

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MGR
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is MGR [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to boarding school

2. I was born in Irvine, outside Glasgow. My parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My mother is still alive. She stays in Plymouth. My father has passed away. My dad was strict but he was a good dad. I loved him and had a lot of respect for him. I have two brothers called [REDACTED] and MGQ [REDACTED]. I am the youngest. There is a year between [REDACTED] and MGQ [REDACTED] and a year between MGQ [REDACTED] and I. My father was in the army and he was based in Germany most of the time. My mother was from Sheffield but they met when she worked in a shop in an army base. She travelled as an army wife. We were brought up as Catholics.
3. The first school I would have been at was in Gütersloh in Germany. I thereafter went to a school called St Andrew's in Irvine for a bit. I can't remember for how long. I think both were more pre-primary schools rather than primary. I attended both before I was seven anyway. I went back to Germany for a bit before going to St Columba's in Largs. I was there from the age of seven until eleven. It was a primary school.
4. There was no senior school at all there. I think it is linked to St Joseph's in Dumfries. Some kids would move on there after St Columba's. It was a fee paying boarding school run by the Marist Brothers.

5. The reason my parents chose St Columba's was that my grandmother lived in Irvine. So they found somewhere that was recommended as a good educational school and renowned as a good catholic school. I have got quite a religious family historically, so they chose that one. [REDACTED] and [MGQ] went there as well. [REDACTED] was two years ahead of me and [MGQ] was one year ahead.
6. [MGQ] was kept back a year. The reason, he was told, was so he could go to secondary school at the same time as me and we would be in the same year. Maybe he didn't hit the grades or something but he joined the secondary school the same time as me.
7. As my parents moved around a lot it was to give us stability of schooling. Not going from school to school. If you get stability in school you should technically get a better education.

St Columba's School, Largs

8. St Columba's had a circular drive. You went up the drive and there was quite a large house. The front door was in the middle. There were large bay windows to each side and the same again above. There was an apex where there was a loft window. Off to the right hand side there was an extension where there was a hall. There was another little building off to the right, I can't remember what it was. To your left as you looked at the building, it looked like the wall was broken but you could walk through, it was a walkway through to another house. This was where you would do your schooling and where the brothers stayed. Not all of them. I can't remember if it was one or two, but at least one would stay in the house with the boys.
9. St Columba's was an all boys school. I would have gone into a dormitory. I can't remember what my first room was like. I can just remember elements of being there. I can remember being in different rooms. The very first one possibly was on the top floor, then middle floor. I then went back to the top floor but I couldn't say that one hundred per cent.

10. There weren't a lot of boys there. Twenty to twenty-five. I couldn't say. The rooms that I can remember would probably have a maximum of four or five in them. There was a couple of rooms that had two or three boys in them. All the boys were between seven and eleven. They tended to keep boys of the same age together.
11. I think the headmaster might have changed just as I got there, but the one that I remember was a guy called Brother Arthur. All the staff were Marist Brothers apart from the two kitchen ladies. There was Brother David Germanus. He might have been there the whole time. There was a Brother MFY. He was a really old guy who took us swimming on Wednesdays. There was a Brother Malcolm, but he wasn't there all the time. He would come sometimes. There was a Brother MYY. I don't know how you say it. He was a visitor. I remember he was a little fat guy. There would be more. There was a Brother AKU. He was the one that took over looking after the boys in the main house.
12. The school catered for day pupils, boarders Monday to Friday and full time boarders. I was a full time boarder. There were a handful that went home at weekends.

Routine at St Columba's School, Largs

First day

13. I remember my first day there. I can't remember who took me. My granny would have been there but I can't remember if my mum was there or not. I don't recall any reception committee.
14. We all went off and played straight away while the grown-ups did what the grown-ups do. I then swung off the goal post and got a black eye and Brother David Germanus put a bandage on it with a fifty pence coin inside to take down the swelling. It all seemed very nice. It was a good first day.

Mornings and bedtime

15. The Brothers would come round and wake all the boys up. We would go down and have breakfast. I remember having breakfast because I have some memories of that. There was a big box of cornflakes in the corner and you used to dip your bowl in and get your cornflakes out. On one occasion I had a daddy long legs in my cornflakes and the Brothers just put hot milk on them. I didn't want to eat it and Brother David Germanus smacked me around the head and made me eat it. I was sitting crying, eating my cornflakes with a daddy long legs in them. He was having none of it.
16. I remember going down to the dining room. You would sit and have breakfast, which consisted of some sort of cereal. We would have the option of either hot or cold milk over it. I remember the hot milk. From there, I don't know if there was a little break in between, but we would go into the main house and then we would have our daily lessons. The house was called Landour. You had all the classrooms downstairs and the Brothers accommodation upstairs.
17. At the back of the boarding house there was a bit of lawn and then quite a steep hill. We used to play out there in the afternoons and evenings. On the other side, in front of Landour, there was a field that we used to knock around and play football and rugby or whatever.
18. I can't remember when bed time was. I wasn't a bed wetter but kids would wet the bed, of course they would. I don't remember it ever being something that was a massive issue. It may have been and I wasn't aware of it.

Mealtimes / Food

19. I don't remember the food being terrible other than Brother David Germanus used to serve us soup. When he was talking and asking you if you wanted soup he would spit and dribble in it, so we would all say no we don't want any soup, but he would make us have it. I am pretty sure we had to eat all our dinner but I can't remember if

there were any repercussions. It is not something that I have really thought about for quite a long time.

Washing / bathing

20. I remember shower time being supervised. I have a recollection of the showers in the middle floor. I remember being in a shower and Brother David Germanus standing watching the kids showering and just thinking what is he doing? But then he would be telling boys to wash properly and I just assumed that with him being a grown up and me being a little kid that he was just making sure we washed properly.
21. The showers were in a row of three or four and there was no sort of partition between the kids. It certainly wasn't full screen protection or anything like that. I remember Brother David Germanus being there. I got the feeling that he was there to supervise. I am not saying that there weren't any other Brothers there at times.
22. We also had bath time as well. On the top floor there were loads of sinks and one bath and we filled the bath up and a couple of us would get in at a time and have a wash. I would say that was probably semi-supervised. Sometimes there was someone in there and sometimes they would leave and we would just do our own thing.
23. We didn't queue to get in the bath. It was just that we all wanted to have a go in the bath because we would sort of heat it up and have a bit of fun, brush our teeth and jump in and out of the bath.

School

24. Brother Arthur was one of the main ones who taught in the school that I remember. He is probably the main one. There was another guy that used to do art but I can't remember his name.

25. At that age you are not going to know if they were trained teachers. Brother Arthur was a nice guy, a really good guy. He was a good teacher, in his manner more than anything. He was quite relaxed, I only ever saw him losing his temper once. He was good. We were in our own age groups. We were taught the basics, like English and maths. We would have exams while we were there, but nothing that I remember of any importance. We went back to the main house for lunch then back to school in the afternoon.
26. The school wasn't really orchestrated to play organised sport. We would get to play football at break times but there was no real sports instruction other than when we did a little boxing but that was more out of school hours than in school.

Leisure time

27. After school you would be able to go out and play. I would have thought we would have changed out of our uniform. We couldn't wear that all the time. No doubt we would have homework, but again I don't really remember that. Sometimes we would have a film or do something downstairs where there was a sitting room. Sometimes we would have something in the dining room area, like a quiz or something. I can't exactly remember what kind of things there were but I remember there being things on in the evenings but it might have just been weekends, I can't remember.
28. At the weekend we would get ice cream sodas and stuff like that as a treat and then go and watch the film. It is quite funny because as time progressed Brother **AKU** took over the boarding house and we would watch horror films like "The Bogeyman", and "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre", which were like an eighteen certificate and we would be scared. I would have been eight or nine years old. All the kids were in the sitting room watching it. Brother **AKU** would go and get the film for us to watch. He would watch it with us.
29. On a Saturday we would get to go down town to Largs. We would get taken down there and then we would be allowed to go and wander around. There would be a

teacher nearby and we would have to stay within the vicinity of where the arcades were or the sweet shop across the road.

30. We got pocket money. It was whatever allowance our parents sent over. They sent a certain amount each week. So we would get that and stay in town for a bit and then wander back up. We had a little pocket money book that the Brothers kept. Whatever was sent was noted down in this book and if we got fifty pence it came off what was sent.
31. On a Wednesday we would walk to the swimming pool. It wasn't that far and the town wasn't that much further as well so we didn't mind the walk. Brother MFY took us to the swimming.
32. We didn't have a lot of spare time but there was a bit. We used to go up to the golf course and mess around up there. It was like a little greenhouse and we would go exploring or whatever. We would go up to the golf course sometimes and find stray golf balls and come back with a big bag of golf balls, for what purpose I have no idea.

Religious instruction

33. We said prayers before every meal and at bedtime. We attended mass every Sunday. We went down to the local church. We always went as a group. We did our confirmation and communion. We wore our school blazer and grey trousers, which our parents had bought. In school, they would go through all your lessons and what you needed to do. There was instruction all the time.

Trips / Holidays

34. We would go home during school holidays. Sometimes I would go and stay at my granny's. I don't think we ever went home to my parents really apart from the main holidays but half-terms we would go and stay at my granny's.

35. The school bought a boat to go on a trip abroad during the school holidays. The Brothers were going to sail it themselves. The parents agreed to this and were asked to chip in money and as a result they bought this boat. There was a storm and they had it anchored off the coast of Largs and it sank. They got the insurance money and rather than trying to get another boat they did a trip to Spain. If I remember rightly we went on a train. I have a memory of that train trip. We were all crammed in some cabin and I remember Brother **AKU** making me lie in front of him which I didn't want to do. There wasn't much room and he said that is where I had to sleep. I remember feeling his bulge against my backside when I was trying to sleep, it was very uncomfortable. I just didn't like being there, but he was there amongst all the other kids. He picked me to have to lie in front of him on that particular night.
36. We then got to Spain, we stayed in either Barcelona or Madrid. There were two or three Brothers in charge. I remember it being Brother **AKU** and some other Brother whose name I can't remember. I think he had dark hair and glasses. They looked after us while we were there and we sort of went out and around. This would have been in the summer of 1981.

Birthdays and Christmas

37. My birthday was during the school holidays, as such I didn't spend birthdays or Christmases at school. I don't remember if they celebrated other boys birthdays while I was there.

Visits

38. My parents didn't visit. Of course I was homesick. I missed my parents. They would write to me and I would write back. We would get a phone call every now and then. I saw my brothers **██████████** and **MGQ** every day.

Healthcare

39. While I was at the school I got my teeth knocked out by my brother accidentally with a golf club. They had to rush me down town to get to a dentist because there was no medical care in the school at all.
40. I remember I had the measles or chicken pox. Brother ^{AKU} used to put this pink lotion on you that is meant to stop you itching. Maybe one of the Brothers was medically trained. I have no idea.

Running away

41. I remember I thought I was going to run away once. I know that kids ran away. How much that was broadcast is a different story. As I said, at some point probably each and every one of us talked about it. I am sure kids ran away when I was there, just to get away from there.

Abuse at St Columba's School, Largs

42. I saw kids getting hit with a belt. There was one incident I saw and there wasn't any structure to it. Brother David Germanus just hit this kid all over the place and the kid was trying to cover himself up and he kept hitting him with the belt. His name was [REDACTED] He was one of the bigger kids at school and I don't think Brother David Germanus was that big. He had said something and I think the boy answered him back and Brother David Germanus just lost it. This happened outside the hall. It was after we had done a boxing session. It was like a leather belt that you would wear around your waist. Brother David Germanus was reputed for hitting the boys as well as this you witnessed it at times. He was known for being the scary one.
43. I got dragged around and thrown about like a rag doll by Brother David Germanus once. We had set up a little tent out on the back lawn and I had a fight with another kid. I was quite frustrated, he was a lot bigger than me and he kept knocking me back, so I swore at him. When I managed to get out the tent Brother David had appeared and grabbed hold of me and threw me around. He was shouting at me and

screaming that I had the devil in me and that was my first experience of violence from a teacher in that school. I'd only been at the school a few months.

44. Brother ^{AKU} got me once. I wouldn't say that he was generally a violent person towards the kids that I saw. He would always try to be playful and he pushed me or something once. I kicked him in the leg and he grabbed hold of me and started shouting at me and threw me into a room. He used his hand and basically smacked my arse and my back and the back of my legs. I couldn't believe it and it was hurting. When he finished and let go I ran off. He was slapping me so hard I couldn't breathe. Obviously it is a bit different in an adult. When you get a sharp sort of swipe, if you got whipped with something, it would take your breath away but as a kid getting that constantly, I couldn't breathe.
45. I couldn't point out a specific incident but if you were getting something wrong at school all the time you would get shouted at. I don't know if you would get hit for it. There was no patience there, if you got it wrong, particularly with certain kids. If kids got it wrong again and again then they would get it a lot worse. If you were a kid that got it right most times and you got it wrong once it wasn't so bad, but if you got it wrong all the time you would get a hard time. I saw kids being hit but it's not really something that sticks in my mind. It was kind of accepted as the way it was done.
46. A boy called Aldo Moroni died when I was there. He was a lovely little kid. I think he may have been a year younger than me. He was a little kid who wore glasses. He was nice and quite quiet. I don't know the circumstances of how he died. At the time I think the school said that he had been ill and then he had gone home at the weekend and died. I do remember him being not well but not as in bed ridden, he was in some sort of pain like he had stomach pain or something and he looked very sad.
47. There was a bit of commotion on the day that he got taken home or taken to hospital or wherever he went. I remember there was a lot of shouting going on upstairs. It was during the daytime and kids were being shouted at by the Brothers to get out and get away and get down the stairs. I can't remember which Brothers. We were

down the bottom of the landing hanging around and there was all this shouting. A couple of kids, I can't remember who they were, came running down the stairs. We were obviously wanting to know what was going on. We were curious little kids. We got ushered out down the back corridor by Brothers, I can't remember who, away from where it was all going on upstairs and then he was gone. I don't think I even saw him leave the building. That was a bit odd but we went to his funeral.

48. There was a couple of the Brothers upstairs, I can't remember who they were, and I think some of boys may have heard Aldo screaming or shouting and had gone up to look and they were chased back down stairs by the Brothers. I think there was someone else there as well that day, not a brother. I don't remember who he was. I can't remember if one of his parents was there or if they came to get him afterwards.
49. I had good friends at St Columba's. There was [REDACTED], who was a day pupil. He lived in Ardrossan. He was my best friend most of the time and I stayed at his house a few times. There was a kid called [REDACTED] He used to live literally a few doors up the road. He was a good mate.
50. Amongst the boarders there was the [REDACTED] brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I shared a room with them for a bit. I shared a room with them when the first evening incident with Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] occurred. There was those two, there was ^{MGS} [REDACTED] and there was [REDACTED] His parents were in the fairground industry and they were quite well off. He was a bit backward, a nice kid but I think he may have been taken advantage of because of that fact.
51. My brother ^{MGQ} [REDACTED] was in my room as well as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and it was on the middle floor. I can't remember if there were four or six of us but I'm sure it was four. Just outside our bedroom door there was another door which was where Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] was living. He was basically the house master or whatever you want to call it for evening times. I noticed a couple of times that I had woken up and it felt like I had wet the bed, but it felt more cold. You might sleep in it and it might go colder, but it was cold and I just thought it was really weird because I didn't wet the bed. From a young age it was my two brothers and me and one of my two brothers, I

won't name and shame him, but he was the bed wetter and me and the other one weren't. I was never really a bed wetter at all. So I had woken up and the bed was wet and I was confused. The other lads were laughing, saying that I'd wet the bed and I was saying I hadn't. So that happened a couple of times.

52. My bed was nearest the doorway and one night I got a feeling of cold and wet and I looked up and I saw the back of Brother^{AKU} running off into his room. A couple of the other lads woke up the same time and they asked what I was doing. I said he threw cold water on me. A couple of the others said that they saw him. Brother^{AKU} then came in and asked what was going on and what all the noise was about and I said, "You just threw cold water on me". Bearing in mind he was the playful one, we thought he was messing around. He said he hadn't and the other kids and I were telling him that he had. So he then told me that I had to get up because I had wet the bed and I went to his room. I actually said in a statement to the police that I remember him telling me to take my clothes off but actually I can't one hundred percent say that I remember that right now, but basically I slept in his bed. He told me that I had to sleep in his bed because my bed was wet. It was a single bed and I slept on one side and he stayed against the wall and that was the first time anything weird like that happened. That is sort of where the abuse from Brother^{AKU} started.
53. From then on, I can't remember how but I ended up in that room more often for whatever reason. He kept me in there and talked to me about stuff. About life stuff. He would maybe tell me a little bit about when he was growing up or whatever. That sort of sticks out as weird or unusual. He would give me things too. I remember he gave me a Zippo lighter in the shape of a little pistol. Why he thought I wanted one of those at that age I don't know, but because it looked cool and it was a little gun he gave me that. I remember having it and taking it home.
54. I remember being in his room one time and down on the floor, sticking right out from under his bed was a pornographic magazine. It was open and there were pictures of naked women. I was looking at it thinking what the hell is going on? He saw me looking at it and asked if I knew what it was. I told him I didn't. He picked it up and told me these women are naked and it is called a pornographic magazine or porn.

He started flicking through the pages showing me different pictures of these naked women then he said, "Don't they look weird without willies?" I agreed. He then asked if it was making anything funny happen to my willie. I told him it wasn't and that was pretty much that incident as I remember it.

55. There was another night I stayed in there overnight and I remember him talking to me and telling me that he loved me like I was a son to him. I ended up staying in there that night. He was cuddled up against me all night, but I don't recall any physical activity for whatever reason.
56. Progressing from that, I was then moved upstairs into the dormitory at the top and Brother **AKU** had moved upstairs to a room which was basically between the two dormitories. You had a toilet and the teacher's room and he stayed in that room because it was the bigger room and it had a bigger bed. It is hard to sort of pinpoint it to one thing because it wasn't a one-off incident. I get snippets of memories of the same sort of thing, so I can't exactly remember what happened first and what happened second.
57. Brother **AKU** set up a CB radio in his room and I remember myself and another kid called **MGS** going in and he would show us the CB radio. He would use it and call people up and start chatting to them. It was a really cool thing. We were allowed to go and use it. Outside school time we would go and use the radio and we became accustomed to going into that room. I don't remember how it happened, but we ended up in that room one night and I think I had a go on the CB radio.
58. I remember it ended up with both of us taking off our clothes and Brother **AKU** getting us to do things to each other. He got us to touch each other's penis and then it progressed onto sucking each other's penis or putting them in each other's mouth. I remember him telling us about getting an erection and then seeing if we could get an erection. I then remember he went on to talk about what masturbating was and what ejaculation was and he was going to show us. He pulled his trousers down and got us to masturbate him until he ejaculated. I remember talking about the smell of it, how it smells is really weird.

59. I don't think these incidents with [MGS] and I together were a long lasting thing but I recall on another occasion being in that room and [MGS] and I being told or shown and thereafter acting out the motion of carrying out anal sex on each other. I think Brother [AKU] was describing how gay people had sex and then was sort of describing to us and getting us to enact it. On another occasion, I don't know if [MGS] was there, but I remember Brother [AKU] showing or telling me about it. Brother [AKU] was naked and he actually had his penis between my bum cheeks. He didn't go as far as penetration but he was going through the motions with his penis between my bum cheeks.
60. On another occasion [MGS] and I were in Brother [AKU] room and Brother [AKU] got us to suck his penis and told us how to do it. Then it was me on my own in his room. It was a similar story as to when it was [MGS] and I, only without [MGS]. I don't even know how Brother [AKU] got me in there, but I was told that I could go in and use the CB radio or whatever. He got me to go in there but I knew what was going to end up happening. So I would go to Brother [AKU] room and end up with no clothes on and he would touch my penis and play with it and put it in his mouth or get me to put his penis in my mouth. He would get me to masturbate him until he ejaculated. The abuse sort of went on, it felt like indefinitely really. At no time did Brother [AKU] penetrate me.
61. I remember when I left St Columba's, thinking it is the last day of school and we had good friends that we were all going to miss and Brother Arthur, who we were all going to miss because he was really nice, but I remember thinking, "Thank god I don't have to go back in Brother [AKU] room again". The abuse by Brother [AKU] must have gone on right until pretty much when I left the school.
62. It's really hard to remember any sort of timescales of any of this because it was so long ago. Having had some dates highlighted to me [REDACTED] [AKU] it appears that he didn't actually come to the school until I had been there two years. This actually makes more sense because although I knew it was going on for quite a while it didn't seem like it was the whole time I was there. I

am glad of that, I thought he had joined just after I had started there but if it was two years after I had. It would make more sense that it was only for a couple of years. So the abuse must have started in 1980, probably after Brother **AKU** had been there a couple of months. I don't think he had been there that long when the water trick started. I don't know how long the transition was between that and then moving us upstairs.

63. Brother **AKU** full name is **AKU**. As I remember him, he had a beard with bits of ginger colour in it, sort of brown hair. I always remember it being greasy. He was fat, not very tall and he wore glasses. He had a Scottish accent. I remember the smell of Brut from him.
64. Brother **AKU** said, and this is something I have spoken about **AKU**, that it is a secret and we are not to say anything. If we did we can't go in the room and use the CB radio and all this. But that isn't why I didn't say anything. The reason I didn't say anything is because I was ashamed and embarrassed. The abuse happened fairly regularly over the two year period.
65. Without a shadow of a doubt I was groomed by Brother **AKU**. I think he is a very clever man in how he managed to do that. He normalised something that is totally abnormal to a child and he did it in a short space of time. I have no idea how he managed to do that. He obviously just didn't do it with me. I know first-hand that he did it with **MGS** too.
66. I think kids at that age are very resilient and bounce back from pretty much anything really. You have got to remember you are put in a situation where you don't know any different, so you deal with it in the way you deal with it. Being kids you hang around together and you have your good times together because that is all you have got, but no it wasn't a good place to be. But as I said, you don't know any different. You know things aren't right and you know when you are doing something that shouldn't be done but you have got no choice so you do whatever it is you are made to do. You are being treated in a certain way by people that surround you but you know that you are stuck there.

Reporting of abuse at St Columba's School, Largs

67. I never spoke to anyone at the school about the abuse. I think I may have started to say something to MGS once and he just walked on. He didn't want to speak about it. I don't know why. I know why I didn't speak about it. I was just ashamed, but I thought because MGS was there when we were abused that he would speak about it, but he wouldn't. I would never speak about it in front of anyone else. I was too ashamed and embarrassed. It was probably the same for MGS I don't know. I can't speak for him because I am not him.
68. If I had ran away, I used to think I would run back to my granny's. I might even have had these conversations with my brothers. My granny was a really devout Catholic and if I had run back to her and said I was being abused, she would have put me in the car and driven me straight back there and not believed a word. She would think, how dare I as a little child accuse someone as devout as a Marist Brother of being abusive. She would have been completely blind to it.

Leaving St Columba's School, Largs

69. I left St Columba's in the summer of 1982 at the age of eleven and went to St Joseph's school in Ipswich. This was run by the De La Salle brothers. My father had been posted to Colchester, which is quite close to Ipswich. My two brothers and I were all there. [REDACTED] went and then me and MGQ went.
70. My parents had been in Colchester when [REDACTED] went to St Joseph's, however when MGQ and I went there they had returned to Germany. I finished my schooling at St Joseph's. This was also a boarding school.
71. There was nothing major that happened at St Joseph's, just the standard back in those days. You would get the slipper. We had a slipper, belt and dusters thrown at your head and stuff like that.

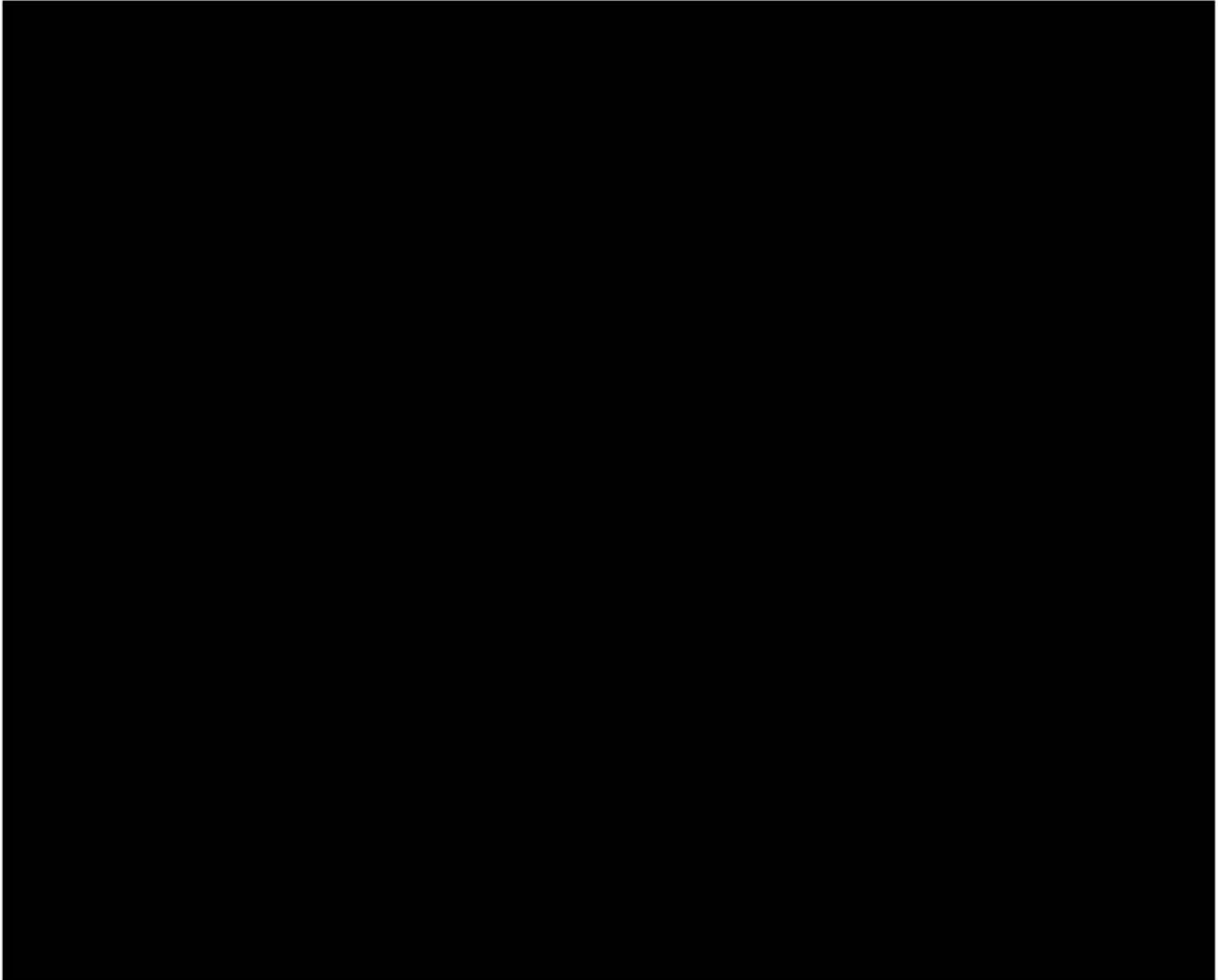
Life after school

72. After I left St Joseph's, I worked around Ipswich for about a year then joined the Royal Marines in 1991. I served with them for over ten years.
73. When I came out of the marines I went straight into construction until 2008. When the recession hit I worked abroad in construction for eighteen months. I came back from there and was offered a job doing security work, which I did for four years. I am back in construction now.

Impact

74. It is very difficult to quantify what the impact of the abuse I suffered at St Columba's had on my life because I have only ever known my life with that in my history. Would I have done anything different were that not to have happened is not something I can answer. Can we treat the things that have happened in my life or the way that I have dealt with certain things, can we attribute them to what happened? I have no idea. Have I thought about it? Yes, constantly. In some ways I suppose getting contacted by [REDACTED] was probably a good thing. Don't get me wrong, I still don't intend to speak to anyone personally about this. My fiancé knows. She is the only person other than telling the Inquiry [REDACTED] that I have ever spoken to about it. Nobody else knows. It is still not something that I am going to talk about freely.
75. I am divorced and have two boys and a step-daughter from that relationship. I am not very open with my feelings, so is it to do with the abuse I received? I don't know. I have also got another kid from another relationship. I kind of feel like when I get into a relationship and someone is close to me I push them away, but that just might be me. I don't know if it is a trait in victims of abuse, I have no idea.
76. I have never had any counselling or taken any medication in relation to my time at St Columba's. I have always dealt with it myself. I have never pointed the finger and blamed anyone because it doesn't matter, it is done. You can just get on with it and just live your life as you live it, but loads of times I have thought, has it affected me in

this way or that way and I have no idea. I am sure it messes some people up really badly. Maybe I am lucky that I have just gone with it, but has it had an effect where my life would have been different? Would I have done things differently? Would I have stayed married? Would I have a solid family background with kids in my house? I don't know.



81. I am not in regular contact with my middle brother MGQ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I don't really speak to him that often. I have never spoken to him about any of this. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I don't know anything about his experience and he doesn't know about mine.

82. I have spoken with MGS but I have never spoken about what happened to us. Even though we were in the same room at the same time. We have both sort of alluded to the fact that it happened. We were sexually abused but we have never said anything to each other in any detail whatsoever.

83. I have never mentioned anything to my mum or dad, or my brothers.

Records

84. I have never applied for my records of my time at St Columba's School.

Lessons to be Learned

85. I don't know what the Inquiry should be looking at to be helpful for other people. But for me the damage is done. I say the damage is done, it is in the past. I am living with that in the back of my mind, but it doesn't matter, I am not letting it ruin things for me. I think really from where we were forty years ago to where we are today, method of communication has certainly changed so much that I think it would be a lot more difficult to put a child in the situation I was in. But I am sure there are still institutions around where it happens. So if anything does come of it then it needs to be more of a control over who is allowed to control these institutions, or what you would call a responsible person in these institutions and teach and everything else. When it comes down to it, you can talk about different methods of doing things but it is down to the individuals really that do this.

Other information

86. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] when you listen to the voice of a witness or you look at a statement of a witness you are looking at a forty-seven year old man. That

is not the person that was abused. You need to be looking at an eight or nine year old kid otherwise you are not giving it the right consideration. It wasn't me now that it happened to, it was me at nine years old.

- 87. 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... MGR

Dated... *27/2/19*