

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of ^{MPL} [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is ^{MPL} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1952. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

The Marist Brothers

2. I joined the Marist Brothers in 1965 when I was thirteen years old. I went to the Juniorate which was effectively a small boarding school for people who said they wanted to train as Marist Brothers. I was there for two years.
3. In 1967 I went to a Novitiate in northern Spain. I was there for two years. In 1969 I came back to Scotland and was a pupil at St Joseph's when I was seventeen years old. I sat my Highers at St Joseph's in 1970. I took my first religious vows in 1969 which meant that I was at the disposal of the Brother Provincial who could send me wherever he wished.
4. I was sent to the Juniorate at Hetland just outside Dumfries. I was there between 1970 and 1971. I went to Dundee University between 1971 and 1972. From 1972 to 1973 I went back to St Joseph's College. From 1973 to 1974 I was at St Columba's College in Largs. From 1974 to 1976 I went to Glasgow and started my University and Training College, and in 1976 I left the Marist order. I went home and stayed with my parents for a few years before I got my own house. I married my wife in 1983.
5. After I left the order I continued at University and Training College and became a teacher for Glasgow Education Department. I taught Maths, Physics, and General Science. From 1978 to 1998 I was at St Augustine's School in Milton, Glasgow. The school closed in 1998.

6. In 1988 I had took an addition to my degree and I added computing to my degree and also to my teaching qualifications. In 1998 when St Augustine's closed. I went to what is now known as Lochend Community High School in Easterhouse, Glasgow.
7. In 2004 my doctors told me to apply for early retirement because of health conditions and in 2005 the Secretary of State for Scotland granted me early retirement and I have been retired ever since.

St Joseph's College, Dumfries

8. The Marist Brothers arrived in Dumfries in 1873 and St Joseph's opened in 1875. It had a centenary celebration in 1975. The school was located in Dumfries, near Crichton Hospital. The school was a mixture of day pupils and boarders. I couldn't tell you the proportions of each. I would estimate the school roll was up to about 600 by 1975.
9. Every year, after the end of the academic year, Marist Brothers from all over the U.K. would gather at St Joseph's College for the annual retreat. Appointments would be made then. All Marist Brothers were expected to attend unless they were unable due to ill health, or on business elsewhere.
10. I didn't really have any choice about working at St Joseph's College. You have to understand that at that time I had taken my vows, and one of those is the vow of obedience. It was the same for the other Brothers in the school. The Brother Provincial would appoint Brothers to posts that were suitable for their qualifications, but it was just up to the Brother Provincial because St Joseph's College was a private school. There were instances where Brothers were qualified teachers working for state schools, like St Mungo's in Glasgow. In those circumstances, the Brother Provincial would ask them to go to a particular school but because that school was under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority, the Brothers would have to apply to the Local Authority.
11. In general, once a Brother was appointed to a school it would be unusual for them to be taken away, unless there was a need for them somewhere else. During my time at St Joseph's College there were no sudden or unexplained departures or transfers of

Brothers. I can't recall any instances of Brothers being frustrated at not being moved if they had wanted a change. That would have been kept as a private matter between the Brother concerned and the Brother Provincial.

12. It was a boys' school but at one point, I'm not sure when, there were two girls in the school who were from the upper sixth of a convent school. I have no idea when they arrived, I had no contact with them.
13. The school had two primary school classes, Primary six and Primary seven. The Secondary school went all the way up to Secondary six. St Joseph's College at that time was in a strange position because some pupils sat Scottish O Grades but I know that some sat English O levels. St Joseph's was the examination centre when I was at Hetland, and I sat my O levels because I did not sit the Scottish O Grades. I had to go to St Joseph's College to sit the exams but not to attend classes. I didn't attend St Joseph's College as a pupil until 1969.
14. The school was fee paying. I don't know what the arrangement was for day pupils. I don't know if there were bursaries or scholarships available. Basically I knew nothing about the financial situation of the school. There was a [REDACTED] who lived at St Joseph's College. During my time that was Brother ^{MYT}[REDACTED]. At a later time, it was Brother ^{MYY}[REDACTED] who had been the Head Teacher at a school in Glasgow.
15. There was a Board of Governors for the school. I don't know anything about the make-up of the Board of Governors, I never had anything to do with them.
16. I don't know how many staff were there in 1972 to 1973. I would estimate that there were over fifty members of staff. The school had the full range of subjects normally offered in a Secondary School as you would expect.
17. The ^{SNR}[REDACTED] when I was at St Joseph's College was Brother ^{MYZ}[REDACTED]. He started as ^{SNR}[REDACTED] of St Joseph's College at some time in the late 1960's, I am not exactly sure of the date. He had certainly been on staff since 1967 when I went there to sit my exams. I remember he taught [REDACTED] because they had just opened a state of the art [REDACTED] which was very unusual at that point. He was ^{SNR}[REDACTED] until 1973, he

finished about the same time I finished. Brother ^{MMK} took over as ^{SNR} until [REDACTED].

18. As far as I remember, all the Brothers lived in the school grounds. I'm not sure in the case of Brother ^{MMK}. When I was a pupil at the College, Brother ^{MMK} supervised a group of young Brothers, but Brother ^{MMK} was based at Kinharvie House, outside Dumfries. Brother ^{MMK} did have a room at St Joseph's College and became the ^{SNR} in [REDACTED] after I left.
19. I felt there was a good atmosphere at the school. The pupils and staff got on well with one another. As in any school a pupil might take a dislike to a member of staff or vice versa. Professionally, most of the staff would avoid showing a dislike for a pupil, unless the pupil was determined to niggle at them. This was just the general feeling I had, like you might have about any school. I cannot think of any specific example of this.

Routine at St Joseph's College, Dumfries 1972 to 1973

20. My role at St Joseph's was [REDACTED], short for [REDACTED]. I was told to take this role by the Brother Provincial, Brother Arthur. Brother Arthur was based in Kinharvie House by that time. I can't remember if I went to see him or if he came to St Joseph's College. At that time I can't remember if he had an office at a building called The Wee Mount. That was the building where the Brother Provincial's house was until about 1970.
21. I don't particularly know why Brother Arthur picked me to be the [REDACTED]. I can only assume there must have been a particular need for another Brother who was not an actual teacher. Brother ^{MFU} didn't teach. I don't remember Brother ^{MFT} teaching. If you had a full teaching timetable, you wouldn't have time to supervise recreation, sports, or meals. Any time the boys were not in class, I would be expected to be supervising them.
22. I think I was the youngest member of staff at St Joseph's College. I knew the school pretty well as I had been there as a pupil, although I was a day pupil, not a boarder.

23. My duties were to supervise a particular dormitory group, the Inter Dormitory and to supervise [REDACTED]. I was at St Joseph's College for one academic year.
24. You might say there were four terms rather than three because they had a break at Whitsun, just for a mid-term break. That was the only period of time I worked at St Joseph's after being there as a pupil.
25. Although the term was not in use in 1972, my Line Manager would have been Brother MYZ [REDACTED], the SNR [REDACTED]. I could go to him if I had a problem but I didn't really have many problems to report to him. I recall speaking to him after a parent of a day pupil complained that I had confiscated the pupil's table tennis bat. The boy had taken his bat and was knocking hell out of the corner of a table. I took the bat from him. The suggestion from the parent was that I was picking on this boy for some reason. I said that he could have the bat back if he realised that he couldn't use it to damage school property. The parent apologised to Brother MYZ [REDACTED] as he hadn't realised what had happened. I can't recall the name of the pupil or the parent.
26. I had an enjoyable year working at St Joseph's College. I got on well with the staff and pupils I came into contact with. The pupils I was responsible for didn't seem to have any issues with me. I think they felt they could come and talk to me if there was something they wanted dealt with.

Mornings and bedtime

27. My duties started from before the boys got up in the morning until after they went to bed. I would get up around 6.30 am to 7.00 am. If possible I would go to Mass, but I could only do that if some other Brother agreed to supervise the dormitory. The dormitory could not be left unsupervised when there were pupils in it. If I wasn't able to go to Mass, I would go round the dormitory to see if any of the boys were indicating that they wanted to go to Mass. The pupils would still be sleeping at this point. They had to indicate if they wanted to go to Mass by hanging a towel over the end of the bed. Those pupils would be woken with a tap on the shoulder and if they still had the inclination to go to Mass, they would get up and get dressed. Going to Mass or not was completely a matter of choice for the pupils. There might be approximately six pupils who would want to go to Mass.

28. The other boys would be woken by ringing a bell I think. They would get washed, dressed, and would eventually make their way down for breakfast at 8.00 am in the refectory on the ground floor of the main school building. I would supervise breakfast. Then they would have recreation from 8.30 am until 9.00 am.
29. My group, the inters, went to bed at around 9.30 pm. I would give them a warning five minutes before lights out. I would then wish them goodnight, the lights would go out and I would be in my tiny room. I would often have the door open to hear if there was any problem. I would have a walk round to make sure no one was doing anything they shouldn't, such as reading with a torch. The pupils were allowed to talk after lights out. It wasn't encouraged because they needed to get their sleep, but there wasn't any punishment for talking after lights out. It would just be pointed out to them that they should get to sleep and that their talking would disturb other people.
30. The boys in my dormitory got on great. I'm not saying it was a quiet dormitory, there were over sixty boys. They would play board games, cards, or jacks. In general the boys were very well behaved.
31. There were some new pupils who joined the school during my time. I remember one in particular, [REDACTED]. He was a big African boy who was sponsored by a missionary. He fitted in fine at the school, there was no racism or anything from the other pupils. In general the boys seemed to be pretty happy. I don't remember any instances of homesickness or anything. They were generally well behaved.

Dormitories

32. The boarders at St Joseph's College were split between two buildings. The main school building had four dormitories. There were two large dormitories with about sixty pupils each, and two smaller dormitories. One of the smaller dormitories held up to a maximum of thirty. The other smaller dormitory held about twelve.
33. The dormitory I supervised had around sixty boys. They had single beds, not bunk beds. Each pupil had a locker next to their bed and would keep all their clothes and personal possessions in there. They may have kept school books under their beds. They were allowed to fit locks on their lockers.

34. Other Brothers would come to the Inter dormitory. If I was attending Mass, another Brother would have to supervise my pupils. That would be a Brother who was not responsible for another dormitory himself. Brother **MYZ**, **SNR** would inspect the dormitories. These would be unexpected inspections. He would talk to the boys in the dormitory. He would talk to me to check everything was alright. I didn't have a problem with Brother **MYZ**
35. The dormitories were separated by age range. The large dormitory on the first floor was normally used by first and second year pupils. The large dormitory below it was for third and fourth year. The smaller dormitory on the top floor was for the junior or primary pupils. The smaller dormitory below that was for the some of the senior pupils and was made up of cubicles. Most of the senior boys were in a different building. When I say senior boys, I am talking about fifth and sixth year pupils. The building most of them stayed in was commonly referred to as the Big Mount.
36. I don't know what the dormitory structure was in the Big Mount because I was never really involved with it. I don't know how many pupils stayed in the Big Mount but it was probably less than the numbers in the big dormitories in the main building because by fifth and sixth year pupils were leaving. The school leaving age was a lot lower in those days.
37. I stayed at the school in the dormitory I supervised, the Inter. That was the large dormitory on the top floor, for Secondary one and Secondary two. I had a very small room in the corner of the dormitory, just inside the main entrance. There was a mirror image room in the opposite corner for a member of staff but it was not used in my time at St Joseph's College.
38. The small dormitory that could hold up to thirty junior pupils was supervised by Brother **MFU** It had a partially open dormitory and some small rooms off it. The small rooms could hold two or three pupils each. There were six of those rooms. The main dormitory had beds down each side. Brother **MFU** had a room like mine just inside the entrance. I don't know what Brother **MFU** room was like, I was never in it.

39. The large dormitory below the Inters was supervised by Brother ^{MFT} [REDACTED]. The senior section there, the cubicles were not supervised by Brother ^{MFT} [REDACTED]. The senior pupils there were under the supervision of Brother ^{MLZ} [REDACTED].

Uniform

40. The school uniform was a blue blazer, I believe the senior pupils could add gold braid. Also a white shirt, school tie, and black flannels.
41. Generally, I wore the standard black Habit, which might be called a Cassock or a Soutane. It was from the neck down to the floor with a zip up the front, from neck to navel. Mainly to stop it billowing, it had a cord round the waist. I also wore an item called a Rabat, which was like a bib that clipped in and hung down the front. The other Brothers wore the same in general. Some also wore a cross. That meant they had taken permanent vows. Brother ^{MYZ} [REDACTED] had a Rabat made of cloth because he was allergic to the material that they were usually made of.

Food

42. Breakfast was around 8.00 am, lunch around 12.30 pm, and dinner around 5.00 pm. I would supervise the pupils during meal times.

Schooling

43. School started at 9.00 am. I think the lessons were around forty minutes each, although I wasn't teaching. There was a break for about fifteen minutes around 10.30 am. I would supervise the break. Lessons would continue until lunch at around 12.30 pm, in the refectory. I would supervise the pupils during lunch which was for an hour, or an hour and a half. Lessons continued after lunch until around 4.00 pm.
44. I would be involved in other duties when pupils were in lessons. Occasionally I would supervise lessons if a teacher was off ill or something. The head of department for the subject would allocate work to the pupils and I would just supervise.

45. Following the evening meal there would be a homework period, like prep, until about 7.00 pm. There were classes on Saturday morning from 9.00 am until 12.00 pm.
46. I can't recall how many lay teachers there were at St Joseph's College. I didn't have a great deal of contact with the lay teaching staff.

Leisure time

47. The pupils would have more rec time after school and I would supervise them. I think by that time the pupils were allowed to change out of their school uniforms. They had more rec after their evening meal. Following a homework period in the evening, the pupils would go to their dormitories at different times depending on age. I can't recall any specific recreational events being organised in the evenings.
48. Rec would be outdoors in decent weather and there were various recreation halls in the school for each group. The junior and inter groups shared a rec hall, the mids had a different hall, and the seniors had a place called the Ranch in a different building, like a common room. They might just wander around talking to their pals. There was a playing field, some might kick a ball about. There was table tennis in one of the recreation halls. I would supervise rec to the extent of making sure no one injured themselves, no fights, no arguments, or making sure no one vandalised something, although that wasn't an issue at the College.
49. There were sporting events on Wednesdays and Saturdays. I was involved in a certain amount of organisation of sporting events, but not a great deal. That was usually left to the P.E. Department. I was supposed to arrange a year group rugby match in the first term. I was probably supposed to organise a football match in the second term.
50. I was involved in supervising the boys going to and from the playing fields as although they were owned by the school, they were not in the grounds of the school. We walked to and from the playing fields, they were about half a mile away. It was an easy enough walk. Some of the boys would be clambering around wanting to talk to their pals, some would be wanting to talk to me, although not about anything of particular consequence. I would have to supervise all of them throughout this, keeping an eye on them all.

51. On Saturdays, after the school classes, there would be organised sports. I would supervise the boys going to the sports fields, then they were taken over by whoever was organising the sports match. After that the boys would come back, get washed, and changed into whatever clothes they would be wearing. They would have tea at the same time as during the week because you had to take into account that the kitchen staff were not Brothers. After that it was general recreation like any other night. They would go to bed at the same time as during the week.
52. On Sunday there was the general Mass which was more well attended than during the week. Those who were not Catholic or didn't want to go to Mass would be supervised by myself or another Brother. Then there was recreation, lunch, more recreation, tea at the same time as usual, yet more recreation, and then bed.
53. The pupils were allowed to watch television in the evening. There was a television in the dormitory. I can't remember if there was a television in the rec hall.
54. Boarding pupils were allowed to go home at the weekends. I think if there was any restriction on that it would have been the first weekend of term as pupils came back mid-week and it was better to let them get settled in.

Pocket money

55. The pupils did get pocket money, I can't remember how much. There was a school tuck shop which Brother MID ran. They could do what they liked with their pocket money. Parents would deposit money for boys and say how much they could get. Boys could ask Brother MYT for the money to buy things but they would have to say what they were going to buy. [REDACTED] came to me ask and asked me for money for something and I refused. He complained to SNR Brother MYZ. I explained to Brother MYZ that [REDACTED] had asked for money to buy hair straighteners. Brother MYZ agreed with me that [REDACTED] could get the money if he got a letter saying it was O.K. from the Missionary sponsoring him.

Trips/outings

56. I don't remember any trips other than for sporting events, if the pupils were playing a match against another school. I didn't supervise the pupils on trips to other schools, I always remained at St Joseph's College.

Religious instruction

57. There was morning Mass every day at St Joseph's College. There was no evening Mass. I think on Sunday afternoon there might have been a service called Benediction. It was possible to go to St Joseph's College without ever going to Mass.
58. There was religious instruction taught as part of the school curriculum. This was taught to all pupils unless there was a serious objection, such as on the grounds of not being a Catholic. The school was open to everyone, you didn't have to be Catholic.
59. I remember one boy called [REDACTED] who was determined that he wanted to be a Marist Brother, he was one of those who often got up for morning Mass. We had to tell him he couldn't become a Brother because he wasn't Catholic. His response was, "Well, I'll just need to become a Catholic."

Healthcare

60. I believe there was a school Matron but I had no contact with her. I know there was a doctor who came in but I couldn't tell you his or her name. I don't recall any pupils saying to me that they were unwell but if they did I would have said go and see the Matron.

Visits/inspections

61. Parents could visit pupils at the school. Generally parents would visit at weekends because the pupils would be in school during the week although parents could see them after 4.00 pm. I can recall parents visiting pupils off and on. I probably did have contact with them and speak to them.

62. There is something in the back of my mind about a school inspector visiting but I can't say for certain. I wouldn't have had anything to do with an Inspector coming to inspect the academic situation. I don't remember anyone coming to inspect the other facilities of the school.
63. I didn't have any complaints made against me about anything, apart from the parent who complained about me taking their son's table tennis bat, as referred to in paragraph 25. I don't remember overhearing any boys talking about any complaint against another member of staff.

Birthdays/Christmas

64. Christmas was celebrated by the Brothers, but the pupils weren't there during holiday times. I don't remember any Christmas party before they went home for the holidays.

Discipline

65. I can't really using any form of discipline, except if someone was using something they shouldn't I would confiscate it. I might say to a boy, "Go and stand over there and I will talk to you." I think giving lines was the normal punishment. Occasionally I suppose the belt might have been used, it was legal at the time, but I don't remember anyone being belted. I don't recall any other form of discipline. I don't recall giving lines and I didn't use the belt. I didn't have a belt. Going beyond St Joseph's College, I didn't even have a belt when I was in the state system.
66. When I had reason to visit other dormitories I found that it was the same kind of relaxed atmosphere that we had in the Inters
67. I can't recall any Punishment Book to record discipline, but I didn't teach. The discipline in my dormitory was fairly relaxed in the sense that would only have to speak to someone. I can't recall giving anyone lines and I didn't administer corporal punishment, so I wouldn't have to report anything to be entered into a Punishment Book.

Other staff at St Joseph's College, Dumfries

Brother MFU

68. I would often speak to Brother MFU who supervised the dormitory next to the Inters. Brother MFU was not exactly a young man. He had been at the school as a member of staff since 1936. I suppose he could be gruff in his manner but the boys could talk to him, and he was supervising the youngest ones. I would make the comparison that he was like a grandfather to them. I don't know if I would say that he was popular, but he wasn't unpopular. I can't recall anyone ever saying they didn't like him. I also spoke to Brother MFT who was down below my dormitory.

Brother Damien

69. Brother Damien taught French. In the evenings if I was not supervising homework etc. we would have a chat, play card, or play dice. I would help him with his classwork because I spoke French.

Brother MLX

70. I remember a Brother MLX he died recently. He was in the same care home where my mother was around 2007. I did go to see him but by that time he was blind. I cannot remember his birth name. I didn't think he taught at St Joseph's College, but I have since heard that he did. He had been a missionary in Nigeria. I knew his sibling,

Brother AKV

71. I remember Brother AKV He didn't have any role at the school when I was there. There were one or two Brothers who resided at the school but didn't teach or have anything to do with the pupils. Those Brothers lived at the Big Mount. I don't know how those Brothers spent their time as I was occupied elsewhere.

Other teachers who were not Brothers

72. I remember some of the teachers who weren't Brothers. There was Meg Grierson who taught Mathematics. She was my favourite as Mathematics is my subject, although I wasn't teaching at St Joseph's College. Meg actually taught me Maths when I was a

pupil at St Joseph's College. She spent extra time with me because I had been away from the education system in Britain for two years when I lived in Spain as a youth. Meg helped me catch up in Mathematics.

73. MYX had taught me [REDACTED] but I believe he taught [REDACTED] as well. There was also Johnny Dames. I can't remember what he taught. There was a Mr Rinaldi, he was of Italian extraction. There was a [REDACTED] who was the [REDACTED] He was the head [REDACTED] I got on great with him, he was a former pupil of the school. I don't recall the name MNT [REDACTED] I don't recall the name Mr Simmons.
74. I don't know who amongst the Brothers would have had what would now be called Teaching Qualifications. They were all university graduates.

Abuse at St Joseph's College, Dumfries

Allegations made by MGA [REDACTED]

75. I am informed by Inquiry staff that MGA [REDACTED] was a boarder at St Joseph's College in the 1970's. I would ask if this has been verified? I have no recollection of a pupil by this name. I do not recognise this name.
76. I did not see any of the abusive practices that have been described in his statement. I did not hear any pupils, or anyone else, talking about any such abusive practices either. I didn't hear any rumours of abuse. I cannot recall any instances of a pupil who had been outgoing suddenly becoming withdrawn. I cannot recall any instances of bedwetting.
77. In his statement to the Inquiry, MGA [REDACTED] states various allegations which I will respond to individually.
78. In paragraph 3 MGA [REDACTED] states "I had a happy and normal childhood. My father and mother both worked locally. I went to primary school in a nearby town in

Dumfriesshire, where I passed my eleven plus exam. I then had the option of a scholarship to go to St Joseph's College."

79. He refers to having the option of a scholarship to attend St Joseph's College, but I have no memory of there being scholarships.
80. In paragraph 5 he states *"I had the option of catching the bus every day, but it would have been three hours on the bus, or I could have stayed as a boarder there from Sunday to Saturday."*
81. I think his timing of the bus journey seems excessive.
82. In paragraph 7 he states *"I think I might have visited once before I started, because my parents had got a book about the things I needed before I went there. There were lots of things like cricket bats and equipment. It was for rich kids and I remember my dad saying to the guy that we couldn't afford all that. The guy had said that I just needed football shorts and they would provide the rest."*
83. I do not recall any requirement to bring personal sports equipment. The school had a large supply of necessary sporting equipment.
84. In paragraph 8 he states *"In 1971, St Joseph's decided to take in all the kids from Dumfries schools. They must have made a deal with the local council who paid them to do it. This completely changed the composition of the college. They still had the structure but had an overload of kids. The college did not make parents aware of this prior to it happening."*
85. I think this would have been local news at the time and well broadcast.
86. In paragraph 9 he states *"I think I was eleven years old when I started St Joseph's. The college was ran by monks known as the Marist brothers, which are a religious order under the Catholic Church."*
87. I never heard reference to monks, it was always "Brothers" or "Marist Brothers".

88. In paragraph 10 he states *"I remember it was quite daunting going to the college. There were two buildings within the grounds. I went in to the main building and got settled in. I was shown my room with two other boys, and we each had a locker beside our beds to put our things in. I had my clothes, including pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers. We were given numbers for our clothes, so that we got our own clothes back."*
89. There were far more than two buildings in the grounds. He refers to more than two buildings elsewhere in his statement. I have referred to five or six buildings.
90. In paragraph 11 he states *"We were told that we wouldn't be going home for the first three weeks. They said it was to get us used to the place, but I think it was to get us indoctrinated. During those three weeks, I learned that what happened in college, stayed in the college. The mail was censored too. The monks checked the letters we wrote before they were sent to our parents."*
91. I do not remember any three week ban on going home at weekends. The first week of term was usually a short week as pupils arrived mid-week, so pupils probably wouldn't have gone home that weekend. As far as I know there was no mail censorship.
92. In paragraph 13 he states *"the first years slept at the top of the main building. There was a main dormitory with rows of beds on each side of the room. I think there were about twelve beds in the dormitory. Then there were three rooms coming off one side of the dormitory, and three off the other. I think there were about two or three boys in each of the rooms."*
93. There were four dormitories in the main building, two on the top floor and two on the floor below. The dormitory referred to in paragraph 13 of MGA statement was a small dormitory, not a main dormitory.
94. In paragraph 14 he states *"The house master, who was Brother MFU had a room just off the top corner off the dormitory. There were washrooms at the bottom of the dormitory."*
95. In the dormitory that MGA describes, the Brother's room was down beside the washrooms, not at the top end.

96. In paragraph 15 he states *"I was in one of the rooms in first year and then in a different room in second year. I got moved to the main dormitory in third year because I had become rebellious by then, and I was always in the main dormitory after that."*
97. If MGA [REDACTED] was in this dormitory for two years he was never in my charge, if he started in 1971. This dormitory was the Junior group, which was usually primary school pupils. The Inter group, the first and second years of secondary school, went to the other dormitory on the top floor.
98. In paragraph 16 he states *"Second and third year were also in the main building, then you got moved in fourth year to the other building, which was called 'the mount.' The monks also stayed in the mount. They were downstairs and the senior boys were upstairs."*
99. I was in charge of this dormitory for one year which would appear to correspond to MGA [REDACTED] second year. The dormitory below the Inters was the Mids, the third and fourth year pupils. The dormitory below the Juniors was for a few Seniors and sometimes some Mids. This dormitory was made up of cubicles only.
100. In paragraph 17 he states *"The boys in year one were called 'plebs'. I remember being called that as a first year by the other boys. Then there were the 'inters' and the 'mids'. The fifth and sixth years were the 'seniors.' There was also a pecking order within those groups. There were the rich kids, then the civil servant and army kids, then the rest of us kids from the local community. There were also the day boys who didn't stay the night."*
101. I never heard any group being referred to as "Plebs". There was certainly no pecking order within groups.
102. In paragraph 21 he states *"The monks all wore long black robes with a chord, and a white collar. They also wore a cross."*
103. I did not wear a cross or a white collar. I cannot think of any Brother who did wear a collar either at the time he is referring to, or later.

104. In paragraph 22 he states *"The SNR [REDACTED] was Brother MYZ [REDACTED] when I first arrived there. During the time I was there, Brother MLX [REDACTED] and Brother MMK [REDACTED] were also SNR [REDACTED] but I don't remember in which order. Brother MLX [REDACTED] also taught [REDACTED] and was a bully."*
105. He says there was one SNR [REDACTED] when he arrived, and then two others. This is not possible if he went to the school in 1971 and left after his fifth year, due to the [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] St Joseph's College was Brother MYZ [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] St Joseph's College at some time in the late 1960's. He left around the same time I did in [REDACTED]. Brother MMK [REDACTED] then took over SNR [REDACTED] until [REDACTED]. To my knowledge, Brother MLX [REDACTED] was never SNR [REDACTED]. The SNR [REDACTED] Brother MMK [REDACTED] was Brother MFY [REDACTED]. He took over in [REDACTED] after Brother MMK [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED] sometime in the 1980's.
106. In paragraph 24 he states *"Brother MFU [REDACTED] was the house master, and he looked after all the boys in the first year. He was a drunk but he never did me any harm. I could smell the alcohol from him and from his room. I felt he was a bit lax and just went through the motions. Brother MPL [REDACTED] was my housemaster in either second or third year. I don't remember him teaching me anything."*
107. I would not have been on staff at St Joseph's College in his third year if he had started in 1971. Please refer to my comments regarding paragraphs 13 to 16 of MGA [REDACTED] MGA [REDACTED] statement.
108. In paragraph 36 he states *"Years one, two and three had meals in the main hall. Then there was a different dining room for years four and above. There was no supervision for the seniors, but the brothers sat at the top table and watched the juniors. We had to say prayers at mealtimes."*
109. There was no top table of Brothers. Most of the Brothers ate in their dining room in the Big Mount. I sat on a small podium in the boys' dining room and had the same meal as the boys. The boys did not have to say prayers at mealtimes.
110. In paragraph 37 he states *"All the boys had the same food and it was atrocious. We had corn flakes and a roll, or porridge for breakfast. The porridge was like wallpaper glue, so*

I would have the cornflakes and roll. I think there was scrambled eggs at the weekend but I wasn't there very often at weekends."

111. I ate the same food as the boys. I don't remember it being particularly good or particularly bad. I can't remember what we had for breakfast.
112. In paragraph 38 he states *"At dinner time, we would sometimes have chips. The ones at the top of the bowl would be hard, but everything under that would be grease. I would rush to try and get the chips at the top. We had fish fingers sometimes. The food was not good. I would have been annoyed if I'd had to pay for it."*
113. I cannot remember now what the menus were like. To me, this sounds like a typical young kid complaining about food. Some kids would like it and some kids wouldn't.
114. In paragraph 39 he states *"The brothers had better food than the boys. They would get the best part of the meal, and we would get what seemed like the rubbish."*
115. I ate the same food as the boys when I was supervising the boys. The only difference was that a College servant would serve me. Sometimes my meal would be served to me after the boys had got their food, as mine would be coming out on a plate from the kitchen.
116. In paragraph 40 he states *"The brothers didn't care if you didn't eat your food. There was a chippie down at the bottom of the road, and the boys would go there to buy food. I started to bring cakes and things back from home on a Sunday, and would share them with my pals. The monks never said anything to me about it, but I didn't advertise it either."*
117. The boys were certainly encouraged to eat their meals and I do not think they were allowed to leave the school grounds without permission. I recall that boys would sometimes bring cakes or treats from home to school, but they weren't bringing meals in. Regarding the chip shop, I can't recall hearing about boys doing that because they were not allowed to leave school grounds without permission. It may have been slightly more relaxed for the fifth and sixth year pupils, but certainly not for the younger boys.

118. In paragraph 49 he states *"There was a boy who I had been academically similar to. Then his marks went up and mine went down. It turned out that Brother ^{MLX} the [REDACTED] teacher, was going to this boy's house on Sundays. I knew this because his mother had been locally bragging about it."*
119. I have no knowledge of this as I do not remember Brother ^{MLX} teaching at St Joseph's College when I was on staff there.
120. In paragraph 55 he states *"We had about an hour to ourselves after school to get changed out of our uniform and do what we wanted, and then some time after our supper. We could play football, watch television or play table tennis in the recreation room."*
121. A 'recreation room' is mentioned for table tennis. Is this really the "Inters rec hall"? This was yet another building. It had been purpose built shortly before for such use and general use in inclement weather.
122. In paragraph 62 he states *"Some people were allowed to just go into the dormitories unsupervised. A man called Mr ^{MZZ} [REDACTED], who was the uncle of a boy called [REDACTED] used to sit in [REDACTED] bedroom when he dropped them off. He would hang around for an hour or so and was never challenged for being there. Looking back now, he was gentry, and higher up the pecking order. I think a working class parent would have been challenged for being there."*
123. I do not remember unaccompanied people in dorms. The names ^{MZZ} [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] mean nothing to me, I do not recognise those names.
124. In paragraph 69 he states *"I got appendicitis when I was fifteen years old. I had been going to the nurse for ages, but she just kept giving me aspirin. One day I couldn't move off the steps, and one of the teachers, ^{MNT} [REDACTED] said I needed to get to the doctors."*
125. In paragraph 70 he states *"I remember a member of staff giving me a lift to the doctors, which I think was on Charlotte Street, and leaving me there. The doctor saw me and told me to go to hospital, so I had to walk to the other side of town."*

126. In paragraph 71 he states *"When I got to the hospital, the doctors needed to operate on me because my appendix was about to burst, but they couldn't get a hold of my parents. Brother MMK was contacted and he came to hospital and signed the authorisation forms, and they operated on me there and then."*
127. I cannot comment on this description about medical treatment. I have no knowledge of these circumstances. If it took place when he was fifteen and Brother MMK was the SNR it would have been well after the time I was at St Joseph's College.
128. In paragraph 73 he states *"Religion was rammed in to you. We had morning mass, evening mass, any kind of mass. We said prayers before every meal and also at bed time."*
129. This is complete nonsense. If a boy wished to attend morning Mass he had to indicate he wished to do so to the Brother in charge of his dormitory. When I was on staff at St Joseph's College this indication was for a pupil to hang a towel at the end of the bed. There was no evening Mass. There were no formal prayers at mealtimes or in the dormitories at lights out. He does not make any mention of these prayers when describing the morning and night time routines.
130. In paragraph 75 he states *"They had these groups called the Knights of St Columba and the Legion of Mary. The boarding kids who were in these groups were made to go to chapel with the monks all the time. Something could have happened to those boys, because one boy told me I was lucky that I wasn't involved in the choir. I don't know what he meant by that."*
131. School pupils would be too young to join the Knights of St Columba. I know of the Knights of St Columba but that organisation was not operational at St Joseph's College. I do not remember any group called the Legion of Mary.
132. In paragraph 76 he states *"There was a wee monk when I was in first year who was quiet effeminate and played the piano. He took boys away for private sessions to play the piano, and had the boys do all these shows dressed up as girls. I wasn't involved with any of that."*

133. Boys dressing as girls in school shows at an all-boys school was usual if there were female roles.
134. In paragraph 80 he states *"When the door to [MFU] room opened, in the dormitory, you could smell the alcohol come out of it. It smelled like a pub. He was always drunk but he never did anything bad to me. I could also smell alcohol from Brother [MFI] all the time. I never saw either of them actually with a bottle or drinking."*
135. I certainly never saw Brother [MFU] drunk in charge of pupils. I do not remember Brother [MFU] smelling of drink when in charge of pupils. The only time I saw him beyond full sobriety was during school holidays. He would perhaps have a glass of wine on a feast day but that was never in front of the pupils, he would go to the Brothers dining room in a different building. In the mid 1970's Brother [MFU] would have been between 55 and 60 years old.
136. Brother [MFI] did possibly on occasion smell of drink. Maybe occasionally if he'd had a glass of wine at lunchtime on a feast day. He was a [] teacher and also a [] [] I don't particularly remember him smelling of drink. It wasn't something I paid much attention to, unless they were under the influence and I don't remember anyone in the College, with pupils, being like that. I can't even recall any member of staff being under the influence when pupils were not present, apart from as referred to in paragraph 135 above regarding Brother [MFU] having a glass of wine on a feast day, when I would describe him as slightly merry.
137. In paragraph 81 he states *"Brother [MLX] was a bully. After my dad complained about him going to another boy's house on Sundays, he started to use any excuse to give me the belt. He did this regularly."*
138. I remember a Brother [MLX] but I don't particularly remember him at the school. I know there was a Brother [MLX] but I don't know his birth name. It could be [MLX] He had a [] called [] who worked as a [] at Kinharvie. Brother [MLX] had been a missionary. I don't think he was a teacher at St Joseph's College when I was there. [MGA] has said that Brother [MLX] beat people with a belt but I don't remember him being on staff when I was there. When I knew [MLX]

MLX he wasn't long back from the missions. He had been in Nigeria. I don't know if he'd been in Cameroon. The Brothers coming back from Nigeria in the early 1970's were coming back with the aftermath of the Biafran war.

139. In paragraph 83 he states *"There was a brother that made me stand in the wash room all through the night, instead of going to bed, as a punishment. This was if I was caught doing something wrong. One time it was because boys were chucking paper at each other and I got caught three times."*
140. Making a boy stand in the washroom at night was not a punishment I would have used. I am not aware of anyone else adopting such a practice either.
141. In paragraph 84 he states *"I think it was Brother AKV or Brother MPL who told me to stand in the wash room. I stood there all night and then was told to get ready and go to school in the morning. That happened to me a few times, when I was in third or fourth year."*
142. Brother AKV wasn't on the staff when I was at St Joseph's College. He wasn't at the school then. He had been a pupil at the school but I don't remember him being on staff before I was at St Joseph's College, or while I was there. He was at St Joseph's College after I left, but I don't know what his duties were.
143. The washroom was a large room lined with sinks, the actual toilets were on the stairwells. I think the baths and showers were in the washroom as well. When the pupils were getting washed, some were in the washroom, and some were in the dormitory. I would be flitting between both, making sure pupils weren't flicking each other with a towel etc. I never made pupils stand in the washroom as a punishment. MGA MGA says this happened in his third or fourth year. I was only ever responsible for first and second year pupils. If I was wandering around and saw a third or fourth year pupil doing something they shouldn't be doing, obviously I would say something to them but I was never in charge of a third or fourth year group, I was never in their dormitory, unless I had to deliver something to Brother MFT or if I had to ask him for advice.
144. In paragraph 86 he states *"I remember one incident when I was at the college dance and I sneaked a girl into the dormitory. Nothing happened because AKV caught us."*

The girl had to go out with her bag, and he went to take her bag to his office. I was sixteen years old and had been working on the building sites during the holidays, so I was about his size. I put my foot in the door of his office and took her bag and gave it to her, so she could leave.”

145. Brother ^{AKV} was not a Dormitory Master when I was there. I believe he was appointed ^{AKV} a year or two after I was there but I don't know for certain. Also, ^{MGA} says this happened when he was sixteen. That would mean he would not have been in the Inter dormitory which I was responsible for when I was there.
146. In paragraph 87 he states ^{AKV} *said he would have me expelled in the morning. I told him to pack his bags too, because I knew he had been taking his cronies, who were prefects and other boys, out drinking. He was too scared to say anything about me after that.”*
147. I was never on staff at St Joseph's College at the same time as Brother ^{AKV} so I cannot comment on this allegation.
148. In paragraph 90 he states *“There was a lay teacher called ^{MYX} He kept within the rules and gave people six of the belt, which they were allowed to do. I think he was trying to make a name for himself because when the boys got rowdy in the music teacher's class, ^{MYX} would offer to belt the boys for the music teacher.”*
149. In paragraph 91 he states *“The music teacher tried to belt me once and I wasn't having it, so ^{MYX} came in and offered to do it. He came into the room and belted me in front of the whole class. This happened to other boys too. He would belt you six times on the inside of your wrist, above your hands. I also knew I would get the belt every time I went into his class. It was like he got some sort of kick out of belting the boys.”*
150. I have no knowledge of ^{MYX} belting any pupils in a music class. ^{MYX} didn't teach music. I found ^{MYX} very nice. He taught me traditional ^{MYX} when I was a pupil at the school. He was teaching ^{MYX} when I was back there in 1972. His ^{MYX} taught one of the primary classes in the school. Her name was ^{MYX} She was a large buxom lady.

151. In paragraph 92 he states *"All the teachers and brothers had their own belts, which were leather and had three prongs."*
152. I did not use the belt or tawse for discipline. I did not have a belt and I did not borrow a belt from another Brother or teacher because I did not use that disciplinary measure.
153. In paragraph 93 he states *MLY taught [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He also liked to belt the boys hard. You didn't have to do much to get the belt. Any minor infringement like talking in class would get you six of the belt from MLY and MYX. It was like they were in competition with each other about who could belt the hardest. I only got belted by MLY once, but he gave the other boys the belt regularly."*
154. I don't know the name *MLY* at all.
155. In paragraph 95 he states *"Halliday, the art teacher in fourth year was a drunk. I saw him with a half bottle once when we were taken to the park to draw."*
156. I don't remember anyone by the name of Mr Halliday.
157. In paragraph 97 he states *"The playing fields were about a mile and a half away from the college, and just out of badness, Brother MPL would tell me I couldn't play football unless I sprinted to it in a specific time. Other brothers would do that as well, and they would threaten me with not being allowed to go home if I didn't comply. I think Brother AKS did that to me when I was in first year."*
158. I find that ludicrous. He has said that he thought the playing field was a mile and a half away. I have already said that it was no more than half a mile. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I wouldn't have been able to time him sprinting, and I would have had to sprint with him. I have never been built as a sprinter. I don't know where this has come from.

MGA [REDACTED] specific allegations of sexual abuse

159. In paragraph 100 MGA [REDACTED] states *"I built up my resistance at the college. There were teachers who belted you and were physical, and then there were the weird ones, who were weird in a sexual way. They were Brother Damien, Brother AKV [REDACTED] and Brother MPL [REDACTED] I thought Brother AKS [REDACTED] was weird too but there was no proof of that, that I knew of."*
160. I don't know what is meant by weird in a sexual way.
161. In paragraph 101 he states *"Brother Damien, who was the French teacher in first year, would walk up and down the class. He had some sort of mechanism under his robe to play with himself. He had the chords arranged under his robe so that he could play with himself."*
162. In paragraph 102 he states *"When he walked passed you, you could see into his robes, and see his penis. He did this regularly. One day, he walked past me and another boy, the boy hit him with something. He made a noise and walked away, and didn't come down our aisle again."*
163. I knew a Brother Damien. He was a French master. He would have been in his fifties. I don't recall anything of that nature at all.
164. In paragraph 103 he states *"One of the boys made a complaint about Brother Damien, and Brother MMK [REDACTED] had an inquiry into what Brother Damien was doing in class. I was away home at the time but I heard he held some kind of meeting and boys were asked what they had seen, and then Brother Damien was found innocent. It was some sort of internal inquiry."*
165. I don't recall any inquiry into anything of that nature. Can I also point out that it has been stated that Brother MMK [REDACTED] as SNR [REDACTED] conducted an inquiry. Brother MMK [REDACTED] wasn't the SNR [REDACTED] when I was there.

166. In paragraph 104 he states "Brother ^{MMK} called me and a couple of other boys into his office when I got back, and asked me what I had seen in class. I don't remember the names of the other boys. I told him that I had seen Brother Damien playing with his naked penis, and ^{MMK} replied by saying: 'You are insignificant in this world. What you say means nothing.' He was basically saying that the organisation was bigger than us boys. So nothing happened to Brother Damien and he carried on teaching."
167. As I have stated, I was not on staff at St Joseph's College when Brother ^{MMK} was the ^{SNR}.
168. In paragraph 105 ^{MGA} states "Brother ^{MPL} had a ^{MPL} and was my housemaster in second or third year. His nickname was ^{MPL}. His thing was that he liked to wrestle kids on a big mat in the dormitory. He would take on five or six boys to wrestle. He did that quite often, about once or twice a week. It would happen just before bedtime so we would be in our pyjamas."
169. When I was at St Joseph's College I had a ^{MGA} ^{MGA} doesn't mention that I had very ^{MGA}. I had very ^{MGA} I had to ask permission to ^{MGA}. The Brothers didn't have ^{MGA}. I asked permission because of a skin condition. Some other Brothers asked for permission to ^{MGA} after me. With the ^{MGA} and the ^{MGA} I looked very different from everyone else.
170. I vaguely remember that my nickname was ^{MPL}. There were two reasons for that, one of which contradicts the idea of me sprinting anywhere, the other was because I used to help run the ^{MPL}. If you remember your ^{MPL}, ^{MPL} was a rather portly gentleman. I was certainly overweight. I think I did hear the children using that nick name.
171. Regarding the allegation that I liked to wrestle boys before I went to bed at night, no chance. I haven't changed a great deal physically since that time. To my mind someone of my height and weight would have great difficulty wrestling five or six teenage boys at the same time. ^{MGA} also says this took place on a large mat in the dormitory. There was nowhere for a large mat to be placed in the dormitory and I certainly didn't do anything like that.

172. In Paragraph 106 he states *"Looking back, he was trying to make out he was powerful. I thought he was a bit touchy feely in the wrong places. He did that with me. I remember an incident happened, but I can't remember exactly when it was. I think I've tried to block it. I think he touched me in the wrong place. I remember that I got up and kicked him in the head. He never said anything but he never bothered me again."*
173. That certainly did not happen because there was no wrestling match for it to happen in. I can assure you I would certainly remember someone kicking me in the head. In my teaching career I was only assaulted once. That was much later in the 1980's or 1990's. It was done by a parent of a pupil and it was dealt with by the police.
174. In paragraph 107 he states *"Brother ^{MPL} also liked to take boys back to his room, if he caught anyone messing about or making a noise. His room was in the dormitory and he would take a boy in there and shut the door. He would be in there for about twenty minutes. It never happened to me, but I remember thinking they were in there too long to be getting the belt. I never heard whether he did anything to the boys but you never know."*
175. That did not happen. If a pupil needed to come and speak to me they would knock on my door which would always be open except when I was getting washed and changed. I would speak to the pupil at the doorway or even in the dormitory. That was the nearest the pupils ever came to being in my room. My room was tiny, I could barely get in it myself. There was a washbasin and a bed. There was no desk, I think there might have been one chair. It had a sloping roof into the bargain. There were parts of the room where I don't think I could stand up straight. I don't remember having a television in my room.
176. In paragraph 108 he states *"Brother ^{AKV} had a broken arm once, and a boy said that he had done it to ^{AKV} when ^{AKV} had tried to tackle him. I took that to mean that he had tried something sexual with him."*
177. I cannot ever recall Brother ^{AKV} having suffered a broken arm when I was there. Brother ^{AKV} was not on the staff when I was at St Joseph's College. I had known Brother ^{AKV} since I was about thirteen but I don't remember him at any particular

point having a broken arm. Then again, a broken arm heals relatively quickly and after I left the staff at St Joseph's College I would only see Brother ^{AKV} one full academic year later, at the annual retreat.

178. In Paragraph 111 he states *"In the first year, a boy called [REDACTED] would go home at the weekends and his uncle, Mr ^{MZZ}, would bring him back on Sunday afternoon. ^{MZZ} would hang around in [REDACTED] room, which he shared with a boy called [REDACTED]"*
179. In Paragraph 112 he states *"Word went round the college in first year that ^{MZZ} was giving them nude women magazines. At that age, a few of us wanted to see the magazine. I went into the room once or twice. Other boys were also going in and out too. Most of the first year boarders knew about it."*
180. In Paragraph 113 ^{MGA} states *"The first time I went in the room, I just had a look and left. The second time I went in the room, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in their beds and ^{MZZ} was standing. They were passing the magazine around, and ^{MZZ} asked the boys to play with themselves, and to measure their penises against each other. When I heard that, I left and never went back. I can't remember if there was anybody else in the room, but there may have been one other boy with me."*
181. I don't remember the name ^{MZZ} I don't remember hearing anything like that. If anything like that had happened it would have gone round the school like wildfire. ^{MGA} say it may have happened in his first year, and he has named Brother ^{MFU} as his dormitory master in his first year. It wasn't me. I don't remember the relatives of any pupils coming into the dormitory. They might have helped a boy up the stairs with luggage on the first day of term but even that work was frequently done by College servants. I don't remember non-Marist members of staff, apart from [REDACTED], coming to the dormitories. [REDACTED] did not come up when the pupils were there. He would come up to inspect the dormitories. He was head of [REDACTED], and Master of discipline. He would check the lockers for contraband. I think his nickname was [REDACTED]. He had a voice like a foghorn on the playing field. You could hear him half way across the town. He was an extremely nice person.

182. In paragraph 115 he states *"In first year, I was away home one weekend and when I came back on Sunday, the boys in the dormitory were kicking off. A boy called [REDACTED] had caught two boys, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], in bed together. He must have told all the other boys, and they wanted to belt them."*
183. I have no comment to make about this allegation. I have no knowledge of what he is referring to. I do not recognise the names [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
184. In paragraph 116 he states *"The^{SNR} [REDACTED] Brother^{MYZ} [REDACTED] came to us and gave us a lecture saying that we would be worse than them if we hit them. When I think back, I think that normalised the behaviour of the other clowns, because we didn't know what was right and what was wrong."*
185. I have no comment to make about this allegation. I have no knowledge of what he is referring to.
186. In paragraph 117 he states *"The boy [REDACTED] used to work for a wee guy in the tuckshop. He was involved with the brothers in the Order of the Sacred Heart, which was a secret society. I never joined it."*
187. I do not know of such an order.
188. In Paragraph 121 ^{MGA} [REDACTED] states *"I never spoke to my parents about what was happening at the college. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father had always told me to kick someone and run if they made me feel uncomfortable. Nobody did put a hand on me that way. I knew if anything happened like that to me, and I had told my dad then he would have pulled me out."*
189. At paragraph 106 of his statement, ^{MGA} [REDACTED] alleges that I was, "a bit touchy feely in the wrong places" and he thinks he was "touched in the wrong place." He has now contradicted himself when he says, "Nobody did put a hand on me that way." Given the extent of his allegations and his unhappiness at the school why did he not tell his father about it?

Reporting of abuse at St Joseph's College

190. I was not aware of any abuse at St Joseph's College, so there was nothing for me to report.

Life after St Joseph's College

191. After I left St Joseph's College I didn't maintain direct contact with the staff. I didn't write to anyone or make telephone calls. I went there for the annual retreat. Occasionally there may have been have been Brothers from St Joseph's College who came to St Columba's in Largs because St Columba's had originally been bought as a holiday home for Brothers from all over the United Kingdom. I would obviously speak to Brothers from St Joseph's College if I saw them at the annual retreat or if they came to St Columba's. In general I had no reason to contact St Joseph's College after I left.
192. After I left St Joseph's College I did hear a rumour about Brother Damien, but it was not to do with St Joseph's College, it was to do with somewhere in London. I don't remember the name of the place in London. I heard this rumour much later, about ten years after I had left the Marist Brotherhood. I heard that there was something about Brother Damien in London. I heard it was something to do with boys but I didn't hear any details. I think it was to do with accusations being made by boys but I didn't hear any specifics I can't remember exactly when I heard this. I got on relatively well with Brother Damien when he was on staff at St Joseph's College. I helped him correct his classwork and so on. I think he had been a missionary at one time.

St Columba's School, Largs 1973 to 1974

193. I was told to go to St Columba's School by the Brother Provincial. I was there as a Primary School teacher.

Leaving the Marist Brothers

194. I left the Marist Brothers in 1976 because I felt it was no longer what I wanted. I did basically continue to retain my faith, although I am not really a church goer. My wife is not Catholic.

Impact

195. I'm afraid I have no great respect for the system at the moment. I think the Government has made a mistake with the approach, "Come forward, you will be believed." It's leaving everything open to abuse. Someone can come forward and make an allegation against you with no proof and they are to be believed. It is just lunacy.

Other information

196. 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.

MPL

Signed

Dated

15th Oct 2019