



Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EVELYN ANNE WARNOCK

Support person present: YES

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

1. My name is Evelyn Anne Warnock. I have not been known by any other name. I was born on [REDACTED] 1947. I am 70 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 1968.

Work history

3. I first started off working in child care before I joined the Community. During that time I trained for residential child care. Since then I have been in a number ministries in child care, community homes for disturbed adolescents, and with visually impaired adolescents. I trained as a social worker and established and ran a centre for homeless people. I trained as a registered manager, managing two of our care establishments for our elderly sisters. I trained in chiropody which is my present ministry.

Working in Smyllum

4. Sisters [REDACTED] EAA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] came to my senior school, Our Lady of St Francis, in Charlotte Street, Glasgow. They were looking for volunteers for a few weeks to take the children to camp in St Andrews. Four of us went just to find out what these nuns were like. We went for a month and I liked what I saw. I was caught up in the atmosphere and I fell for the children. I was impressed by the way things were done. When I returned home, I persuaded my parents to let me to continue to work in Smyllum if there was a possible vacancy, and there was.
5. There was no formal interview process. The sisters had got to know me during that month. There was a very informal interview with [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] and the sister who was at that time the bursar. They told me a little bit about the background of Smyllum and how it ran, but I already knew that from being in there. There was no background check or anything like there would be today. I remember [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] visiting my mother and father at home and discussing the placement. There must have been some sort of check in school because I remember being called in to the head mistress who spoke to me about it.

Qualifications

6. In 1965, I worked in Smyllum, Lanark for a year. Then the Daughters of Charity gave me the opportunity to train for residential childcare. I did a course at Langside College, Glasgow from September 1966 to August 1967. I have produced my certificate [WIT.003.001.0769].
7. I think that the course had just been on the go for a couple of years. There were about twelve of us on the course. The types of things we covered were psychology, child development particularly about disturbed children, a bit about health, and a little bit of sociology. We spent a fair bit of time visiting each other's establishments to see how they ran within that year. Then we had two sessions away of what we would call community living. We went to Iona for a week, and we went skiing for a week, just to see how we would get on together in the living situation. Then we applied our experience to the children in care, which I thought was pretty good for such an early

course. The tutors were quite far sighted about how community living affected the children.

8. I did three placements in two children's homes and one community home. I did one in a local authority children's home in Fife, one was in another local authority home in Uddingston, and then another placement was with disturbed adolescents in a community home in Bishopton.
9. I was seconded and then I went back to Lanark. I was employed then as a member of staff responsible for one of the units. After that, I entered the Community. During that time I took further training in social work, which was a CQSW in Manchester.

Smyllum Orphanage, Lanark

First impressions

10. In 1965, my impression when I went to Smyllum was that, physically, it was quite something to look at, like a big castle. The main building was divided into four units and there were two separate houses at either side outside in the grounds. There were six units in operation altogether. I was in the main building in a unit called St Mary's.
11. There were about eighteen children in each unit. There was a very warm and lively atmosphere. There was life in the building. There was a sense of activity all the time.
12. With regards to the care, we all loved our children. We all loved our own units and we were very possessive about them. There was quite a bit of vying between the units as to who had the best unit and who got the best clothing etc, but everybody was treated the same. Some units had an advantage over others because some of the sisters were good seamstresses, and made clothes for the children. There was a bit of competition between the units as to who were the best dressed.

13. I felt that there was a great feeling of warmth. I remember being very impressed by the way the sisters linked with the children. It wasn't like a job for them. There was a connection there and they cared for every one of the children. There was no favouritism, although sometimes the children looked for it because some of them were very needy and clingy. I experienced that myself, but the sisters were very understanding and did the best they could with what they had at the time.

Layout of Smyllum

14. Each unit had a name. St Mary's, St Joseph's, St Vincent's and St Kentigern's were in the main house. Roncalli House and Ogilvie House were the two units outside the main building.
15. My own unit was on the first floor of the main house. St Joseph's and St Vincent's were on the floor above. Initially you had to come through our unit, St Mary's, to access St Kentigern's. This was rectified and eventually a second access was created. There was a bottom door leading outside into the yard that the children used, but the staff and Sister ADG came through my unit.
16. As you went in the front door of Smyllum there were two very large rooms at either side. Our dining room/sitting room was on the left, and there was a large parlour on the right. We ate downstairs, watched the television and the children played around there if they were inside. Upstairs there were the bedrooms, the toilets and baths.
17. At the end of my corridor in my unit, there were four staff bedrooms that could also only be accessed by coming through my unit, and then upstairs there was another set of four or five staff bedrooms where I slept. These rooms were also accessed through the unit. The only time it would quieten, and the staff were careful about noise, was when the children were asleep, because they heard everything. There weren't solid walls, just plywood. My unit was fairly open as there were people passing through all the time. Some of the staff actually lived there permanently, because they had been brought up by the sisters and this was their home.

The children at Smyllum

18. Smyllum had boys and girls from babies to the age of about fifteen. Children were there both temporarily and for longer periods, depending on their circumstances. Most children were there for longer rather than shorter stays.
19. I had a mixed group of boys and girls, more girls than boys. The youngest children I had at the time were probably aged three and four. The oldest was just coming up for fifteen. I had about four girls around about fifteen. I wasn't much older than them myself. The rest of the units were all mixed except St Catherine's or St Kentigern's which was the boys unit.

Management structure and staff

20. One sister was responsible for the unit and usually there would be two staff. Some of those staff were older and had been with the sisters for a long time in other establishments. The sisters cared for them, because they had no home. They moved to Smyllum and a couple of them were in the kitchen and a couple of them were looking after the children. There was one in my particular unit, a Miss HBO and there was another in St Kentigern's called AEV I don't know her surname. She was a little woman about half the size of all the boys. We either knew staff by their Christian name or we knew them by their surname.
21. There were two sisters in my unit. HBP was there for my first year, and then AGD was the sister for the second time I was there. I was working alongside them most of the time. I was never really on my own with the children.
22. Sister EAL was responsible for the day to day running of the establishment.
23. I remember the sisters in charge of the units were HBP, AGD, AGD, BAH, EAC, AFK, ADE, AEG, Cecilia Dowd, and AHO. Sisters HBP,

[REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] BAH [REDACTED] were in my own unit, St Mary's. Sisters [REDACTED] AFK [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] AHO [REDACTED] were in Roncalli House. [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] was in Ogilvie House. [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] was in St Joseph's unit. Cecilia Dowd was in St Vincent's. [REDACTED] ADE [REDACTED] was in St Kentigern's

24. There was also an older sister called a Sister [REDACTED] FAM [REDACTED] who was the resident nurse, [REDACTED] EAA [REDACTED], who was the headmistress at the school in Smyllum and was known as [REDACTED] EAA [REDACTED], and Sister Louise McCarthy who was the bursar and was known as "tidy up".
25. In the main house, Sister Rosalie was in the kitchen. Sister Brendan was in the dining room.
26. During my time, the people responsible for St Mary's unit were [REDACTED] HBP [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BAH [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED]. In Roncalli House, [REDACTED] AFK [REDACTED] left and was replaced by [REDACTED] AHO [REDACTED]

My role in Smyllum

27. I was a staff member in St Mary's. We did everything involved in caring for the children and the household chores. We worked very long hours, but we enjoyed it. We had the overall care of the children. We got them up in the morning. If they were wet, we would get them bathed. We helped to get them dressed, down for breakfast and ready for school as you would in a family. You looked after the younger ones who did not go to school. Sometimes we helped out and took the baby from the unit next door because the sister had an appointment. We would be there with the children for lunch. After they went back up to school, we would have two hours off and be back on duty at 3.30 pm. You would be there with them from 3.30 pm until 10 pm. Sometimes you might finish at 7.30 pm a couple of nights a week.
28. We would take the children to appointments. I can remember clearly taking them to the dentist and taking them to the clinic down in the town. A couple of my children had speech therapy. One of them had a problem with ears so we used to go up and down to the clinic regularly.

29. At night time we got the kids ready for bed. They would come down to the sitting room in their pyjamas and play games or watch the television. The times you weren't doing this with them, you were outside playing with them.
30. We weren't given formal training. We watched others do it and Sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was my mentor. She was, at that time, responsible for the unit and I learned a lot from her.

Children's routine and life at Smyllum

Admission

31. I don't know about any admission procedure for children at Smyllum, because I didn't have any experience of any of the new children coming in. In my own unit, the children were there when I went, and they were still there when I left.
32. I've already described the children's daily routine in relation to my duties at Smyllum.

Mealtimes

33. We didn't do our own cooking because we didn't have the facilities at that point. The two outside houses did their own cooking. We got our food from the main kitchen and it was good. The sisters, the staff and the children all got the same food, and there were no complaints. Sister Rosalie was an excellent cook. She had [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with her, who was also an excellent cook. The children ate in their units. I went down to the staff pantry which was the staff dining room and sitting room and anything room. All the staff gathered in there and the sisters had their own dining room.
34. I have been asked what happened if a child did not like the food or refused to eat. I don't have any recollection of any children refusing to eat food. It did not appear a problem, and I didn't experience anything in the unit and I never heard anything. I remember Sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] made a child toast at one point because the kid wasn't

feeling all that good and didn't want the food. If they weren't well and they couldn't eat, then they couldn't eat and they would get a glass of hot milk or they would go and see Sister **FAM** to see if there was something wrong, and food was never a problem.

Bedtime

35. The units were divided up into bedrooms. They weren't always like that and I saw the dormitories being divided up when I was there, particularly St Kentigern's. **BAC** **BAC** was a **BAC** and he did all the structural work inside, and divided the units into bedrooms. We had five bedrooms with three or four children in each bedroom.
36. Sisters slept in the unit with the children, but you could be called if you were needed.
37. If a child needed to get up in the night, they were free to do that.
38. You knew roughly who probably would wet the bed. It would be great for them if they missed a couple of days, and sometimes it happened. I would come down a bit earlier and if the children were wet, I would get them up and get the sheets away before the rest of the children got up. **HBP** did that. She started that just to avoid any kind of embarrassment.
39. I did once see a child chastised for bed-wetting. It was not a physical beating or anything like that. It was to do with Miss **HBO**. It has always stuck in my mind. She was winding down and was a bit grumpy. I was quite glad in a way when she went, but she was old school and she had been there for a long time. She had been good in her day, but she would chastise the children, or one in particular, if his bed was wet. She would tell him it was dirty, and that a boy at his age shouldn't wet the bed. The child was only about eight or nine. That was all. She never hit him or anything like that. She would make him stand with his sheets, but she was quickly reprimanded for that by **HBP**. Once she heard what was happening, it stopped. On a couple of occasions I saw that, but **HBP** put a stop to it.

40. I knew of many children that wet the bed. We all had bed-wetters and we would talk about who was improving. There was a great camaraderie among the staff. We were all very proud of our own units and we would not criticise anybody else's children in front of another member of staff. Nevertheless we would talk about our own children and the difficulties we were having. We knew everything that was going on. We talked about everything together. We were sometimes in that staff pantry until 12 o'clock at night. I don't know how we got up in the morning, but we did get up. We would talk about what happened in the units, what somebody said to somebody else or what sister said. There was no malice. I never heard of anything negative, the opposite in fact. Nothing passed us. That's what happens when you get a bunch of women together. We were in each other's company even when we were off duty, because we lived there. Most of the staff were from Glasgow or outside. You had a day and a half off a week. By the time you went home for the night on your day off, you were back on duty the afternoon of the next day. We were together a lot down in that staff pantry, talking about everybody and anybody and anything that happened, but I never heard of any children being treated badly over bed-wetting.

Washing and bathing

41. We had two baths and two toilets. The children had baths every night. It depended on how many were in the family how quickly you would get through them. Sometimes the water wasn't always all that warm, because everybody was bathing at the same time. If it was a family and they were at the young end, then the water would be used for maybe three children in a family. If a child was over eleven, that didn't happen, and it was a separate bath. That wasn't frowned upon because that is what happened in some families as well. That happened only for the children in that family. They would never use the water for anybody else. That was definitely a "no, no". I remember HBP saying that you shouldn't use the same bath for another family.

Clothes

42. The children had a uniform of grey trousers and a blue shirt or a grey small tunic type dress for our own school in Smyllum. The secondary school had its own

uniform. When not at school, they wore their own clothes. They each had their own individual clothes.

43. I never bought any clothes, but new clothes appeared. [REDACTED] HBP must have bought the clothes, because we did not have any second hand. [REDACTED] HBP made a lot of the clothes for the smaller ones. The girls in the unit were mad on jeans. It was a trend at the time. I remember that five girls all got these jeans which were down on the hips, which was the style at the time. I can remember it quite clearly because we were going on holiday up to St Andrews. I tried to get a pair and I couldn't get a pair to fit me.
44. We had our own little washing machine which we managed to acquire, but we also had a laundry. There was an older woman who had been with the sisters for years who ran the laundry. We would take sheets or any kind of bed linen that had been spoiled to the laundry, because we didn't have the facilities to wash and dry those. We didn't have a drier. We could wash the children's uniforms and we could take them over and hang them up in the laundry, but anything bigger than that went to the laundry. The laundry wasn't part of the main building. It was attached to Roncalli House which was outside.

Personal possessions

45. The children had spots in the sitting room where they would leave their toys. They kept their personal belongings in their drawers in their bedroom. They wouldn't have space for any large items. Those would stay downstairs in the sitting room.

Work

46. The children were not involved in any work. They never did any work in the unit. They were encouraged to keep their rooms tidy. Staff were responsible for the domestic work.

Leisure time

47. The children had an enormous space for running around and letting their energies off. They had a great deal of freedom, so long as we knew where they were. That was the main thing. We had a couple of donkeys and we would chase them round the field. We would also go down to the lake and get the children into the boats, especially at the weekends when there was no school.
48. They had plenty toys and games, plenty donated. Smyllum was well known. Especially at Christmas time, you never had to buy anything because things came in for a child of a particular age, male or female.
49. The children didn't have access to radios. I didn't even have a radio myself at that time. They had one television downstairs. There was a television per unit. That was in our sitting room /dining room. It was open plan.
50. Sister **EAA** was pretty good. She was always getting story books in, and they just appeared in the units. Possibly they were donated, but there were plenty of books and comics. There were no newspapers as the children wouldn't be interested in newspapers at that age. They weren't deliberately encouraged to read as they would be today, but you would see some of them sitting with their feet up in the chairs and just reading.
51. There was nothing structured or anything formal that the kids went to. They were all just out and about all the time. At that time they seemed to be able to make their own fun, because they were mixing with all the other kids in the units as well. They didn't all stick to their own unit. They formed their own little groups.
52. **BAC** used to organise bits of sports for the kids. He would arrange football games and cricket games more so for the boys, not so much with the girls unless they were tomboys and wanted to join in, They would have competitions out the back. There was always a lot of yelling when they were out there in the field.

53. Saturday was the day that the children would go down town to Lanark to spend their pocket money. The teenagers went themselves and the others were taken down. We would take them down to the pictures. [REDACTED] HBP [REDACTED] would give me money to go down with the children. She would not tell me that it was so much per head. She just gave me an amount of money and the money was spent. Later [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] would give me a bag of money, and she would say, "That is for your kids and let them spend it", and we would go down and spend the money. The children didn't receive money from relatives. Some of them didn't even get cards. An envelope coming through the door would be like gold dust.

Trips and holidays

54. We had a summer holiday which tended to be in St Andrews. It was a school that they used and it was like school camp. The units would take turns at going up for two weeks at a time to St Andrews. They would do the usual things like go swimming. They would go to the shows if they were on. It was just a holiday time for them to be running around on the beach or to go swimming or to go on trips.

Christmas and birthdays

55. Sometimes I was glad when Christmas was over, because there was that many parties that the children were never in. The children were given a lot at Christmas time. I felt it was too much sometimes. Everything was lavished around Christmas time. They would go out to parties and it was presents, treats, foods, and pantomimes. They loved it.
56. Children's birthdays were not marked in the way they are marked today. The birthday would be acknowledged and you would buy a little cake. They would get a small gift from excess Christmas gifts that had been donated. Children didn't even get a card from their family.

Schooling

57. Schooling was on the premises. The school was at the back of the main building, slightly up the hill. Sister [REDACTED] EAA was headmistress there, with a member of staff who lived in Smyllum.
58. The older children went to secondary school in Lanark. We only had three children going down to secondary school, so I don't know whether there were any arrangements for children to go to different secondary schools. The children did their homework at the table in the dining room.
59. I don't remember anything about any training or guidance being given to children to equip them for adult life. I don't even know if at that time much thought would have been given to that. I think the focus was on helping the children to adjust at the time to being in care, because of what they may have left in the background. I don't think looking ahead was part and parcel of care at that time. Even when I did my placements on the residential child care course, I never remember anything being talked about as regards preparing children for the future. It seemed to be about helping them to cope with the present, and so it would have been the same in Smyllum.

Healthcare

60. Sister [REDACTED] FAM dealt with any and every medical issue that reared its head. She had a specific day for specific units, so that everybody would be seen. It was an organised rota. On top of that, she was on call all the time. If there was anything that she couldn't deal with, then the doctor came in once a week as well. If there was anything that couldn't wait until the doctor came, then an appointment would be made for the child to go down to the surgery.
61. The children had a routine medical about once a year.

62. Appointments were made for children to visit the dentist. I would take my own children down to the dentist in Lanark. Sister **FAM** would make the appointments and you would be responsible for taking them down. You would be responsible for flagging up that an appointment was needed as well.
63. A child would go to hospital if that was what was needed. I know that the ambulance came for one of the little babies that Sister Cecilia had. I forget his name. He became unwell and I remember Cecilia crying as she carried him down the stairs. She took him to Sister **FAM** who called the doctor. After that the ambulance came. I was actually off duty as it was my day off. I hadn't gone home and Cecilia asked me to come with her to the hospital. She couldn't stop crying. We went into Wishaw Hospital, and I think he was in for about a week and then he was back out again.
64. I noticed that when I went to **FAM** she had a big box with a book-like file. She would go through it, so she obviously had some records. I think I have a recollection that it might have been the practice for medical records to stay in Smyllum at the time. That makes sense with the number of people and number of children, and the doctor having to come up. I suppose having the records there would be a help

Deaths

65. No child died in Smyllum while I was there. I don't know whether there were any procedures if a child died. There was no reason for that to be talked about, because when I was there nothing had happened.
66. I was not aware of anything about children from Smyllum having unmarked graves when I was there.

Religious instruction

67. The children got religious instruction in school which was the practice at the time. There was nothing formal. They weren't taken for religious classes. They were

prepared for First Communion in school, but when they come back to the units, there weren't any formal classes.

68. They would go to mass on Sunday. Religion was not rammed down their throats. The children were at Smyllum to be cared for, and not to have religion preached to them.

Visitors

69. I remember one family having a visit in the very beginning when I started off. Sister **HBP** was there. I remember they were in our dining room and then the sister took me in to the parlour which was opposite. I remember them being in there and the children had been playing around on the floor with some things that they brought them. I didn't take much notice of it, because I thought it was normal that the family came. Then I realised it wasn't normal because they very seldom came. It was as if once the children had gone into care, they were no longer regarded by the family as their responsibility.
70. There weren't many visitors that came at that time. We were 30 miles outside Glasgow. On the whole people didn't come. They weren't discouraged, but they just didn't come. Maybe they weren't able to or felt they just couldn't do it, I don't know. The staff sometimes took some children home for an overnight to give them a treat.

Inspections

71. I don't know if inspections by officials actually happened at that time. I am not aware of any inspections.
72. I didn't have any contact with social workers. It was the sister that dealt with them if they came. There weren't all that many. There could have been in other units, but I didn't see them. It didn't appear to be the done thing. When I was on the child care course, there wasn't talk about social workers coming in and out the places where I

did my placements. It may not have been the practice or it may have been just beginning.

73. I don't remember anyone else visiting or inspecting.

Review of care

74. I am not aware of there being any arrangements within Smyllum to review a child's placement there.

Families

75. Where possible families stayed together, but that wasn't always possible because it depended on the vacancies. If there wasn't a bed for a boy in a unit along with his sisters, the boy would go into the unit that was specifically for boys, which was St Kentigern's.

76. The children didn't tend to have visits from their family. I don't remember any contact by letter or telephone either.

Access to the children at Smyllum

77. I have been asked about whether any adults had unsupervised contact with the children. Other than the sisters and staff, I suppose [REDACTED] BAC had access with the children if they were out playing cricket in the field and he had arranged the game for them, and it wasn't necessary for a member of staff or sister to be out there with them.

78. Trainee priests did not come to our unit. They tended to go to Sister [REDACTED] ADE [REDACTED] ADE in St Kentigern's. Dan and Gerard, who were brothers, were going on for the priesthood. Dan didn't continue and Gerard got married, but they came to

ADE unit in St Kentigern's some weekends. They were teaching the boys to play the guitar, and they would go out with the boys in the fields, or go down swimming with them. Priests only came to say mass on a Sunday and other than that, we didn't see them except for daily mass that was attended by the sisters only.

79. With regard to people from the local community in Lanark, Brian Dailey, who worked in the chemist shop, was in the scouts. I used to see him coming in with his kilt, but he never went through the units. He went to St Kentigern's and would pay a visit there. He was never there all that long.
80. I am asked whether there were any arrangements to check whether people who had contact with the children were suitable. I never even heard any of the staff saying that someone came and visited, so I don't know.

Discharge from Smyllum

81. None of the children in my unit were discharged from Smyllum while I was there, so I have no experience of that. I don't know whether there was a procedure for children being discharged from Smyllum.
82. I suppose the nearest thing to a discharge would be in Roncalli House where they had the twins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I think they had been there since they were weeks old. I remember Sister [REDACTED] AFK and the staff talking about the social worker coming because they were preparing for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to leave. They were going to be adopted by a family in London. There were a number of meetings in Roncalli House before the children left. [REDACTED] AFK and another sister accompanied them on the train to the family in London. That was the only time I ever heard any kind of preparation being done for children leaving.

Discipline and punishment

83. We didn't have perfect children but they didn't riot either. We did not have a lot of trouble with them, maybe because they weren't cooped up together and were able to let off steam outside so much. I suppose we had a couple of children that might be classed as a little rough, but they weren't troublesome. They weren't held down in any way either.
84. If anything did go wrong, I can remember Sister **HBP** reprimanding them. She would reprimand in a way that the kid did not feel intimidated. I didn't witness any kid being threatened by any of my own staff or any of the sisters that I worked with. If anything, it would be the opposite. When you watched the way they worked, it was as if they knew a good bit about psychology. If a child had to be reprimanded, the child would be reprimanded but not in a way that would be threatening. I can't say I saw a child being pulled aside except when a couple of them were fighting in the unit and had to be separated. The children would know that whatever happened shouldn't have happened and that would be the end of it. There was no physical handling or anything like that. There was nothing to demean the child. That was something that just didn't happen.
85. If a child misbehaved, they would be told that they would just stay in and not go out to play you. You couldn't deprive a child of the television because that was their sitting room anyway and you wouldn't send a child up to its bedroom, so there was no place else you could send them. They would just be told off. You could deprive them of going outside to play. Nothing was held back from them. No food was held back from them.
86. There were no written or unwritten guidance or rules about punishment. If there was trouble in the school, Sister **EAA** would tell us, because if she didn't tell us, the children would tell us. Margaret McEwan, who was in the school with **EAA**, would come down to the staff room and tell us the child did. **EAA** would come down from the school and say what had happened in the school. **EAA** was very fair and very loving. She would say what had happened in front of the child who would agree that it wouldn't happen again, and everything was over and done with. "Over

and done with" was [EAA] phrase. I am not aware of corporal punishment being used in the school. If it was used, the children would have said.

87. The staff talked so much about what happened in each other's units and so I can say that there was no corporal punishment in the other units. There was no punishment book in my unit, and I had never heard of one in any other unit.

Abuse - general

88. What would be termed abuse today, wouldn't have been termed abuse in those times. You could say that Miss [HBO] chastising that boy and telling him that it was disgusting to wet the bed at his age was a form of abuse today that could also have been a form of abuse at that time. She went over the score and she was reprimanded herself for it. That's all judging it by today's standards. With the exception of that, I never saw any behaviour towards a child at Smyllum that I consider was abuse either by today's standards or the standards of the time.
89. The kids never mentioned anything at all. The staff and myself had good relationships with the kids. They did tell you things. I wonder why would nobody say anything at all to a member of staff, if there was something going on? I wonder why would they hide it from them and why would nobody know anything about abuse in the whole establishment? I never heard of the use of a belt to hit a child there. It never happened there, definitely not.

Allegations against members of staff at Smyllum

[BAC]

90. [BAC] was the [REDACTED]. He used to help. He was quite musical. I am a bit musical myself so sometimes he would be arranging a little concert on St Andrew's night, or something for Halloween, and we would do bits of the arranging together.

He did the bulk of it all, because he had the head for it. He would do all the props and arrange the concerts, and the children would put on a little bit of a performance.

91. He arranged the football and cricket matches. I heard that he had a brass band, but not in my time. I never saw him interacting with any individual child. He just did his work single-handed around the units.
92. I did see him with children. He was a bit of a clown really. He was a very firm-handed guy, and was very fair. He could get kids to do things that we could never get them to do. He could get the children to take part and brought out the best out of them in a way that maybe was not happening in the units. Maybe it was a man to man thing with the boys, but he got them to take part in what he was doing.
93. I never saw [BAC] discipline the children. I would just hear [BAC] saying "Hey, come on, that's enough of that. Come on, you don't do that kind of thing here". If a child gave him any bother, he would exclude them from whatever he was doing, and that would be the punishment.
94. I have been told that a child called [AAO] has said that [BAC] beat him to the extent that he was in bed for a fortnight. I wasn't aware of that child.
95. I have been told that a child called [REDACTED] has said that [BAC] pulled him by the ear, threw him into the air and dropped him on a radiator; placed a child in a bath with some form of disinfectant and caused burning; beat male children with a belt; generally encouraged children to bully each other and did not intervene if one child was being aggressive to another child. I don't remember a child called [REDACTED]. I don't know where [BAC] would get access to the bathroom. He would need to come into one of the units for that. There were no baths anywhere else. I never had, or heard of, any concerns about [BAC] with the children.

Miss [redacted] IAQ

96. I have been asked about a member of staff called Miss [redacted] IAQ, who was sometimes referred to as Miss [redacted] IAQ. I have never heard of her. I have never even heard any of the staff mentioning her.

Brian Dailey

97. I have been told that [redacted] has said that Brian Dailey was cruel to children. I have already mentioned Brian Dailey as someone who visited St Kentigern's. I never at any time saw him interacting with the children. He would just drop in.

[redacted] ADF – a carer

98. I have been asked about a member of staff called [redacted] ADF. I remember [redacted] ADF. She was in Roncalli House, working with Sister [redacted] AHO. She had been with [redacted] AFK for quite a while. I think [redacted] AFK trained her. She would probably be aged about nineteen or twenty. She had a very nice manner and was pleasant. [redacted] ADF was a bit of a lady. She had a graceful air about her. She talked very highly about the children. I remember her when she came into the staff pantry, and [redacted] AFK said that she was her right hand.
99. I saw [redacted] ADF with the children. She was just how you would expect somebody that cared for the children to be. There was nothing out of the ordinary. I noticed that she cared about the children she had. She was also very proud of the fact that they had a unit outside and they could do their own cooking. We didn't, so I wouldn't have heard or seen anything.
100. I have been told that a child called [redacted] has said that when she was in the care of Sister [redacted] AHO, she had a carer called [redacted] ADF, and the child was forced to eat food which was inedible and that if she was sick she was made to pick up her own vomit and made to eat it; that she shared a bath with at least twenty others and the water at the end was cold and filthy; if they did things wrong they were beaten with a

broom handle or a leg of a chair; they wore the same clothes all week; if they wet the bed they had to wear wet sheets round them and wash with carbolic soap.

101. I have not heard of this. The name [REDACTED] rings a bell. I am wondering where the twenty came from because that house couldn't hold twenty. That house would only hold about fourteen. If they were wearing the same clothes all week, I would be very surprised that other staff there or Margaret McEwan or anybody else in the school didn't pick that up. If you had wet beds, you would smell it from them and from their clothes.
102. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she had her hair cut off when she arrived in Smyllum. I have not heard of anything like that at all.
103. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that [REDACTED] ADF dragged her out of bed by the hair, pulled back the covers and threw a jug of water over the sheets and said that she had wet the bed; that she was then told to strip naked and she had to sit in a cold bath for several hours; that she was terrified of what she would do next; that she also rubbed her face in the sheets; and she had to wash the sheets in the bath even though she was only five years old.
104. No, I have not heard of this. I am wondering where Sister [REDACTED] AFK was when all this was going on. They were living close knit all the time. We very seldom saw [REDACTED] AFK because she was over in that house all the time. I am just wondering where is anybody else when this is happening? It wasn't just [REDACTED] ADF who was the only member of staff there. I don't know the name of the other member of staff.
105. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was hit daily with a brush and a wooden spoon; that children would be pulled by the ears and she was forced to eat soap to cleanse her foul mouth because she disagreed; that every child had to watch other children being hit; and they were all told they were the kids that no one wanted. I never heard anything like that at all.

106. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that a sister stuck her face into the sink and held her under the water for being in the same bathroom as a boy. No, I have not heard of that.
107. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she had to wear shoes that didn't fit and that her grandfather had handed in money for her but she never received it. No, I have not heard of that.
108. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that children were hit on the head and on the knuckles with a ruler; were given cold baths or put in a cupboard as a punishment; and when checking for lice a bone comb was dug deep into children's hair until they cried or started to bleed. I never heard such a thing. We didn't have regular nights for washing hair. When hair was needing washed, it got washed and it would be checked there and then. Sometimes the nurse, [REDACTED] FAM, would ask us if the children's heads were ok. There were so many children together. If they weren't ok, Sister [REDACTED] FAM would do it for us.

Allegations against sisters at Smyllum

Sister [REDACTED] AGD

109. I have been asked about [REDACTED] AGD who was also known as Sister [REDACTED] AGD. I was quite intrigued actually when [REDACTED] AGD came. [REDACTED] AGD is quite a big woman in stature. What struck me was she was like a gentle giant when she was with the children. [REDACTED] AGD had a lovely manner with the children. I never heard her demean anybody. She is a direct person and she was direct with the children, but I never saw her touch them physically. I just admired the way she was with them. [REDACTED] AGD was going to take over from me and I was concerned about who would look after them, because I loved these children. When [REDACTED] AGD came and I saw her with them, I was ok. I was happy going off then to leave [REDACTED] AGD with them.

110. I have been told that it has been said that a girl was hit by a car after running away, and that [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] may have been involved in the child's care. I don't know about this. It must have been after my time.
111. I have been asked about the [REDACTED] family who were at Smyllum from 1965. I remember the [REDACTED] family. There were four or five of them. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were aged about four or five. I think there was also a [REDACTED] and a boy. I don't know his name, but he was a bonnie little fellow. There might have been a fifth member of the family, but I'm not sure. They were in my unit, St Mary's, when [REDACTED] HBP [REDACTED] was there, and then [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] came so they were in her care when I was there.
112. [REDACTED] had a wee turn on her eye and everybody kind of felt sorry for her and so she got a lot of attention. They were a very needy family and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were very clingy. You would be sitting down with the children and if [REDACTED] came up to you to snuggle up against your leg and you brought her up, [REDACTED] would immediately be over there. I would say definitely there was a jealousy between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was quite a strong wee character, a kind of rough little Glasgow kid. She was quite aggressive towards her two little sisters. The other little fellow did not stand out all that much.
113. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] may have been involved in forcing children to share cold and dirty bath water with twenty other children; and washing children with Jeyes fluid and carbolic soap. No. I don't even think we had carbolic soap there at that time.
114. I have been told that it has been said that when a child in Sister [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] care wet the bed, wet sheets were placed around the child and the child was made to put wet underwear on her head. No, I have never heard of that.
115. I have been told that it has been said that [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] may have been involved in forcing a child to eat inedible food and drink sour milk; and a child, who refused to eat, being given the same meal at a later meal until the food was eaten;

and sometimes force feeding a child. No, they were all eating together in the dining room.

116. 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, this didn't happen during the time I was with [HBP] or [AGD].

117. I have been told that it has been said that children were told that siblings in Smyllum were in prison; that girls were told that periods were dirty; that a child was forced to wear shoes which were two sizes too big; and a child was forced to kiss Sister [AGD] feet every day; and other members of staff were allowed to be abusive to children. No, it's a mystery really.

118. 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. I remember the sailors arranged an outing for the kids to go to a pantomime in Glasgow at Christmas. We all went out together in two coaches. I was in one coach and other staff in the other coach, but we stayed with our own units. The kids were all wearing the sailors' hats on the bus. After the pantomime we went into some kind of a restaurant for something to eat. Then we were back on the bus and back to Smyllum. The sailors were all in the front hall and then we said goodbye.

Sister [AEX]

119. I have been asked about Sister [AEX]. I didn't know a sister [AEX].

120. I have been asked about a child called [AAX]. I remember her. She was in my unit, St Mary's, and was aged about nine. She had a brother called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a bed-wetter, but nothing stands out about [AAX].

121. I have been told that [AAX] has made allegations of what happened while she was in a Sister [AEX] care. I have been told that she has said that Sister

AEX may have been involved in locking a child outside a building at night as a punishment; making a child sleep in an empty bath; forcing a child to imitate a dog and a monkey; force feeding a child and putting rubber tubes in a child's throat; locking a child in a cupboard for hours; giving a child medicine that made her hallucinate; putting disinfectant in a child's food and bed; going to a chapel and candles being collected in some strange mass and burying a child in a garden overnight; whipping a child with a wet flannel; locking a child up and beating her with a stick; forcing a child to brush teeth with soap; giving cold showers as punishment; a child being sexually abused; and a child being given an electric shock treatment and taken to Carstairs to be abused.

122. No. I wonder what records there are of any of this. I also wonder which fortunate unit had showers at that time, because there were no showers in the units at that time. I did not know a Sister **AEX**, and **AAX** was in St Mary's. She was with **AGD** **AGD**, she was with me, and she was with **HBP**.

Sister **EAB** Sister **AHN** Sister **HBP** and Sister **AFU**

123. I have been asked about Sister **AFU**. I don't remember anyone of that name.

124. I have been asked about Sister **AHN** Who that is will depend on the surname.

125. I have been asked about a child called [REDACTED] who may have been in Smyllum from 1957 to 1968, and who had a sister called [REDACTED]. I don't remember these children.

126. I am told that allegations have been made that relate to those four sisters, although it is not always clear which sister is said to have done what. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that people were cruel to her in Smyllum and mentioned a Sister **EAB** Sister **AHN** Sister **AFU** and Sister **HBP** and she remembers a member of staff called **ACI** All those sisters would not be in the same unit. **EAB** and **AHN** if it is the same ones, and **HBP** were all around when I was there. I don't know what the connection could be between the three of them in three different units.

127. I have been told that it has been said that a nun stood on her toes and strapped her; that staff and nuns dragged her young sister, [REDACTED] by the hair along a large room beating her at the same time and that when she stood up for her she was beaten and was in bed for 3 weeks without medical attention. I have been told that it has been said that she was beaten with a wooden coat hanger from an early age; was tied and locked up in a cupboard under the stairs in the dark; was tied to a bedside cabinet and her hair was cut off as a punishment. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] HBP assaulted a child like a boxer and she got numerous cuts in the face; that Sister [REDACTED] AFU stood on her toes, pulled her by the ears and then hit her with a strap. I have never heard anything like that.

128. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] HBP beat a child including kicking and slapping the face. No, I didn't see that or hear about it from another child, staff or anybody.

Allegations about the regime at Smyllum

129. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved children being slapped, punched and kicked; the force feeding of children; placing a child on a nun's breast; and locking children in a cupboards. I have never seen or heard of any of that.

130. I am asked whether I would consider a regime to be abusive that involved children being disciplined for bed- wetting, force- feeding, removing personal possessions and beating children. I think that would be abusive at any time.

St. Vincent's, Newcastle

Background

131. I worked in St Vincent's, Newcastle from 1971 to 1974. There were between fifty and sixty boys and girls of all ages from six weeks to fifteen years in St Vincent's. I was

responsible for Tudor House which was a unit within the establishment. I had twenty one boys and girls in my unit. There were all families. There were no single children. I had two members of staff to support me and a domestic.

132. In the three years I was there, there were three changes in the sister in charge. One was Sister Rosalie Reardon, then there was Sister [REDACTED] EAE, and then Sister Brenda O'Neill.

133. I remember some of the other sisters in St Vincent's. Mary Collins was in the kitchen. Louise Landers was in another house in the housing estate which was about fifteen minutes away from us. There were two sisters who were training to be teachers called Magdalene McCullen and Nuala Kelly, but they had no connection with the children.

134. I have been asked about the [REDACTED] family children. I can't remember if there were three or four [REDACTED] children. I do remember three boys called [REDACTED] AAI, [REDACTED] AAF and [REDACTED] AAH. They were next door in Seaton House. They were first with Sister [REDACTED] IAG and when she left, they were with Sister Marie Byrne. [REDACTED] AAI and [REDACTED] AAF were teenage boys and they were wild. They were into everything. [REDACTED] IAG adored them. I remember she was the first sister to give the older boys suits to wear. Marie struggled a bit as she didn't have any experience in child care. Her experience had been with older girls in the hostel. Because of that, [REDACTED] EAE spent a lot of time in Seaton House with Marie and the children to provide support.

Allegations of abuse at St Vincent's

135. I have been told that [REDACTED] AAI has made allegations of what happened while he was in St Vincent's. I have been told that he may have been there from about 1963 or 1964 to about 1969. That period does not coincide with when I was at St Vincent's, but [REDACTED] AAI was certainly there when I was there.

136. I have been told that [AAH] has made allegations of what happened while he was in St Vincent's. I have been told that he may have been there from about 1969 . He was there in Seaton House with his two brothers.

137. I have been told that [AAF] has made allegations of what happened while he was in St Vincent's. I have been told that he may have been there from about 1970 to about 1975 or 1976. He was there in Seaton House with his brothers

Sister [IAG]

138. I have been told that [AAI] has said that he was slapped once by Sister [IAG] [IAG] would mention if she was having a bit of bother with him, but I never heard that. Our units were joined by a door, and we spoke about the behaviour of the [] children. I remember that their behaviour demanded attention but she showered so much attention on them. I remember Rosalie Reardon sitting at the lunch table one day and telling her that the problem was that she gave them far too much attention when she had a full unit to look after.

139. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [IAG] gave out "hidings" and the nuns hit children with implements rather than their hands. I have never heard anything about that.

140. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [IAG] slammed a football into [AAF] face, hitting his head of a wall and making him bleed. I have never heard of that.

141. Recently I heard that some of the [] children made accusations to the police about Sister [IAG]. I heard that it was investigated and it was going to court. I was told it was dismissed and she was cleared. [IAG] told me that she had been told that it should never have gone this far and that the allegations were unfounded.

Sister [IAC]

142. I have been asked about a Sister [IAC] I don't remember a Sister [IAC].

143. I have been told that [AAI] has said that Sister [IAC] was really violent, and she used to kick the children with her pointy nun shoes; that she dropped and kicked a two year old child called [] and that she whacked [AAI] on the head with the boiler house key. I don't know any of these people and I have never heard of this. We wore rounded, not pointy shoes.

Sister [AFB]

144. I have been asked about two nuns both called Sister [AFB] We had a Sister [] but she was away on the other side of the city, and we had no connection with her.

145. I have been told that [AAI] has said that one Sister [AFB] ripped a girl's ear half off; and another Sister [AFB] held him off the floor with a butter knife to his neck for talking in the queue. I have never heard of this. We were in houses. We didn't have to queue for anything.

Sister [AHQ]

146. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AHQ] hit a child on the toe with a garden hoe. There was a Sister [], not [AHQ] I have never heard anything about this.

[IAF] [] [IAD] and [IAE] - volunteers

147. I have been asked about [] called [IAF]. If any maintenance was needed, it was shared by two or three men sent by the [] I don't remember anyone of that name.

148. I have been asked about volunteers called [IAD] and [IAE]. I never heard of any volunteers.

149. I have been told that it has been said that children were sexually abused by these people and an unnamed female staff member. I have never heard of this. I never heard of allegations of sexual abuse. Sex was talked about by the teenage children. They were very free about talking about sexual experiences. They were quite curious. I think I would have heard of any allegations of sexual abuse from my children. They told me of boys and girls who had been messing around at school.

Bernard Traynor – a trainee priest

150. I have been asked about a trainee priest called Bernard Traynor. He came to Seaton House. He had a room there. He was there at the same time as the [REDACTED]. His role was to provide an adult male figure, and to learn about children in care. He would go out and play football in the field with the children, take them swimming and go on holiday with them.

151. I have been told that it has been said that Bernard Traynor sexually abused children at St Vincent's. I am not aware of anything like that.

Prior Statements

152. 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. I have not given any other statements.

Reporting of abuse at Smyllum

153. I have been asked who children could speak to if they felt they were not being properly treated or were unhappy about their care. There was no formal arrangement for that. I never had to go to Sister [REDACTED] EAL about such a problem. Nothing ever arose. I tried to give each child a bit of individual time. A good time for that was when they were in the bath. That is when you could get them to talk to you. They would talk away, but there was never anything that was serious that I had to go

to somebody with. If it was something in school that was bothering them, then I would tell them that I was going to speak to Sister [EAA] to see if she could help. You would just use your relationship with the children to work through anything, but I was never in a position where they had to confide about something very serious.

154. Even though there wasn't a formal arrangement, I know that I could have gone to [EAL] because [EAL] was my immediate line manager when I was responsible for the unit. She was the type of person you could go to with anything. She loved that place and she loved those kids. She was no pushover at all. [EAL] was as straight as a die. I never had any concerns about the children, and the children didn't raise concerns with me.

155. Sister [EAL] toured the units every day, sometimes two or three times a day. She particularly came into my unit because there was no sister in it. She asked if everything was ok, and whether there was anything I needed.

156. I am not aware of any of the behaviour I have been asked about being reported to the police. This is the first time I have heard of this behaviour.

Records at Smyllum

157. I don't remember there being any records about the children other than the medical records that Sister [FAM] had.

158. Although Sister [EAL] was in and out the units, we never had any reason to present reports. I was never asked for reports, I don't know if that was the practice at the time. All I know was that if there were any concerns about any child, no matter what it was, [EAL] was the one who wanted to know.

Closing thoughts

159. I have been asked that given all the allegations of abuse at Smyllum, why there might be allegations if nothing of that nature happened. I haven't a clue why all of this is being said. I ask myself why there are so many similarities in some of the ways that this has been recorded. Is it the style of the person that has recorded it? Is it that there are similarities because people get to know that things are going on and they come together and there has been a sharing of experiences? Are people influencing one another? Is there finance in it? Is there some kind of collusion? It is beyond me to be honest. I don't know.
160. I ask myself how it is possible that this happened when we worked and lived and slept so closely to the children and the sisters and the staff. Staff had to access my unit at any time of the day, and sometimes at night time when I would let them in when they had come back from the dancing. Any perpetrator would have to be sure that no one was going to come along and see or hear it.
161. Also children talk, so why did they not say anything? Why did nobody say anything to anybody? Why did staff not pick it up? Why did sisters not pick it up, because there were also sisters that were not dealing directly with the children? It is just beyond me. How could we be so unaware that every single one of us missed even just one thing there? Why was not even one thing noticed? If the children went to school with shoes that were too big, and battered and bruised faces, why did nobody notice it? If a child had been battered, they would have had to be hidden somewhere, but they all shared the bedrooms and had breakfast together. If you had a child that was off school, Sister **EAA** was on to it straight away as to why the child wasn't in school. She would come down and see the child if they were sick. There was a doctor coming in every week, a sister who was a nurse, and **EAL** who would tour the units every day. So why did nobody see this, if it happened? It is just beyond me. I don't know how things could have happened and people not being aware.
162. Knowing the characters of the people at Smyllum, by associating with the sisters and staff and listening to the kids talk to each other, I can't see it going on unnoticed.

There were individual units, but the staff and the sisters were working alongside each other and in close proximity. I can't make sense of it, because eyes were everywhere, ears were everywhere. We lived too closely together.

163. I can honestly say that I have no evidence of any abuse at all happening at any time. People could say there were things that went on which today would be classed as abuse. I will give you an example. Sister [REDACTED] HBP [REDACTED] had quite a quirky sense of humour. I remember we were at the table and I think it was one of the [REDACTED] girls spilt her porridge bowl over herself. She was crying because it had gone on her new dress. [REDACTED] HBP [REDACTED] went over to her, round behind her and put her arms around her. She drew her into the chair in a very affectionate way and said "You are a silly goose". The child slid off her chair and came round and cuddled into [REDACTED] HBP [REDACTED]. The child's face lit up with the contact and the way that it was done. Today it could be said, "I remember I was really put down. I was very demeaned and I was so hurt about the way I was compared to a goose, an animal". It was to comfort the child, but today you could put a different meaning on it . I am at a loss.
164. 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. I suppose these children came to us very damaged because they had to come away from their families into care. Maybe the damage is still with them and they have never worked it through, so they are still affected by it now. Perhaps it is a way of blaming somebody or a way of getting something back from being able to blame somebody. I don't know. As I have said before, people come together and make connections. The media helps people make connections and they support and influence one another. Maybe it is the money, I really don't know.
165. Those children were loved. I certainly wouldn't be sitting here if I knew that I had been working in a place like that or was part of that. We didn't have a high turnover of staff because they were all happy with the way things were and the way the place was run and the way the children were cared for. I don't know what is at the bottom of all this.

166. I think it is very sad because we, the Daughters of Charity, as a Community, have values that we live and serve by. Those values were in place then. They are not new values. The values have always been the same for us, whereas standards and conditions were different.

167. I have been asked whether, on reflection, given the allegations that have been put to me, I have any views which might help the Inquiry. If you take the present day and put it into the past, perhaps it would have made a difference, but records and papers are material things. The type of love and affection and interaction is the same then as it would be today, because we are talking about people.

168. If you are talking about systems in place, then that is different. Today systems are in place that weren't in place then. Had they been in place, then you can be sure that we would have been working within those systems. As far as I understand they weren't there because they weren't part of child care at that time. When I went to my placements, they weren't all that far forward in this regard. It was a different time, and in the early stages of recording, so it is very difficult to comment on. It is the extent of what has been described that is so alarming. I mean if that were all true, you would get better treatment in a concentration camp. I don't recognise any of that behaviour in the people that I worked with at all.

169. 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..........

Dated..... 29 Oct 2017

