

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of [REDACTED] AAX

[REDACTED] AAX

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is [REDACTED] AAX. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. Before I was placed into care, I had two sisters and a brother. In age order it is [REDACTED], [REDACTED] then me. My mother later had [REDACTED]. She stayed with my granny.
3. I learnt about my family later on from my mother. They were gypsies. My mother was a drinker. So was my father. My parents separated. My mother was left with me and my other siblings. My mother was lovely. She was very gentle but she couldn't cope with us all. I think that that was why [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I were put into the homes. I think my mother would've gone for help to put us into care. I don't know who it would've been she spoke to. It was the people who she spoke to who probably advised her to put us into care to allow her to get help for herself and get fit enough to look after us.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

4.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5.

Smyllum Park, Lanark

6. I went into Smyllum in roughly about 1964. I was only a little girl. I remember having long hair past my bum. I remember that [REDACTED] and I could sit on our hair before we went to Smyllum. Because our hair was so long, it is possible that I may have been a wee bit older than two when I went there.
7. There were loads of kids in Smyllum. It felt like there were tonnes of them. At one time, I thought there were seven hundred kids there. I may have been mistaken. It was boys and girls who were there. You were allowed to mix with the boys when you were out playing. We were also mixed in with boys when we ate in the dinner hall.
8. I'll never forget the building. I can remember every inch and cranny of that building. There were wooden stairs. The back stairs were more solid. There were stairs where the boys had to walk on one side, and the girls had to walk on another. There was a line separating us. If you stepped over the line, you would get a beating.

Staff

9. There was a Mother Superior. Her name was Sister [REDACTED] AEG She was cruel to my sister. Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY were the nuns who mainly looked after me. Sister [REDACTED] FAS was the nun you had to see if you had nits and things like that. She was wee and dumpy. She was like a matron. I wouldn't have a clue as to who was

the nun who was in charge of the boys. I haven't got a clue who did the cooking. I never went into the big kitchen. I don't know who was in charge of the dining room when we were eating.

10. I remember there being volunteers at the home. I remember two young girls in their twenties helping out. I did used to see priests and monks. I saw them at night when the nuns took us down to the living room or the chapel.

Routine at Smyllum Park

First day

11. The door was answered by one of the other kids at Smyllum. She was a girl with long blonde hair. We walked through. We then saw some of the nuns. The nuns were so nice. There were no names mentioned when we first went there.
12. As soon as my mum and my cousin went away, the nuns dragged us up the stairs. We were all put into separate rooms. The nuns then gagged me with tape over my mouth and tied me up on a bed. They left us there for God knows how long. The next thing I remember is one of the nuns trying to put a pillow over my face. It felt as if she was trying to smother me. The nun kept coming back and forward to do that. I think it was all part of their games.
13. We were all then taken into a room together to get our hair cut. I was put on a chair. The nuns cut all of our hair off. As they did that, they cut my ear. I was screaming. My brother was also bleeding from how they were shaving his hair. I was then taken back up to my bed, taped up and tied to the bed again. The next memory I have is the curtains being opened wide open. That's all I remember of my first day.

Sleeping arrangements

14. One of the sisters had a bedroom next to the dorm I slept in. During my time there, it was either Sister **AEX** or Sister **AFY** who was on duty. They rotated duties. The dorm was just a square bedroom. It was about fifteen foot square. There were three beds in the room. Initially, was in a different room. It was the Sister **AEG** who looked after her. My sister hated her. Later on, my sister was put in the same room as me.

Mornings and bedtime

15. We got up very early. Sister **AEX** or Sister **AFY** woke you up. It could have been six o'clock in the morning. They would open the curtains and shout "get up." There was nothing sentimental about the way they did that. They just shouted at you to get up. I don't really remember when I went to bed because I was always tied up.

Food

16. We ate our meals in the dinner hall. I remember seeing my brother when we were having our dinner. He used to sit with me sometimes.
17. I can't remember much about breakfast. We must have had breakfast. Lunch was had in the dinner hall at the same table as at other mealtimes. I remember having peas and a kind of sausage one time. I remember tea time. On Wednesdays and Tuesdays we had fish.
18. I hated pineapple. The nuns used to make me eat pineapple. I remember being sick and made to lick it off the floor by one of the nuns.
19. Outside my bedroom door was a set of stairs which led up to a blue door. The room through the door was for what they called the "spastics." I hate that name. I called them "handicappers." The nuns kept the handicapped children hidden in this room. Sometimes the nuns tried to make me eat with them. For a wee child, that was very

scary at first. As it continued, I felt sorry for them. I felt emotional for them. I got the feeling that they got worse treatment than I did.

20. There was an occasion where the nuns told my brother and I that some chocolate had been stolen. I had never seen any chocolate in my life. They said that I had chocolate around my mouth. I didn't though. They then put the sweetie beside me. I would pick the sweetie up and suck it every time the nun's back was turned. When the nun came in she would give me a beating. I eventually decided that I would just eat the sweetie. That would mean that I would get a kicking but it also meant that I would get one last one. I was being clever.

School

21. I don't remember being taught in Smyllum itself. I don't remember any of the nuns also being teachers.
22. When I was younger I was put into a nursery type of thing in a different building. It was on Smyllum's grounds. I was only once in the nursery. I don't remember being taken to the nursery but I remember that it was located behind a classroom. We had to sleep in there in the afternoon. I didn't want to sleep, but I eventually did. That's the only thing I remember about that day.
23. Later on, I was put into the classroom in the school. They called it Lower School. I must have been sent there when I got to primary school age. I must have been about five or six. Miss AEW was my teacher. Miss AEW was not that great a teacher. She wasn't wicked. She never beat us up or anything.
24. I remember that the nuns always kept me at the end of the line to get scrubbed before going up the hill to school. Because of this, I was always late. I sometimes missed breakfast. Miss AEW used to go mental at me. I would think to myself, "How can I explain why I am always late?" I couldn't open my mouth to say why I was late. I would get into trouble. I didn't get the belt. I just got told off for that.

25. One time, Miss AEW wanted to give one of the other children the belt. I ran and got the belt for her. She said "I didn't ask you to go and get the belt." She then gave me the belt because I went to get it. I must have been hyper. I was very hyper as a child. I just didn't like sitting down. I didn't deserve that though.

Chores

26. There were wooden stairs. The nuns used to make you rub one part of the stairs over and over again. I had to do that as a toddler. The nuns would say "You do that right now and I'll come back." It made you exhausted. The stairs were never clean. I can't remember when, during the day, we did that. I do remember it getting dark when I was doing the floors so it could've been later on in the day. They once got me to help out with setting up the dining room. I can't remember any other chores other than that.

Religious instruction

27. I can't remember having to say prayers. I don't remember reading the bible in Smyllum. I don't remember going to confession or anything like that. All I remember is being talked to by the nuns about the devil.
28. I do remember being taken to chapel on a couple of occasions. My sister got her first communion there. Mine was later on in North Berwick when we were at Glasclune. I remember my sister having a pretty skirt on.
29. The sisters once took me at night to the chapel. I had to get on my hands and knees and pray for my sins. I didn't know what I was praying for. That happened after a nun had bent all my fingers back as a punishment for peeing outside. There was just one sister in the chapel when I was taken there.

Leisure time

30. Before I went to school, and other than the time I went to nursery, all they did during the day was keep me in and beat me up. They used to just tie me up on the bed and throw me into wardrobes. I can't remember playing with any toys or anything like that.
31. It felt like years before I was let outside to play. The nuns had always kept me in. The first time I got out it was beautiful. I remember the long green grass. I felt free. I remember having a jar and going out to catch bumblebees and butterflies. I remember seeing them in the jar and deciding to set them free.

Holidays and trips

32. When we were going on trips, we had to sit in the dining room. People would come in and choose who they wanted to take out. I remember two occasions when I was picked. One was when a couple picked both my sister and I. We went away with that couple for maybe a week. They were lovely. Another time I was picked, I went away on my own to another lady and man. They had an outdoor toilet. They were nice.
33. When my sister and I weren't picked, we were taken by the nuns out of Smyllum and locked up in a house. The house was just down the road, over the bridge. There were nuns there. They locked us up in a bedroom all day and all night. The room was very empty. It was dingy and horrible. It was like an attic or something. That happened for roughly a week. We had meals in the house. We went downstairs and they would say "Hurry up and eat it." After that, you were taken upstairs and locked up again.
34. I remember two young girls in their twenties helping out. I think they were volunteers. They took [REDACTED] and I out to the shows. For some reason I think the shows were in London. It was the loveliest time ever. The girls were so sweet to us that day. I remember going on the big wheel and being scared. One of the girls held

on to me. She gave me a cuddle. I think I asked one of the girls whether she was going to become a nun and I think she said "yes". I remember hoping that she would become a nun because she was so lovely.

35. I think one of the nuns took us on a trip to London. I'm sure we were taken by train. Everything was glowing with lights in London. The lights were amazing in my eyes. I had never seen anything like that before. I remember being taken into Woolworths by a nun. That nun was fine with me. She took us around the shelves to get a wee present for our mum. I can't remember whether I picked something.
36. One time, we went to a beach. It was a rocky beach. I was scared of the water. It was blowing a gust at the time. It was a funny time to visit a beach. A nun asked me to walk into the water. I was scared because I thought I would drown. . There were all sorts of funny things going on in my head at that time.

Birthdays and Christmas

37. I don't remember having any birthdays. I do remember one occasion where the nuns brought out a birthday cake. We were all sitting around in the dining room. It must have been someone else's birthday. To us that cake was like "wow." I was not too well at the time. The sisters knew that. They deliberately shared the cake with everybody but me because I was not well. I thought "If only I had said I was well then I would have got a bit."
38. I do remember getting new clothes one day. It could have been at Christmas time. We all got new kilts. █████ said to me "Do you fancy running away?" We all planned it. Someone told one of the sisters that we were all going to run away. The sisters then dragged us into the bedroom, showed us the kilts and told us that we weren't getting them. They then tied me up on my bed. Other than that, I don't remember anything else surrounding Christmas.

Visits / Inspections

39. No social workers came to visit me whilst I was in Smyllum. The only social worker I saw was the one with blonde hair who I saw at the "round table." That was just before I eventually left Smyllum. We called the room "the round table" because that was what they all sat around with the Mother Superior.
40. I didn't really see my mum that often when I was in Smyllum. I think she was in hospital or something. I don't know why I think that. My brother did say years ago that he thought that my mum had probably been in the jail.
41. One time my mother visited when I had just been tied up and gagged. The nuns who had tied me up had left the room. Very soon after that, a whole lot of the nuns came back in. I thought to myself "Wow that was quick. That's the quickest ever that they've come back to release me." Either Sister AFY or Sister AEX then said "Don't you tell them what is going on in here. I will be listening through the keyhole." I found out that my mum and my cousin [REDACTED] had come to visit. Either Sister AEX or Sister AFY then left the room.
42. My mum and cousin [REDACTED] came into the room. I remember sitting in silence. I thought "I cannae open my mouth because people are listening." My mum told me that my grandpa had died. I didn't shed a tear because I was trying to keep it all in. My mum said to [REDACTED] "She's awfully quiet." I don't know but maybe she sensed there was something wrong. My mum and [REDACTED] then went away.
43. I went under my sheets and started crying. It was either Sister AEX or Sister AFY who then came in. She lifted the sheet and said "What's the matter with you?" I thought to myself that nobody must have been listening in because she didn't know my mum had told me that my grandpa had died. I realised I could've said something to my mum. I told the nun that my grandpa had died. She said "Is that all?" and then threw the sheet back over me.

44. One night, we were got up to sit in the dining room. The sister told us that our mum was coming and that we had better not say a word. It was very dark. Our mum came in. I remember crying and holding on to our mum. The visit only lasted five minutes. It could've been that my mother had just got out and she was dying to see us. Maybe the sisters had given her the chance when she arrived.
45. My mum came to visit on one other occasion. One of the nuns put woolly tights, a dress and a woolly cardigan on me. It was a scorching day. The sun was out. I remember my mum saying to me "Why have you got a cardigan and woolly tights on?" I said "Because they put them on me." My mum then asked me to take my cardigan off. I didn't want to because I thought I would get a row from the nuns. My mum then pulled off my cardigan. I remember my mum's eyes. I think she saw the bruising all over my body. She told me to stay and went out of the room. I think my mum told me in later years that she went into the town and phoned a social worker to get us out. I remember that that visit happened a short time before we left Smyllum.

Telephone calls, letters and parcels

46. I don't remember any telephone calls or letters coming in from the outside. There was nothing like that. I remember one time getting a parcel. I was in the part of the building where my brother was. He came running out saying "AAX, AAX we have got a parcel!" The parcel was from our mum. It was wrapped in brown paper. There was string around it. We opened the parcel. There were smarties and things like that inside. There was three of every item. My brother took most of the things. He wasn't being bad, he was just being like what brothers are. It was amazing to us.

Healthcare

47. I was quite a weakling. I was ill all of the time. One of the nuns took me to the doctors. The doctors was in the town. I remember sitting there waiting. I haven't a clue what that was about. That's the only time I remember being taken to the doctors. I don't remember ever being taken to a dentist. I don't remember anything to do with my teeth.

48. I remember having electroshock treatment in Smyllum. We all had to line up to get the treatment. There was a guy with a grey coat who used to do the treatment with the nuns. They put these things on our head.
49. On one occasion, they were doing the electroshock treatment to my brother [REDACTED]. I remember them all flapping because they thought they had killed him. They then revived him.
50. One time, they dragged [REDACTED] and I out of bed at night. They did that because they were taking us to Carstairs. I'm not sure why I think it was Carstairs but I remember the building. I just get that feeling when I see the building now. The nuns blindfolded us. They took us down to a van. They took off our blindfolds. There were men in the van. They were guys in plain clothes. I don't remember them having uniforms on. They put us in the van. The men then told us to hide under the sheets. The men drove us out of Smyllum. I remember trying to get out from under the sheet and being pushed back down by one of the men. The next thing I heard was a guy saying "There's the bobbies. Watch." The men then put blindfolds back on us. When they took the blindfolds off us we were in a padded room. It was like a cell. They then tried to put a straightjacket on me. It was too big and the guys were laughing at me. They did all sorts of things to us. I think they took us there so that they could abuse us. I remember being taken out of Carstairs. When the blindfold was taken off, I was in the square at the back of Smyllum. I think [REDACTED] was taken back with me but I am not sure. We were taken by one of the sisters up the back stairs to our room. I can't remember what happened after that.

Medication

51. My brother noticed that when the nuns fed us, they would open a packet and put powder in our food. I remember my brother saying "Don't eat that" after seeing the nuns doing that. He knew the ins and outs of these type of things.

52. The nuns used to give us wee blue tablets. They said they were to help stop us peeing the bed. I remember my brother nudging me and saying "Dinnae take them tablets, put them behind your tongue." He said that I should pretend that I had swallowed them. He said that we should hide the tablets under our beds.
53. My brother got caught hiding the tablets. Whoever was cleaning found them. My brother got a beating for that. I remember hearing the sound of my brother being beaten for hiding those tablets. He was beaten in the room next to me.
54. They used to give my sister and I injections at night. After I got given the injections I would see the walls moving. The walls would breath in and out. I also saw big spiders. My sister used to see snakes. We would see tonnes of stuff. I know, without a doubt, that they drugged us.

Siblings

55. The nuns would sometimes try to split me up from my brother or sister if I was speaking to them whilst we were playing outside. You didn't know why they were doing that. It was strange because we were all allowed out together and could mix in with the other boys and girls. To get around this, my brother, sister and I would go up to the woods to play together.
56. There were two squares in Smyllum's grounds. I remember seeing my brother in one of the squares. My brother was trying to teach me to whistle. I was really practicing with the lads at that time. A tall nun came out. She was from a different quarter of the home. I didn't know her. The tall nun said "You can't whistle. Don't whistle." She told me to get away to my own side of where we were playing. I was told to get away from my brother. She said that because I was with my brother.

Bed-wetting

57. We always wet the bed. We did that all the time. If we wet the bed we had to wrap the wet sheets around us and stand in the corridor. Everybody would see us. They

would then take you to the bathroom and put you in a bath filled with cold water. They would then scrub you with a brush. They would rub you and rub you.

58. We must have all wet the bed on the first night we were in Smyllum. We were all taken outside. We stood in our nighties all night in the rain. I remember [REDACTED] cuddling [REDACTED] and I. He took something off to cover us all. One of the sisters came out. She went berserk and separated us all. We then had to stand apart in the park where all the swings were. It rained all night long. We had to stand for hours. [REDACTED] took us again to cuddle. He was braver than us. He said "It doesn't matter what happens, I will keep you warm." Then two or three nuns came out and took us away. They threw us on our beds. We were that shattered. We just fell asleep.

Abuse at Smyllum Park

Abuse in Smyllum

59. I think that the nuns got crueller and crueller. It didn't matter whether you were naughty or nice. They never ever told you why they were beating you. The nuns just did it. I was beaten practically every day. They gave you beatings like a man would. They used their belts. They didn't care what they were doing. They would rip your hair out. They would kick you and thump you until you were black and blue. They didn't give a damn if you were half dead on the floor. I am sure that they enjoyed it. The only thing we got taught in the home was cruelty.
60. If you cried, you just got more of a beating. You also got more of a beating if you didn't cry. You couldn't win. I used to try and get my brain to go numb so that I couldn't feel things. I numbed myself so I didn't feel the pain. You just got used to it. You wouldn't cry. I was always like that when I was in there. For some reason, I would just blank it out. It was a strange one. I used to do that every time I got beatings.

61. The nuns would say that my mother hated me and that my daddy didn't like me. You used to think it was true sometimes. I knew that my mummy loved me. They also told me that I would "burn in hell" and that I would "rot there".
62. I was tied up all the time. I was tied up for hours. You couldn't move and your legs got all stiff. You were there all day long. They put soap in my mouth and cleaned my teeth. I didn't swear though. I didn't know how to swear. I didn't know what was happening or what it was all about. They used to make you sleep in an empty bath.
63. The nuns used to throw me into wardrobes. When they threw me in the wardrobes, I used to try and sleep in there. The wardrobes were small so I was crippled when I tried to sleep. Your legs would get all stiff. I remember one time, and it could have been me just hallucinating, I noticed there were little pin holes in the back of the wardrobe. Light came through the holes. I realised that there was a boy standing next to me on the other side. I thought "Oh he's locked up like me." I remember talking away to the boy and playing. The boy could have just been imaginary. At the time, I thought it was real. Then I fell back to sleep. Later, a sister opened the wardrobe door. She said "Oh you must like it in there because you are sleeping." Then she locked me back in. I just thought "Get me out of this place."
64. The nuns used to get other girls to beat you up in your room. They would get a gang of the girls to come in and do that. At the time, I thought the girls were cruel. I now realise that they had to do that. I am glad that I never got old enough to do that. The nuns might have made me beat up other kids. I think the girls who came up were petrified. They had to beat me up because they were made to do it.
65. I once told another girl that her brother was in the room where they kept the handicapped children. The girl told one of the sisters what I had said. They grabbed me. I was then taken through to the "round table". The girl and her wee brother were standing in the room. The nuns told the girl to take a belt and beat me up with it. The girl was crying. She said "No I don't want to do that." I then ran under the table. The nuns tried to grab me to get me out. When they got me out, they made the wee handicapped boy strangle me with the belt. He choked me. He didn't know

what he was doing. He was probably petrified himself. The nuns then grabbed the boy away and grabbed me. The nuns then beat me to a pulp. I remember thinking that I was going to go to hell. Then everything went black. I must have conked out. When I woke up, I was tied up on my bed with tape across my mouth.

66. One time, the sisters got me to help out with setting up the dining room. I couldn't set the tables right. Every time I put down a fork, a nun leathered my hand. I can't remember which of them did that. I had enough. I took [REDACTED] and ran into the corner of the dining room. [REDACTED] I was thinking that I had had enough. [REDACTED] A nun grabbed me and took the knife off me. She took me up to my room. She tied me up again. She put tape on my mouth.
67. After that incident, my sister saw me tied up. I had a nightie on. [REDACTED] said "That's you tied up again." She then took off some of the tape so I could speak. We whispered to each other. [REDACTED] then starting mucking about with my nightie. She lifted the bottom of it up. I told her to stop. She then realised what she was doing and apologised. She didn't know what she was doing. After that, the nun came in and put the tape back over my mouth.
68. On one occasion, I was playing out in the woods. I was desperate for the toilet. I went for a pee in the woods. I was caught by either Sister [REDACTED] AEX or Sister [REDACTED] AFY I was punished. I was taken up to my bedroom. I had my fingers bent back. I was made to bark like a dog. I was told to act like a monkey. I was as loud as I could be. I really started jumping about. The strange thing was that, as I screamed out pretending to be like a monkey and a dog, I felt that I was getting the nuns back. I felt like I was getting all of my tension out of me. The nun punishing me didn't realise that. It was good that she didn't know.
69. After that, I was then taken through to scrub my nails with a scrubbing brush. I don't remember who the nun was who took me through. Another nun came in and shouted at the nun who was punishing me. She said "What are you doing with that child?" Then that nun took the nun who was punishing me away. The nun who was

punishing me then came back. She threw me into a cold shower in my nightie. I sat there all night. I was freezing cold. I can't remember someone coming back later. I might have passed out. I have often wondered who the nun was who said "What are you doing with that child?" because I felt safe with her.

70. I remember one of the nuns trying to clean my ears with cotton wool buds. She was doing that in the bathroom. I struggled, then fell on the floor. My ear was bleeding. The nun then gave me a hiding. She kicked me with her brogues. She grabbed my hair and tore some of it out. My hair was everywhere. After that, the nun tied me up on my bed.
71. The nuns would starve you. After days and weeks they would try and make you eat again. They put tubes down your throat to make you eat. I remember screaming when they did that. One time I struggled so much that I bit Sister FAS finger. I remember really biting her finger. She went mental. She said "You bloody bitch."
72. The nuns took us out to a lake down the road from Smyllum which had frozen over with ice. They made us go out onto the ice. They said "Get on it. Get over there." I was scared because the ice was cracking. I was petrified. They made us jump up and down on the ice. I think they wanted us to sink. They weren't daft. I think they wanted us dead.
73. One time, we were all sleeping in the bedrooms. One of the sisters went into all of the bedrooms. She carried a big tomato box. She woke all of us up and told us that one of the nuns had got pregnant. She said that there was a baby in the box. She said that they were going to bury the baby alive. They were doing that to punish the nun who had been pregnant. I didn't hear a baby crying. I can quite believe that there was a baby in the box. Where they buried the baby, I don't know. This incident has always stuck in my sister's head as well mine. Me and my sister were traumatised. As I got older, I wondered whether they were just playing with our heads.

74. Sometimes, the nuns would wake you very early. It could be eleven or twelve o'clock at night. You would be absolutely exhausted. They would drag you down the stairs into a room where monks and priests were sitting. The nuns would make you sit on the monks' and priests' knees. The nuns would tell you to wiggle on the monks' and priests' knees. You had to do all sorts. The nuns would then say things like, "you dirty dirty girl, get off of their knees." They were the ones telling us to sit there. You couldn't win.
75. Sister **AEX** and Sister **AFY** would get me into their bedroom and get young boys to come in. They would make the boys do things on top of you. They would tell you what to do. The boys would be sore. I would be sore down below. They would make us continue. They would also send other people up to do things to you.
76. The nuns used to take photos of me in the nude. They would make me stand and tell me to smile. Where those photos are I will never know. I think that they sold the photos. I don't know whether that happened to any of the other kids.
77. On one occasion, we were taken out by the sisters at night time. There was a whole load of us. It was very dark. We were taken over a field. We had to dance around a tree. A sister then picked me up and took me and some other kids to the side of the chapel. We were taken down some stairs. The chamber below was all candle lit. It was cold and eerie. In the middle of the room was a slab. There were sisters sitting in a row. I remember sitting on one of the sister's knees. My brother was there. They gave me a lollipop. I believe they gave me that to stop me screaming. The nuns made me lie on top of the slab. They chanted. That's when, as they called it, "the devil" came out. They did certain things to me whilst I was on the slab.
78. After the ritual, they buried me alive outside. I had to lay all squashed up in this drain. There was one nice nun. When she was putting me under she said **AAX** you'll be alright. You'll get taken out in the morning." She whispered that in front of the other nuns. I think that she was scared of the other nuns. Her saying that made me rest in there. It let me know that I was going to be rescued. The next morning, they lifted up the cover. The sun was all shining. I could hardly see. They then took

me upstairs and put me in what they said was a bath full of blood. I was screaming to get out of the bath. Looking back, I think that the water was dyed. They were just making out that it was blood.

79. One time, I heard this voice at the bottom of my bed. I looked. It was Jesus. He was standing there. He said "Everything is going to be alright. Don't worry." I was just listening to him. It was beautiful. He then said "I'm going to go away." I said "No dinnae go away." He said "One day you will see me again." He then floated out of the window. I thought to myself "wow." I must've then just gone to sleep. It was just amazing. After that, I have always thought that I am going to go to heaven.
80. Somehow the nuns found out about Jesus visiting me. I had told my sister what had happened. The nuns must have heard about it all off her. My sister could have told someone else who told them. After the nuns heard that, they were all flapping about it. It was like they had got scared.
81. Just before I left Smyllum, they put lots of wee boxes in my room. They were turning my room into a toy room. Something occurred. I don't know what it was. They put me in one of the boxes. They sat on it. I was screaming to get out because I was trapped. I couldn't breathe. They finally let me out. That could've happened on the last day I was in Smyllum.

Abuse elsewhere

82. One of the sisters used to take me to a house outside of the home. I think the house belonged to a young girl. I think she might have been one of the girls who had been abused in the home herself. She might have been seventeen or eighteen at the time I saw her. It could have been a council house. The house was where the swing park was. It was a different house to the house that the nuns took us to if we weren't selected to go on trips. The people in the house used to drug me and do certain things to me. They did all sorts of things to me.

83. When I was taken to Carstairs with my sister, we were beaten with sticks. They injected stuff into us. I remember the guys telling me to roll-over and look away. I then would hear my sister screaming.

Leaving Smyllum Park

84. After my mum came to visit for the last time, I was taken to the "round table." My brother and sister weren't there. A social worker was in the room. She was a skinny wee thing with blonde hair. The social worker tried to hypnotise me with a crystal on a chain. I pretended that I was hypnotised. The social worker said "Do you remember anything that happened to you in here?" I said "no." I felt that had I said "yes" then I wouldn't have got let out. After that, [REDACTED] and I were told that we could leave. A few days later we left Smyllum.

Life between Smyllum and Glasclune

85. I would have been roughly nine years old when I left. I can't remember actually leaving Smyllum. We were taken out to stay with our mum. I remember being taken in a car to [REDACTED] I was shown a house. I was told that it was going to be the house we were going to move into. That's when we must have walked in there with my mum. We stayed with my mum for roughly six months. It was [REDACTED] and I that stayed with my mum. My wee sister [REDACTED] also joined us. She had been born after we had been placed in care.
86. My mother was very poor. We used to sit around the fire telling nice stories. We were loved. My mother wasn't cruel. My mum was always kind of sad. I knew that she was sad even though she came across as chirpy. She hadn't had a good life herself. She always made sure we were nourished. She tried her best. She was always cleaning.

87. One day, my mother's house went on fire. She thought I was locked inside. She tried to kick the door open. I was with a neighbour. Everybody was saved. At the end of the day, my mother couldn't cope. She was stable but she wasn't stable.
88. Later on, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I went to Barnardos near Shandwick Place. We went with our social worker. The three of us and our social worker met with [REDACTED] BFK/BFL [REDACTED] BFK/BFL were the people that ran Glasclune. I remember sitting on [REDACTED] BFK [REDACTED] knee. I might have done that because he felt like a daddy. The meeting went all great. It was maybe only a week after that, that we went to Glasclune.
89. I think I went to Glasclune after Christmas. I remember that I had been given a dolly by my mother for Christmas. My sister, [REDACTED] asked to borrow it and then she lost it. She said it had gone down the toilet. I remember crying about that and it being right after that, that we went to Glasclune.
90. It seemed as if it was the same man who took us to Smyllum who took us to Glasclune. It was the same car as well. He was an older man with glasses. He could have been a social worker. I don't know. When we got to Glasclune, it was bright sunshine. It was like summertime. That was weird because I had thought it was just after Christmas.

Glasclune, North Berwick, East Lothian

91. Glasclune was mixed boys and girls. There were about twenty kids there. We didn't know it at first, but all the kids were there because they had been abused and needed to be rehabilitated. I learnt that when I spoke to the other boys and girls who were staying there. We got to know each others stories as we got older. We become like brothers and sisters. I went to Glasclune with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stayed with my granny.

Staff

92. The people at Glasclune were very good to us. They let us be our own selves. They let us be who we wanted to be. It felt like freedom.
93. Eric Faulkner and Doris Faulkner were the bosses. They took over from Mr and Mrs Mason. If Eric and Doris saw anything at all, I thought that they would fire the staff.
94. There was a member of staff that was assigned to look after particular children. Donna Ferrier was my head of staff. She looked after me. She was like my guardian. If I needed to talk to someone about anything, or wanted anything, I spoke to Donna. She was there for [REDACTED] and I. You could speak to all the staff though if you wanted to.
95. There was a member of staff call Mrs [REDACTED] BFJ [REDACTED]. She wasn't cruel like the nuns, but she was strict. She used to cut our hair square. I hated it when she cut our hair. Her rings and things got caught in our hair when she washed it.
96. Mrs [REDACTED] AEW [REDACTED] was another member of staff. She was allotted to my sister. I think Mrs [REDACTED] AEW [REDACTED] got fired after an incident where she was caught rolling down the stairs with my sister, by Eric and Doris. They didn't like staff doing things like that.
97. Other staff members included [REDACTED] BKP [REDACTED] Cluney (I don't remember her last name), [REDACTED] BLB [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] QFB (I don't remember his last name). There were cleaners who came in. They did all the cleaning whilst you were at school during the day. There were lots of other staff as well. I can't remember all their names. All the staff were nice to me.

Routine at Glasclune

First Day

98. I was a wee bit scared and apprehensive when I first went there. I remember holding onto my mum and asking not to go. My mum was crying. The staff were sweet though. They told me that everything was going to be alright.
99. That night, I wet the bed. I told my sister [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and I decided to go through to the bathroom to wash and then dry my sheets. [REDACTED] ran me a bath. As I was in the bath, one of the staff members walked in. She asked me what we were doing. I remember just staring at her. [REDACTED] said "She's pee'd the bed." The staff member said "That's alright. [REDACTED], you go through and get a sleep and I will change [REDACTED] AAX sheets. [REDACTED] AAX you continue bathing." The staff member was amazing. I did ultimately stop peeing the bed when I was at Glasclune. I stopped when I was twelve years old.

Mornings and bedtime

100. You got up at a nice time. They didn't shout "get up." They were gentle with you.
101. There was a time for all the different ages for bedtime. As you got older, you went to bed later.

Washing and bathing

102. You got a bath or a shower in the evening or the morning. You could please yourself. They used to say that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I were the cleanest in the home. We were always in the bath. We constantly wanted to clean ourselves.

Food

103. There was a bell which went to tell you to wash your hands. There was a gong for all your mealtimes. The gong meant that you had to go into the dining room. Breakfast was beautiful. Everything you could imagine was there. There was porridge and all types of cereal. Lunch was glorious. It was lovely stuff. There were amazing teas at night. There was also supper.
104. I remember never wanting to eat when I was at Glasclune. I was never hungry. I just wanted to be playing all day. Eric and Doris said that I had to eat so that I could feed my brain.
105. Mrs BFJ once tried to make me eat pineapple. I told her I couldn't eat it. She told me that I would sit there all day until I ate the pineapple. Later that day, Eric and Doris came into the dining room. They saw me sitting there. They asked me why I was still sitting in the dining room after everybody had gone away. I told them what Mrs BFJ had said. Eric and Doris said that I didn't have to eat what I didn't like and let me go.

School

106. I originally went to [REDACTED] North Berwick High School. I didn't know how to read and write. The teacher used to give us board games and silly things like that. I hated it. I ran away back to Glasclune. I spoke with the staff at Glasclune. I told them that the teacher wasn't teaching us anything. I wanted to learn. The staff at Glasclune then had a word with the school. They got me into first year early at High School before the other primary 7s arrived. I was put in the lowest class with my friends from Glasclune. We all loved school.

Religious instruction

107. I was lucky because I missed out on Mr and Mrs Mason being the bosses of Glasclune. I heard, from kids who had been at Glasclune longer than me, that Mr

and Mrs Mason used to make people pray in the hall before they went through for their meals. They made the kids go to church.

108. Eric and Doris didn't make us go to church. They said that if we didn't want to go to chapel, we didn't have to go. They said that we all had our own beliefs. We could pray if we wanted to. We could pray where we wanted to. I think they knew that that was a fixture on some of the kids. They were brilliant about that.

Chores

109. On a Sunday, before chapel, Mrs BFJ made you clean the banisters with a feather duster. It wasn't hard going. We all hated it, but we did it. You weren't restricted for hours on end doing that like you were with the chores at Smyllum. Eric and Doris ultimately put a stop to us having to do that.

Leisure time

110. You could go out and play in the grounds. There were tennis courts and woods in the grounds. You could go further away if you wanted to. There were plenty of things to play with. You could learn to play the piano if you wanted to.

Holidays

111. We went camping in the Highlands. We used to go out at night and play cowboys and Indians.

Birthdays and Christmas

112. On birthdays, they gave you presents. If you wanted to invite your best pal from school to Glasclune, you could do that.

113. At Christmas time you wrote down what you wanted. You got a big sack of toys. You never got everything you wanted. I always wanted a bike and never got it. There was a party.

Possessions

114. You were allowed things that were precious to you. You had your own toys. You got pocket money.

Visits / Inspections

115. My mum used to come on Sundays to visit. She could take us out if she wanted. The staff were great with my mother. My mum felt happy we were in the home. You could see a difference in her when she visited.
116. The staff in Glasclune left you alone when you had visitors. If there was anything I had to say to my mum, then I could have. They left you to it.
117. I did have meetings with my social worker. My social worker was called Margaret Lawson. We all called her Maggie. She was brilliant. She was lovely. She was later replaced by Laurie Davidson. Laurie was always there for me. I was given space to speak to my social workers in private if I wanted to.

Visits home

118. Later on, we were allowed to go on weekends away with our mum. We used to go to our auntie's if mum couldn't take us. That was good.

Healthcare

119. I saw a doctors when I needed to. If something happened, they were right down to the doctors with you.

120. There was a nurse who came to us. She came into the office. The only time I didn't like the nurse was when she said that I had tonsillitis. She said that I couldn't go to the Gala Day. She made me go to my bed. I hated her for that because I was dying to go to Gala Day.
121. If you were ill, you were allowed to stay off school. They would allow you to lie on the couch and watch telly. They made sure you were ok. They gave you lucozade and toast. You would chat to the cleaner whilst she was cleaning. They would let you have fresh air if you needed it.
122. We saw dentists when we needed to. I wanted to go to the dentist. There were a lot of people who were scared of the dentist but I wasn't.

Discipline

123. There were times when you were naughty. I think you felt you could be naughty because you felt you were safe. When you were naughty they handled it all the right way. If you swore, you could get your pocket money taken off you. Swearing three times meant that would happen. I remember stopping myself swearing for a third time because I didn't want my pocket money taken off me. Your pocket money was very important. I remember not wanting to go to bed. They told me that if I didn't go to bed, I would have to go to bed half an hour earlier the following day.
124. I was taught that if you were called a name, then you should walk away with your head held up high. I was taught that I would be the bigger person if I did that. If you were late for something, you never got a row. They weren't horrible.
125. You could get grounded if you were caught smoking a fag or something like that. When you were grounded, you were still allowed into the grounds to play. You weren't allowed off the grounds. They only kept you inside if you were extremely naughty. That would be for things like scrapping with the lads. They would make you sit in your room. It would be for no longer than an hour though. I understood

that I deserved my punishment. After sitting in your room, you would get out to play. They did it all the proper way. They taught you right.

Abuse at Glasclune

126. There was not a thing happened to me in Glasclune. It was all happy experiences for me there. One or two of the other kids reported abuse happening though in later life.

127. There was potentially something that happened involving [REDACTED] BLB [REDACTED] was fired at Glasclune whilst I was there. I didn't know why at the time. [REDACTED] BLB used to take the boys underneath his wing. One of the boys he took under his wing was called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was like [REDACTED] BLB's pet. [REDACTED] got special treatment if there was a fight which involved him. There was also another boy called [REDACTED] who was like that as well.

128. There was a member of staff called [REDACTED] QFB. He was an [REDACTED] who had come to work there. There was a boy called [REDACTED] CIB. I do remember seeing a change in [REDACTED] CIB when I went back to Glasclune later on. I couldn't hit the button on what was going on. I did used to think that there was something not right. He was younger than me and had been a happy wee boy before. He was not as cheery.

Visiting Smyllum whilst in Glasclune

129. When I was about fourteen or fifteen I said to [REDACTED] "I'm going to go back to Smyllum to stab Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY. I'm going to take a bus and stab them." [REDACTED] was one of the other girls in Glasclune. I'm not sure I would have done that at the time but that is what I said. [REDACTED] then went and told Eric and Doris what I said. I was taken to see Eric and Doris in their office. They said "Right [REDACTED] AAX we heard a story that you were going to go back to Smyllum and do something to the nuns." I then said [REDACTED] is a liar." They worked out it was true

because they hadn't mentioned [REDACTED]. They then said that they would get Donna to take me back to see the nuns. They convinced me not to do what I had been saying I would do.

130. A few days later, Donna took me by train up to Smyllum. As I approached the front door, I was getting nervous. The strangest thing was that the girl who opened the door was the same girl who had opened the door to me the first time I went to Smyllum. She was exactly the same age as I had seen her before. That was strange in my head. I said "I'm here to see Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY". Then a nun came through. She told me that Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY had gone and weren't there anymore. The nun then took us upstairs to the room which used to be my bedroom. In that room were some kids sitting round in a circle. I thought right away that the nuns were playing an occult game with the kids. I kept that to myself because I was nervous. The kids were so quiet. They were looking up at me. Their eyes were pleading for help. The nun then told the kids that I used to be there. I remember looking at Donna and trying to say "This is all still happening." I just wanted to get out of there. I got out. When I was walking up the lane away, I said to Donna "It's still going on. It is still happening." I knew. I just knew that things were still going on.

Leaving Glasclune

131. I was sixteen when I left Glasclune. A few weeks before I left, they prepared me. They talked to me and asked me where I thought I wanted to go. By that time I had been going to stay at my auntie [REDACTED] at weekends. When the day came to leave, I packed my stuff up. Everybody came out to say cheerio. It was very sad. I was taken in the van to stay with my auntie [REDACTED]. Eric chatted with my auntie and then he left. When I first stayed with my auntie [REDACTED], I worked in [REDACTED] rag store. That was in Leith. I was ultimately made redundant from there.

Life after being in care

132. After I left Glasclune I went here, there and everywhere. I went between staying with relatives and being on the streets. It was constant. I called Eric when I was on the streets after I left Glasclune. I was roughly seventeen. Eric came and collected me. He took me back to the temporary place they were keeping the children after Glasclune burnt down.
133. I ended up being back on the streets. I was constantly going between hostels, B&Bs and homelessness. I went back and forth to London. It was constant. That went on for years. I remember trying to write down where I had been over the years. It went on for page after page.
134. I had a social worker called Laurie Davidson. Years later, she eventually helped me get put in a place with some of the former boys and girls from Glasclune. We all shared a flat in Shandwick Place. We all got on well.
135. I ultimately left the place in Shandwick Place and went to a B&B. After that, I went between staying with relatives and friends, being homeless, staying in hostels and staying in B&Bs again.

Reporting of abuse

Whilst in Smyllum

136. During our time at Smyllum, we got to go home to my granny's house for a weekend. It was before my grandpa died. It must have been at the very beginning. I remember there were about twenty of my uncles and aunties in the house. We were all sitting around the fire. I couldn't speak then. I didn't know how to speak. I was speaking like a baby. I remember trying to tell my mum what was going on. All my aunties and uncles were laughing at me. I was trying to tell them that I didn't want to

go back. They didn't know what I was trying to tell them. After that, that was it. We were back at Smyllum.

137. On another occasion, I approached one of the nuns that I thought was nice to tell her what Sister [AEX] and Sister [AFY] were doing to me. I told her what Sister [AEX] and Sister [AFY] had been making me do in their bedroom. I mentioned that I was being touched by them. The nun said "Just you wait there" before going away. I sat on the couch thinking I was going to get into trouble. I then remember seeing a whole lot of the nuns standing in the corner of the room whispering. The next minute, they grabbed me and beat me up. That was the only time when I was told why I was being beaten up. I was then dragged up the stairs. They put the electric shock equipment on my head. The next thing I remember is going to my bed all wobbly. I then remember laying on my bed and waking up. That's all I remember about this incident.

Whilst in Glasclune

138. When we arrived at Glasclune, Eric and Doris took us all into their office. They thought it was our mum who had abused us. They asked us questions about our mum. I said "My mammy wouldn't do that. She wouldn't hurt us. She doesn't have that in her body." [REDACTED] then told Eric and Doris about what happened in Smyllum. I explained what one of the nuns had wanted me to do to her "thing". Doris then told me that I was lying. I then got ready to run out of the office. I was scared because the last time I had said something like that in Smyllum, they had grabbed me and given me electroshock treatment. Doris then said that she believed me. I sat back down and told Eric and Doris the full story. [REDACTED] then also told them some stories. I remember Eric and Doris taking notes in our files. It should all still be there in our records.
139. Eric and Doris did say that we could come back to the office any time to talk about what happened to us. I felt free to do it. I would go back and forth and tell them what happened. After a while, they said it was too much. I would go and tell them things, leave the room and then go back in that day to tell them other things that I

had remembered. It was just that it was getting too much on that day. After they said that, I shut down and never said a word on that day. Maybe they thought it was too much for me rooting up things on one day and they wanted me to come back another day to tell them the rest. I could always go back and tell them other things later on other days though.

140. In later life, I started to wonder why Eric and Doris didn't do things to try and take the nuns to court. I haven't got a clue whether they reported what happened to us to the police. I realise now that we were too young to stand up in court. I think the staff at Glasclune wanted us to be safe and get better. If they had dragged us to court it may have tortured us more. The important thing was to keep us safe.

Reporting to the press

141. In about 2007, [REDACTED] and I shared a flat. [REDACTED] was someone who was in a home also. We understood each other. She said "Why don't you go and speak to Miss [REDACTED] at the Evening News?" Miss [REDACTED] was journalist. At first I didn't want to. [REDACTED] then said that she thought that Miss [REDACTED] could put me in touch with someone who could help with getting the people who abused me done. I spoke with Miss [REDACTED]. She got in contact with the police.

Reporting to the police

142. The police came out to speak with me after I spoke to Miss [REDACTED]. Later on, CID came to my flat to speak with me. It was a woman and a man in plain clothes. I think the woman may have been called Jane but I am not sure. I explained the story to them. They started laughing when I talked about the sexual abuse at Smyllum. I asked why they were laughing. They said "It's alright [REDACTED] AAX We do believe you that these things happened." I didn't tell them everything. The woman CID officer called me up on the phone and told me that they would be in touch with me in the future. She told me that Sister [REDACTED] AEX was getting taken to court in Glasgow. She said that she couldn't tell me which court the case was being heard in in case I harmed

Sister AEX I found that strange because you can't do anything in court. You are searched before you go in. I never heard anything about it all after that.

Reporting to solicitors

143. I spoke to a solicitor in about 2007. I went through to Glasgow to speak with Cameron Fyffe. He wrote down the details of what had happened. I told him that I thought my records would be with Barnardos in London. I don't know whether he got my files. Later on, he called me up and told me that he was getting moved on. We just left it like that. I got a letter from people from a different area to fill in. I just left it. I heard nothing else further.

Impact

144. I believe that if I had been in Smyllum any longer I would have become a different person. I know that there are people who were in Smyllum longer than me who have gone the wrong way.
145. I was a very shy child when I left Smyllum. I was very inward. I was a very angry child. Glasclune allowed me the freedom to be myself. I thank the Lord that I was saved and taken out of Smyllum and rehabilitated.
146. For years afterwards, I had dreams that they never let me out of Smyllum. I had dreams that they had locked me away forever. I blamed myself when I got older. I would think "Maybe I was bad. Maybe it's me?"
147. I try to not let it affect me. I think I am a strong woman. I think that I'm not going to let them affect me. If I let them win I might end up an angry person again. I don't want to be that angry person.
148. The incident that resulted in my sister and I being buried alive did destroy the relationship between my brother and I. My brother thought that I was kind of liking

the things that were happening when I was down in the chapel. He had been made to sit and watch what had been happening. It was a hard thing for him to watch. He used to go on about it, saying that I enjoyed it. I think nowadays he understands that I didn't. It was hard for [REDACTED]. We had a strong bond but when he witnessed what happened it affected him. It makes me angry because what they did to us affected the relationships between [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I. They've caused us a lot of trauma. I don't really see [REDACTED] now. The closeness has gone.

149. [REDACTED] went a bit wild in his adult years. He was in and out of jail. He just lost the plot. He wasn't too kind to me and my sister. He used to beat my sister and me up a bit. I believe it's all down to what happened in Smyllum. I think he was angry with me, particularly because of what happened in the chapel. He blamed me for that.
150. Because of what happened with the incident when I was buried alive, whenever I see monks that have hoods I think that they are going away to "do occult". I remember one time when I was with my ex-husband in England, seeing a group of monks coming out of a doorway with their hoods up. I ran away. My ex-husband didn't know what was going on. I said to him, "they're going to do occult tonight. They're dangerous. They're dangerous people." I just sensed that because of the way that they were dressed.
151. I always felt lost after I left care. I don't know whether moving from one place to another was because of my time in care.
152. I was lucky because I'd seen my family use drink and drugs. I remember cleaning up all their sick afterwards as a kid. I thought that I am not going to be like them. I didn't want that. I never took drugs because of that. I smoked a bit of marijuana but nothing else. It wasn't an everyday thing, it happened once in a blue moon. I didn't want to be there with the drug users.
153. I wouldn't say that I have been a heavy drinker. I take the odd drink when I feel things getting on top of me. It helps me get all bubbly. I don't use it that much. I know you have to balance yourself out.

154. I was taken to a hospital up in Morningside in roughly about 1995. I took not well. I was scared to leave the house. My brain was flashing everywhere. I couldn't focus on anything. I thought that there were guys in a van who were going to come and take me away if I went out. My friends tried to help me. My friends would ask me out for a coffee. However, as soon as I got to the door I would think people outside were going to kill me. I stopped eating. My friends thought I was on drugs but I wasn't.
155. They eventually got two big men to come and get me to take me up to the hospital. I thought that they were going to kill me. I remember holding the car door open when they put me in their car. They made me shut the door.
156. When I got to the hospital, I thought that all the nurses were trying to kill me. They gave me injections. I thought that they were putting crystals and things in me. I was barmy. Days later, [REDACTED] and asked one of the staff to take me outside. I remember seeing two policemen. I thought that I had to go and give them my address in case I got killed in the hospital. I spoke to them. They told me to move on. I then had had enough. [REDACTED] Some men then dragged me away. I was shouting and screaming for my mum. These men then held me down and sedated me. When I woke up, I was in the old Royal Infirmary. They then took me back. Staff sat with me all the time when I went back to the hospital in Morningside. I still didn't trust the staff or the psychiatrists. My mind was playing tricks with me. It was after that, that everything became clear. They worked with me to get better.
157. I go to my local Contact Point to do art. The staff are lovely. There are people there available if you want to talk. I try not to do that though because I just want to be in there and be all happy. To me it is the nuns who abused us who were the ones who are mental, not us.

158. When I see vans, I used to think that they are going to take me away. I “knock it out of the bud” though. I focus on something nice. It doesn’t happen so much now. I’m better.
159. I don’t like anyone negative around me because it gets me down. I have to be out there and be cheered up. I focus on things that are beautiful.
160. I go to a café and meet with INCAS. There’s a few of them passed away now. The people that are there are lovely people. They went through what I experienced themselves. They understand a lot. It’s been a great support. Frank Docherty, especially, was a big help. He and his wife [REDACTED] are lovely.
161. I visit Smyllum with INCAS. We go and put down flowers for the wee kids. We do that because we believe that there are wee kids who have been buried in the graveyard. We pray for them.
162. Frank Docherty told me that he felt he had to be a comic to survive when he left Smyllum. I understood why Frank did that. I felt that way too. I had to be “comic [REDACTED] AAX [REDACTED] to survive all these people. It is a coping mechanism.

Records

163. I think that my records are being kept down in Barnardos in London. I have never tried to get my records. I know that some people who were at Glasclune with me have got their records. The records get sent up to Edinburgh. You are then invited down to Barnardos office where they talk to you. They explain that there are things in the files that people may not like. I have spoken to the people who have got their records. They said that they saw things that they didn’t like. I’m not sure I want to see that. I’m not sure I want to see things written down about me by staff that I thought liked me. I think that’s why I haven’t taken the next step.

164. I know for a fact though that Eric and Doris took notes when we spoke to them about what happened at Smyllum. That statement should be in my records.
165. In 2011 or 2012, Jim Kane, Frank Docherty and I went to the church at Smyllum to read the big books. I looked at the books. The books had a record of the date when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I first went. It showed dates and who was your mammy and your daddy. I was amazed that they brought all those books out.

Other information

Visiting Smyllum in later life

166. I went to try and find Mrs [REDACTED] AEW. She was the teacher who taught me at school whilst I was at Smyllum. I found out where she had lived. I went to the house. When the door opened I said "Mrs [REDACTED] AEW" The person who answered told me that Mrs [REDACTED] AEW had passed away years ago. I was so angry. I wanted to ask her certain things. I was too late.
167. In 2011 or 2012, I went back to an old folks home that is just across the road from Smyllum in Lanark. I spoke to the matron there. I asked her whether any of the nuns who were there, had worked in Smyllum. She said that there was someone by the name of Sister Margaret. I went through and sat down with Sister Margaret. She had been there before my days. I think she was there in the fifties. She said that there were things that happened in Smyllum before my time that she didn't like. She wasn't really coming out with stuff though. I thought that I could report what she said though. I went back a week or two later and was told by the matron that Sister Margaret had died. I then went around the back. I saw Sister Margaret being treated by a nurse. I said "You're alive, that matron just told me you were dead." The nurse then tried to take Sister Margaret away. After I left, I wanted to go back in there and call her a liar but I was discouraged. I wanted to report it to the police.

Final thoughts

168. No matter what age they are, we deserve justice. I think that the people who abused me should be taken to court, punished and sent to jail for what they did. I remember the police said to me that the people who abused me, may be old and frail. I said to them that what people are forgetting is that we were also frail when we were kids. We didn't have the strength to fight back. We were too weak to fight back. Even though they are old and frail, they should be told exactly what their crimes were and then be made to sit in jail. They should be punished. They've separated a lot of families, they've taken away a lot of people and I suspect they have also murdered people. We should get justice. They are now just sitting back, thinking they've got away with it. That gets to me.
169. The funny thing is, I know two wrongs don't make a right. I can't be cruel. I have a heart. I think that they will all be punished sometime another way because of karma. I think that I am a better person than them and they can just get what's coming to them. Thinking these two things at the same time confuses me.
170. 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.....6/9/17.....