken forty years ago I would remember everything but unfortunately I can't now.

56. I am asked if I remember visits or checks from the Catholic Welfare Society. No, I don't.

### **Siblings**

57. If there were sibling groups in Smyllum, they were not housed together generally. They were separated. They were separated by age groups. That was the policy at the time. If they were in different groups then siblings were encouraged to meet up with each other and have contact. I am asked how that was encouraged. If the boys had sisters, the boys would go over and see them or the girls would come over and see the boys. It just

depended. They were never stopped from seeing each other. If a boy in your house had a sister she could come over to see him. There was nothing to stop them at all. There would be girls visiting their brothers in my house. I can't remember who, but I know there was nobody that ever stopped that. The boys could also go over to visit their sisters. We hadn't many really who had sisters as far as I remember, but if they had they would go. Yes. If they had brothers in other boys' groups, they always mixed in the playground anyway. They weren't separated. I don't remember if children were encouraged to spend time with their siblings in the playground, but we didn't stop it. We never stopped it.

### **Family**

58. I am asked if children were given any updates about their family at home, and if letters were exchanged or if there were phone calls. There were not, never. I don't remember that at all. No, I don't remember anything to do with their homes.

### **Personal possessions**

59. The children had personal possessions, things that belonged to themselves. They had books and toys and pets. Some of them had pets like a rat. I opened the cupboard one day and it jumped out at me. A pet rat. A boy had him in his locker. They had a locker next to the bed to keep their stuff, and they had a locker downstairs, that's where that rat was.

### **Pocket money**

60. The children were given pocket money. I can't remember how much, but that was one of the ways that I used to kind of punish them, if you like, to deprive them of pocket money. I don't know where the money for the

pocket money came from. I can't remember where it came from but we always had it. I can't remember how much they got, but some of them saved it up for camp and that kind of thing so I'd mind that for them in a special box.

### **Access to children**

61. I am about if people had access to children on their own apart from sisters and staff. Yes, priests did. Priests were great for visiting them. They would be on their own with children. I can't remember if we had anyone in who was training to be a priest, or an assistant priest. I can't remember anything at all about others coming in. But we did have priests coming in. I am asked if any checks were carried out on priests, or anyone else who came in to see children on their own. There were not any checks. We'd know the people that were coming in, I can't remember any checks.

### **Children leaving Smyllum**

62. When it was time for a child to leave Smyllum, the social worker would take it from there. The social worker would either find a job for them or find lodgings, or find out if they could go back to their parents. Very few went back to their parents. That was the way it was. I was so sad. I would look out the window and see them going down the road on their own to start life and there was nothing I could do. I just had to let them go but they used to come back. A lot of them came back for the weekend and stayed for the weekend with us. Several of them used to beg to come back and stay. Especially the boys who went home because they were living in either one room and had nothing. No games, nothing. They could come back and stay for a weekend, and they did. Social work supported the children when they left. I can't remember what it was, but they did all that. We just dressed them and got them clothes for going home and going to their work and all that. The boys themselves would know for a good while that they

were leaving. Unless their parents suddenly came and took them which happened now and again.

### **Discipline and Punishment**

63. I am asked about discipline in Smyllum and punishment. There was no code, written or unwritten, about anything like discipline or punishment. There wasn't any guidance. But if there was anything serious that happened, like if the boys were really cheeky or did something like uncoupling trains down in Lanark, which they did once or twice, I'd bring them over to the superior. She would check them. She did very little really, but I wouldn't do anything with them.

64. For ordinary things during the week I would just stop television for them, or we would deprive them of part of their pocket money. I am asked what the ordinary things I mentioned were that would result in discipline. I can't remember really. Just by being disobedient really, or by not doing what I wanted them to do or whatever. It was just things like that or if they were misbehaving or fighting. I might withhold their pocket money or deprive them of a night of television. That was something they never wanted. Or, they had free time on a Saturday afternoon, I used to let them free from after dinner until 6 o'clock and that was something I deprived them of. Or I deprived them of going to the cinema because they went often. If they were deprived of going to the cinema, they would read books or they did what they wanted. They watched television or something else.

65. I am asked who administered that discipline in my group. The discipline I've described such as withholding things, I would do that with my own group. They were big boys. They felt that more than anything, to be deprived of things. And football is another thing, I used to stop them from going down to football if they were misbehaving. They'd just have to do something else like read books or play games. I am asked how they would

respond if I said that they were not allowed to go to football. They wouldn't like it of course, but I don't remember that either.

66. I am asked about Ms [redacted] IAQ and how she disciplined children. I never saw her disciplining the children. I am asked what she did if the boys were doing something that she needed to stop. Well, sometimes she would tell me about it of course, but I never saw her doing anything to them ever. She wouldn't say that they couldn't go to football or whatever. She would just tell me and we would decide what we'd do. I never saw other sisters or staff disciplining children. I don't know what the others did because they were all smaller, you know, but these were big fellows.

67. I am asked if a record kept was kept of when a child had to be disciplined in some way. That was kept in the main house. That was kept in the superior's office. She had that and she kept all of those kind of things in there. I am asked if I told the superior when I disciplined the children in the ways I've described, depriving them of things. The things I told you I would do, I didn't tell the superior. I didn't record them. We did have a book. Perhaps I did record them, I don't remember.

68. I gave the example of when the boys uncoupled trains on a Saturday. I would take them to the superior for a thing like that, a serious thing like that. I don't remember what else I took them to the superior for. I don't remember taking them very much, but I remember going with that. She would just check them and give out to them. She might reprimand them and they hated that. By that I mean, she would read the riot act. She might just tell them off and warn them. Maybe she'd warn them that they'd have to leave there or something, or do something I don't know. I can't remember, but I know that was the procedure. I was there most of time when that happened. I would stay. I think she would record it, as far as I know.

69. I am asked if children were ever slapped or hit in any way as punishment. No they were not, never. I never saw anybody being hit. I never witnessed

any form of corporal punishment. I never witnessed any such thing. As I say the boys I had were big. You wouldn't attempt to do anything to them because they were big lads. They were bigger than any of us. You wouldn't do it. I couldn't have done it, or anything like that. I never saw any behaviour towards children that I considered to be abuse. And I was never made aware by anyone else that any behaviour like that was taking place.

70. I am asked if any child ever spoke to me about anything cruel, or that could be considered abuse, happening to them. No they did not, and I would remember it if they did. I am asked if a child was abused or was being treated cruelly, and whether there was somebody they could confide in. Somebody they could tell that to. From my experience I know that if anything happened, yes, they could talk to Sister [REDACTED] AGI and her boys would come to me and talk to me. That was the way we did it. They would just come and tell me if anything happened in her group and my boys I know could confide in her. and that's the way that I remember them doing this. I am asked what kinds of things her boys confided in me. They would just tell me if their pocket money was stopped or if they weren't going to the cinema or if another boy hit them. That kind of thing. They would tell me you know. We were like that. Although we were separated, they were all together in the playgrounds. They would tell me in the playground, or they'd come up and just have a wee chat and tell you.

71. I knew the boys in the other two groups. They were all together when they were playing and we were minding them. We were there, so we knew them all even though they weren't in our group. All the brothers that were there, they all could mix and they would mix. In terms of the boys in Sister [REDACTED] AGI group telling me things that happened to them, that didn't happen that often. But they would tell me things. You know they'd just come and sit and chat. It would be something small anyway. It wouldn't be a big thing.

72. I am asked about the younger boys in Sister [REDACTED] EAC group, and who they spoke to if they wanted to tell someone about something. I can't

remember them coming to me at all. They were smaller but they were still in the playground with the others. If a child had said to me that they were very upset, that something bad had happened to them, I would have said it to either [REDACTED] AGI or [REDACTED] EAC. Nothing really happened like that, that they told me anyway. That didn't happen very often you know. They wouldn't come to you a lot. It wouldn't be everyday but now and again that would happen. Looking back on things now, quite far down the line from the time we're thinking about, when I think over it, I don't think that anything of the discipline and punishment that was given was abusive to children.

### Allegations

73. I have been informed that allegations have been made by some children who were at Smyllum, against sisters and staff. That was the biggest shock of my life to hear what was being said. I couldn't believe it. I was shocked beyond belief. I thought I've come to the end of my days and have to put up with listening to that. I really was overwhelmed. To think at 92 years of age I was being accused of these things. It was really terrible.

74. I have been told there are allegations against myself and some other sisters and staff.

[REDACTED] BAC

75. He was [REDACTED] and he was a [REDACTED] in the house. He was always around, and when I was there he took all the boys for games and football and all that which he was quite good at then. He also had the brass band. He taught the boys that. That's all I remember him doing. [REDACTED] I saw him often with the boys. I never saw anything that caused me concern. He was always nice to them and good to them, and if anything was wrong he would come and tell me and that kind of thing. But that was all you know. He would just tell me if

the boys were unruly or misbehaving in the football field and things like that but nothing much really. I don't remember anything about him disciplining the boys.

**A carer,** ADF

76. I don't remember a carer called ADF

**Miss** IAQ

77. I have explained earlier in my statement that Miss IAQ was the staff member in my group. Her nickname was Miss IAQ. I never heard of Miss IAQ doing anything abusive to children.

**Brian Dailey**

78. I am asked if I know Brian Dailey. I know the name but I don't remember him at all. I don't even know what he was doing there. I cannot remember a thing about him. I just know the name. I know he was there but I can't remember what he did or anything. I can't picture him.

**Miss** ACV

79. I have never heard of a member of staff called Miss ACV

**Sister** EAC

80. I know Sister EAC. She was very kind to the children. They all loved her, as far as I could see.



Sister [AFU]

81. I don't remember a Sister [AFU] there when I was there. I am asked if she was sent to look after the boys when Sister [EAC] left. I don't know.

Sister [ADG]

82. There was a Sister [ADG]. Her surname was [ADG]. She was with the girls. I do not know anything about allegations against [ADG]. I would not know a thing about how [ADG] treated children. No more than she would know anything about me. I never knew anything about her. I never heard of her beating children, but as I say I wasn't with her. She was at the other side of the house. She's dead now.

Sister [AGI]

83. Sister [AGI] was lovely. She was great with the boys, she really was and the boys loved her. I can remember that. She was always very kind to them and very lenient. I used to think she was so good to them. I couldn't imagine any of those things happening with her at all. I have never heard anything about Sister [AGI] beating or humiliating children.

Sister [EAA]

84. Sister [EAA] was the headmistress of the school when I was there. We had a school on the grounds, a primary school, and she taught them there. The children were aged up to eleven. The older children, the boys in my group, went to St. Mary's secondary school. Sister [EAA] didn't have her own group. She had nothing to do with the children out of school.

Sister

IAC

85. I don't remember a Sister IAC

### Children who may have been at Smyllum while I was there

86. I am asked about various children who may have been at Smyllum while I was there and who I am told have made allegations.

[REDACTED]

87. I am asked if I remember a boy called [REDACTED] I don't. I am told the Inquiry has information that suggests he was at Smyllum from 1952 to 1961, that he was there from the ages of five until fourteen years old, and that he mentions myself, Sister EAD Miss IAQ and BAC BAC as cruel. I have no memory at all of him. I am told there is information from him which says he can remember the food the children were made to eat being inedible, that he shared a bath with others, that he was made to pick lice out of other children's hair and kill the lice and if he was found speaking or doing anything else wrong he was beaten with a snooker cue, a leather strap and a blackboard pointer, and if he wet the bed he was made to put the wet sheets around him and he had to wash with dark red blocks of soap. I don't know anything about any of that. I am told he has said that he was beaten with a steel handle of a knife in a kitchen by me, Sister EAD on many occasions for bedwetting and a carer whose name he can't recall. I do not remember any of that. I never did that. I can't imagine that. Of course I didn't beat him with a steel handle of a knife. I don't think the passage of time has affected my recollection about any of that. I don't think so because it isn't in my nature to do that really and it's against my conscience. And if I ever did it these things, I would never forget them. It's beyond my conscience, I know that.

[REDACTED]

88. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] I don't remember that name at all. I understand that the Inquiry has information that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has said that I, Sister EAD threw his brother [REDACTED] down the stairs and that he had to go to Law Hospital in Lanarkshire and that he still has a scar on his knee. I do not remember that at all. I never did a thing like that. I don't even remember his name. No, I never did that, I'd be nearly a murderer.

89. I am told there is information from [REDACTED] to say that myself, Miss IAQ and BAC were the most cruel and that at Smyllum he was made to eat inedible food and that if he was sick he was made to clean up his own vomit, that he sometimes bathed in dirty water and if he was found to be doing something wrong he was beaten with a broom handle or the leg of a chair or a cane, and that if he wet the bed he was made to wear the wet sheets around him and wash with DDT and carbonic soap. I don't remember any of that. They didn't have baths, they had showers. The food was edible. As I said before, it wasn't too varied but they had plenty, and as far I remember they ate very well. If children were sick, they would not be made to clean up their own vomit. Not at all. I never made children wear the sheets on their heads if they wet the beds. I never saw anybody with the boys doing that, not in my group or in any group. I didn't see children being disciplined in any way for bedwetting. I am told the Inquiry has information that [REDACTED] has said that I, Sister EAD repeatedly hit him on the collarbone with a big metal spoon because he never ate his porridge. I do not know anything about that. That didn't happen. I don't even know the name.

[REDACTED]

90. I am asked if I remember [REDACTED] No, I don't remember the name [REDACTED] at all.

91. I am told the Inquiry has information that [REDACTED] has said that I, Sister EAD beat him over his back with a pop gun as he had been picking crab apples and that I accused him of stealing them. I do not know anything about that.

92. I am told that the Inquiry also has information that he has said that Miss IAQ used to beat him and other children who didn't pull their socks up with a belt called Lochgelly. I don't know anything about that. I didn't see that belt or anyone being hit with it.

93. I am told that here is also information where he has said that he was made to look at dead nuns in their coffins. I don't know anything about that. The community was separate from the children. It would never have happened. I have no memory of a sister dying while I was there. They may have died, but I have no memory of it.

[REDACTED]

94. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] Yes I do, but he wasn't in my group. I don't know where he was but he was. I just know the name. I can't even picture him now or remember what he was like. I am told there is information from him to say that I, Sister EAD and Sister EAC were particularly cruel and that he recalls horrible food, sour milk, sharing of baths in either scalding or freezing water, carbolic soap, wearing the same clothes all week and beatings. I'm not aware of any of that happening. I never saw carbolic soap while I was there.

[REDACTED]

95. I am asked about [REDACTED] She had two brothers I think. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who I mentioned earlier, was her brother. I had no girls at all in

my group. I remember her coming over to see her brother. I don't remember what she looked like or anything, just the name. Some information has been read to me which is I understand has been said by her as follows: *"The nuns in charge of the boys were considered to be even more brutal than Sister [REDACTED] ADG [REDACTED]. On one occasion when I was 15 years old, I was helping another girl, [REDACTED] to carry milk over to the boys' kitchen. We heard shouting and looked through the boys' play hall window – it was a dark winter's evening so we could see clearly what was happening in the lit room. Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] was beating a boy with a big stick, either a broom handle or a snooker cue. [REDACTED] told me that the boy involved was my brother [REDACTED] (he would be around 11 years old). I ran into the hall and protested strongly. I was subsequently dragged into the boys' refectory for public humiliation by Sister [REDACTED] BAF [REDACTED] the mother superior (who had been very quickly summoned) and Sister [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] who was in charge of the boys. Sister [REDACTED] BAF [REDACTED] said I was mad and would end up in an asylum like my sister [REDACTED] (who had recently been taken to another home without any prior warning of departure). [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] (a member of staff in charge of the boys) who as passing heard the commotion caused by the nuns shouting. He volunteered to throw me over the gate outside the boys' refectory. I was silent because I knew the nuns would get me placed in another home if they wishes by saying I was unmanageable or disturbed."*

96. I am asked if I remember anything about that incident as I am named as having been there. I do not remember a thing about that. That never happened. I do not remember ever hearing about or seeing Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] beating a child like that, never. I knew [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] very well, she would never do that to a child. As far as I know, that incident of [REDACTED] coming over and seeing her brother being beaten, it didn't happen. It just didn't happen. I don't know why they say those things, definitely not.

[REDACTED]

97. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] I don't. I am asked if while I was there if girls were made to scrub floors and things like that. I wasn't aware of that. I wouldn't have heard about it but I didn't know anything about it. I don't know if the girls had to work in the laundry. I am told there information to the effect that Sister [REDACTED] ADG [REDACTED] may have lifted [REDACTED] of the floor by the cheeks which was very sore. I do not know anything about that.

[REDACTED]

98. I am asked about [REDACTED] I just remember the name but I can't remember him or how he behaved or anything, I just remember his name. I remember he had a brother [REDACTED] but I don't know how they looked or anything, I've forgotten. He was in my group. I am told he remembers me and [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] I am told he says that nuns watched an incident when [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] assaulted him, knocking his teeth out and seriously bruising his face. As far as I'm aware, that never happened, I would know, I would remember that. If teeth were knocked out I would know. That did not happen, not at all.

99. I am told that he says about his brother [REDACTED] that , *"My brother [REDACTED] was too frightened to tell the nuns that he was passing blood in his urine, he was 12 years old and I was 13. He eventually collapsed and died in hospital within 7 days of admissions. I found him collapsed and I was never told the reason why he died"*. I am asked if I know if [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had been too frightened to tell that he as unwell. I don't know, but I remember he did tell me and I took action immediately. I mean immediately I knew he was sick, like I would with any boy. I would have taken him to the infirmary.

[REDACTED]

100. [REDACTED] I remember, he was in my group. Likewise, I only remember his name. I can't picture his face or what he was like but I know I had him. I am informed that he says he was hit on the hands with a broomstick every morning until he was thirteen years old for wetting the bed. I do not know anything about that. I am told he has said that he scraped some of his inedible dinner into the pigs' bin and that I, Sister EAD [REDACTED] made him get it back out of the bin along with some of the scraps and eat it. That didn't happen, never. I couldn't do that to a child. Those are horrible things.

101. I am told that he has described some other punishments being butter pats over the knuckles and that he was often dragged along by the ear, hit with bunches of keys as one of the nuns would walk past him. I never saw that happening and I never did it. I am told he goes on to say that "*They had a special leather belt called Lochgelly, you were constantly threatened with this and thrashed all over the body with it.*" I knew about that belt, it was kept in the superior's office, but I never saw it. They called it Lochgelly. I didn't know, it must have been a special kind of belt. I never saw it and I never had it. I didn't hear of it ever being used on anybody, as far as I know. I never saw anybody using it. It might have been used but I never saw it. The boys seemed to know about it. I am told that [REDACTED] has said that he was bent over a chair and was being hit with a broomstick, and that his sister [REDACTED] happened to be passing by and shouted at them to stop. That's referring to the same incident as [REDACTED] did, that's the same thing. No, I don't know about that.

[REDACTED]

102. I am asked about a child called [REDACTED] I don't remember him being in my group. I don't remember him at all. I am told that he names me as one of the nuns who committed acts of cruelty and that he says that he

has very dry skin from washing for years in dirty water with carbolic soap which was used for scrubbing the floors and that he ended up with scurvy. I've heard of it, not at all. I don't know what scurvy is.

[REDACTED]

103. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] who may have been in Smyllum from 1952 to 1964. I do, I remember the name. I know I had him in my group. I can't picture him now. That's the thing, I remember the names, but not the faces or character. I am told that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has said that he remembers Francis McCoil and that he died while they were on holiday, he thinks in Aberfoyle. [REDACTED] would have been on the trip, if he was in Smyllum he'd have been there, although I don't remember him there specifically. I am told that he has said that [REDACTED] BAC swung a golf club which hit Francis above the eye and that he says he can still see Francis sitting on the front seat of the coach with [REDACTED] BAC with his head bandaged and being told a day or two later that he was dead. As I have said earlier in my statement, it was a another young boy who hit Francis McCoil accidentally. It was not [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] I am asked if [REDACTED] BAC was on the trip where Francis was hit. He was. If it had been [REDACTED] BAC who had hit him, I would have been told. I can still see the little boy who did it, he was from Dundee and it was pure accident.

104. I am told that [REDACTED] also speaks of [REDACTED] BAC hitting [REDACTED] ADN full force in the mouth knocking some of his teeth out. Again, I don't know anything about that. I would have known about that if it happened. That didn't happen.



AAO

105. I am asked if I remember a child called AAO I don't. I am told he may have been at Smyllum from 1961 to 1967. I never remembered him. I would remember if he was there because I can remember names. I don't remember his name, he wasn't there. I am asked if I ever heard of BAC BAC battering any children to the extent that they were in bed for long periods of time. No, that never happened. I would know. That would be a terrible thing. I am told that AAO says there was an occasion where he and some other boys were listening to a radio that this boy's father had bought him and that "BAC went mad and smashed up my radio by throwing it against the wall. BAC then started to batter me like a man would do to another man, he was kicking me to the ground. He kicked me on the head and ribs. I think if he had kicked me any more on the head, he would have killed me. I think the attack might have lasted about five minutes before I lost consciousness. I don't remember anything else. I don't remember being taken to hospital. I woke up in a different dormitory to mine. This might have been an infirmary, but I'm not sure. The nuns did most of the nursing at Smyllum. After the attack by BAC I was in bed for nearly a fortnight." I am then told he has said that "Mother superior asked me what had happened and I told her about BAC attacking me. She said it must have been what I had said to him as BAC wouldn't have done that. I told her I wouldn't smash up my own radio that my daddy had bought me." That does not ring any bells at all. I don't remember anything like that, and I don't remember the name at all.

106. I am asked about [REDACTED] and I do remember, just the name. I am told he may have been at Smyllum from 1962 to 1968. He wasn't in my group. Actually I can't remember even if he was, but I remember him. I am told he says he has said that he was in a dormitory known as Sacred Heart. That was EAC I am informed that he has said that his left arm was

constantly slapped by Sister [REDACTED] EAC and that this was normal punishment for everyone. I don't know anything about that. I wouldn't imagine [REDACTED] EAC would do anything like that, but I wasn't there and I never heard anything about it. I am asked if I would know what she did in her own group. I would more or less because the boys chatted. You know, we would know if things like that happened. No it didn't.

107. I am told he talks about [REDACTED] BAC pulling him by the ear, throwing him in the air and that he fell into a metal radiator that cut his forehead. No, never, I never heard anything about that either.

108. I am told that [REDACTED] also alleges that [REDACTED] BAC would beat male children with a belt. I never saw anything like that. I never heard of it either.

109. I am told that [REDACTED] has said that Brian, who he describes as a cub scout leader who visited, was cruel to children. I don't remember that.

[REDACTED] JAA

110. I've never heard of a boy called [REDACTED] JAA I am informed that he has said that he was bullied and terrorised by a nun called Sister [REDACTED] EAC and having to plead for protection. I have never heard of him. I think [REDACTED] EAC was twice there in Smyllum. I wasn't there for the second half, but no, I never heard of anything. I am told he says there were communal toilets without toilet seats and without cubicles for privacy. No, that's not correct. They had privacy. They had cubicles.

[REDACTED]

111. I don't remember a girl called [REDACTED] I am told she may have been in Smyllum from 1958 until 1963. I've never heard of her. No. I wouldn't know the girls anyway.

[REDACTED]

112. I am asked if I remember a child [REDACTED] I don't.

[REDACTED] AAI

113. I am asked if I remember [REDACTED] AAI No, but I vaguely remember the name but that's all. I can't know where he was. He wasn't with me as far as I know. I remember the [REDACTED] name. He must have been with [REDACTED] EAC or somebody else. I am informed that [REDACTED] AAI may have been at Smyllum from 1959/60 to 1963/64. I was there all of that time, but I don't know him. I can't remember anyway. I am asked if he might he have been in Sister [REDACTED] AGI group. He could have been, yes. I am told that [REDACTED] AAI [REDACTED] AAI describes [REDACTED] BAC as a vicious child beater and has said of him that *"he got a puncture in one of his tyres once and blamed me"* and *"he hit me so hard that my feet came off the ground"*. I've never heard of or seen [REDACTED] BAC do anything to them, never.

114. I am told there is information which says that [REDACTED] AAI was playing with Sammy Carr during the school summer holidays, that they were playing with a match and piece of pink nylon cloth and that they'd never seen a match before and that they were playing with it and it caught fire, they didn't know what to do, [REDACTED] AAI started screaming, he still had a hold of the piece of nylon that had caught fire and he was screaming. I am told [REDACTED] AAI has said that *"Just as I started screaming, Sister [REDACTED] AGI came round the corner and asked what had happened. I*

*shouted "Sammy's burnt my hand". She went straight for him she was slapping and punching him around his head and body. I was holding my wrist and knelt down on the ground looking down. When I looked up, I saw Sammy on the ground and she was kicking into him. I had to put myself on top of him. He was only five years old. I said "Sister, please don't hurt Sammy."* No , Sister [REDACTED] AGI didn't do that. I mean I know she didn't. But I don't know why they give out that. I am asked if she may have done outwith my presence. No, I wouldn't think so at all. Sister [REDACTED] AGI would ever do anything like that. She was kindness itself to those boys. She really was. She'd never do that to Sammy. It never happened. I would know if Sammy was beaten like that.

115. Sister [REDACTED] AGI was there until the end of my time at Smyllum. I don't know who replaced her. I don't remember Sister [REDACTED] AGJ .

116. I am told that there is information from [REDACTED] AAI also that says that Sister [REDACTED] AGI took out his penis and rubbed it between her fingers. I never heard anything like that.

117. As I said, Sister [REDACTED] AGI was great with the boys. I couldn't imagine any of those things happening with her at all.

[REDACTED] AAJ

118. I don't remember a child called [REDACTED] AAJ I am told there is information from her that Sister [REDACTED] EAA kicked her and beat her over a bath with a cane and a strap. No, not at all. She'd ever do that. No, she wouldn't have a bath in the school. I don't know if she physically disciplined children in the school, but that about the bath wouldn't be in it because they had no bath in the school.

119. I can't remember the boys mentioning to me how they were disciplined in school. I can't remember. I couldn't imagine anything like that happening.

There were three or four teachers and Sister EAA there. As I said, I never heard of corporal punishment being used in Smyllum. In terms of whether that included the school, we didn't hear about anything in the school. I wasn't thinking about the school when I said that, I meant in our groups. But I never heard about it in the school. They were all very happy in that school.

[REDACTED]

120. I don't remember a girl called [REDACTED] I am told that [REDACTED] both say that Sister IAC stood on her toes and lifted her up by the cheeks as punishment. I never heard of that. I've never heard anything like that being used as punishment.

[REDACTED]

121. I'm asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] who may have been in Smyllum in 1959/60 and remained there about 4 years until 1964. No, I've never heard of the name. I am told he has said he has a vivid memory of being beaten and locked in a toilet cupboard. I do not remember that happening, never. I am told that he has said his face was pushed into his porridge. I have never heard of anything like that.

### Other children I am asked about

122. I am asked if I remember a child called AAA I don't.

123. I am asked if I remember a child called AAW I don't.

124. I am asked if I remember a child called AAU I don't.

125. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] I don't.

126. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] AAR I don't. I am asked if I remember [REDACTED] AAR's brothers [REDACTED] ABL and [REDACTED] who may also have been in Smyllum. No I don't. I can't recall them anyway.

### Other allegations

127. I am asked if I remember if children were ever punished for having holes in their socks. I have never heard of that. I'm asked if I know about the girls' side of things in terms of the provisions they had, for their periods for example. No, I don't know anything about the girls. I know nothing at all about if and how girls were provided with sanitary towels or bras, or anything like that. I am asked if I ever knew of or heard of sisters instructing staff to beat children with a belt. I don't. I'm asked if I was ever aware of siblings being made to watch their siblings being beaten. No, not at all. I have never even heard of it or seen it

128. I am aware that allegations have been made about Smyllum and the regime there, like children being abused for bedwetting, having to put sheets on their heads, being humiliated, being force-fed, having to clean their own vomit, having being beaten, severely beaten sometimes. These things did not happen when I was there. Well, I never heard of them.

129. If these things I have just mentioned did happen I would accept that these things would be abusive to children. I would definitely. But I never heard of such things like that, no.

### Prior Statements

130. I am asked if I have given any statements before about Smyllum. I don't know if it was a statement but I jotted down some notes about things that

happened in Smyllum. I was asked to do that and I did. I am asked if that might have been for the solicitor of the Daughters of Charity in July 2017. I have now been shown a copy of that statement, signed by me on 14th July 2017. That is my statement.

131. I am reminded that in that statement, that I spoke of taking children to the mother superior and said that *"any time the children were giving us any trouble she metted out the punishment although it wasn't much really."* I am reminded that I said *"she would tell them off or give them a slap."* It is pointed out to me that that answer is different to my answer to that question when giving this current statement. I am asked to explain that. Perhaps I did remember that at the time I gave the last statement.

132. I am asked if what is written in that statement is what I said when giving that statement. I can't remember now really, I can't. I can't imagine her doing it, but I must have noticed or seen something like that. I am asked if I remembered the superior doing that (giving the children a slap) when I gave the first statement. Yes, I must have remembered something then. She might have slapped them on the wrist or something like that but that's all. I can't remember now what she did but I remember saying that in the first statement. I'm reminded that I said in this statement that I never saw or heard of anybody being hit at Smyllum. I'm not sure of that either now. I'm asked if I was more sure in July when I gave the first statement. I thought I was then but even now I can't remember that I said that.

133. I've never given a statement to the police about anything to do with Smyllum.

### **Who the boys could speak to**

134. I've explained that within Smyllum, my boys could go to Sister [REDACTED] AGI or Sister [REDACTED] AGI's boys could come to me. In terms of whether there was anybody else either in Smyllum or outwith Smyllum that children could

go to if things were happening to them, they could go to the doctors and say to them if they wanted, you know. I don't know if children raised concerns with the doctor.

135. As I have said, anything that was reported to me, by [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] boys for example, it wasn't serious and so I didn't have to report it further.

## Records

136. In terms of where records were kept in Smyllum, that was in the sister superior's office. I can't remember what records or logs were kept of. I don't remember seeing admissions registers. These are things the sister superior might deal with. I don't know what happened to children's records when the child left Smyllum.

## Conclusion – helping the Inquiry

137. I am asked if I would have known about the kind of abuse that has been discussed if it was happening. I wouldn't know about it, no. I never even thought of it happening to be quite honest. I didn't look for it. I didn't think anything about it. I never heard anything about it.

138. I've told you that as far as I was aware, these things did not happen. I am asked if I can explain why these things are being said if I say they didn't happen. I don't know. I can't understand it at all.

139. I am asked if I can explain, for example, if Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] was a kind and caring sister as I have told you, how can it be that people are saying that she was beating children. I think they are just looking to get something out of this, to complain, to get some money. I think that's the whole idea. I don't know.



140. I am asked if I can explain why the allegations we looked at against me have been made, if they did not happen. I don't know. I can't understand it. As I said it was a shock to me when I heard the things that I was accused of which I would never have thought of doing. I would never have dreamed of doing the things that I've been accused of.

141. I am told that some people have told the Inquiry that they are still affected today by the abuse they suffered in Smyllum, that they have on-going effects of what happened to them in Smyllum. I'm asked if I can explain that if I say these things didn't happen. No, I can't explain it.

142. 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.

EAD

Signed.....

Dated..... 29 / 9 / 17