

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KAV

Support person present: Yes Partner

1. My name is KAV. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I don't really remember anything about my family life before I went into care. My mum, [REDACTED] has since told me that in the early years we lived in Dalmarnock. I have two brothers ABZ and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is one year younger than me. ABZ is one year older than me. They were both later in care with me. I don't know where I went. My mum and dad were both alcoholics and there was a history of domestic violence. I can't actually remember having my mum in my life when I was young. My mum died in 2010. My dad, [REDACTED] is still alive.
3. According to my records I was first put into care in 1968 when I was two years old. At some point after I was in care I went back to live with my mum and dad but ended up back in care again. At some stage we were in a place called Lochgarry Children's Home. In 1974 when I was eight years old we went back to live with my dad. By that time my mum and dad had split up and my dad had moved to Preston Street in Pollokshields. I remember going back to live with my dad. He lived there with another woman.
4. I don't know why we went to Smyllum. I am not aware of there being any social workers at our house or any build up to us going. From looking at my files it seems

we were in care under a Section 16 order. I have no idea what that is. All I remember was getting a taxi with my two brothers and a man who might have been a social worker. We seemed to be in this taxi for ages. According to my files I was eight years old when I went into Smyllum although I thought I was a bit younger.

Smyllum Children's Home, Lanark

5. There is a long driveway leading up from the road to the building at Smyllum. The front looks like a big castle. There is a big crucifix on the grass and there is a chapel. There were four houses at Smyllum. The house I was in was Roncali. The other houses were St Kentigern's, Ogilvie and St Anne's. At some point another organisation came to Smyllum. They used the house that St Anne's used. They had nothing to do with Smyllum. They moved to Carluke at some point. I am not sure if they were there before St Anne's or after. There were children in there too and some of them went to the same school as me. Behind the castle was where all the nuns stayed and they had their own chapel. The order of nuns who ran Smyllum was called St Vincent's de Paul. I have no idea who was in overall charge. The nuns wore blue habits. Initially they wore white hats which went round their faces and under their chins. All you saw was their faces. That changed after a while and you could see the fringe of their hair
6. Smyllum was mixed with boys and girls. There was a wide age range of children. There once was a baby in there and there were others in there up to fifteen. Generally I think the idea was that you would stay at Smyllum until you were fifteen. At fifteen the boys would move to a boys' hostel in Pollokshields. The girls would go to a girls' hostel in Maryhill.
7. In Roncali there were between sixteen and twenty children. It was mixed with boys and girls. The first room that I was put in had three beds. I shared that with my brothers. There were two other rooms with three beds, one with two beds and one with seven beds. There were two toilets. There was a corridor leading to where the staff lived. Beside the toilet was Sister AEG room.

8. Sister **AEG** was the nun in charge of Roncali. I think she was in her thirties when I was there. She was the only nun in our house. There were other non-religious staff. Initially there was a woman there called **AGV** and I think she was a nursery teacher. There were two other members of staff who dealt with us mostly. There was **FBN**. She later married and took the surname **FBN**. The other was **AGR**. **AGR** She married and took the surname **AGR**. Another woman came to work there called **FBQ**. She married and took the surname **FBQ**. They all lived in Roncali and had their own rooms but they worked different shift rotas. Other non-religious staff I remember at Smyllum were **BAC**. He was the **_____** worked there too, **_____**. He was the gardener. They both stayed in **_____** Smyllum. **BAC** was maybe fifty.

Routine at Smyllum

First day

9. I just remember when we arrived at Smyllum, me and my two brothers were just shown into our room. We were all together. That night when we were in our beds we talked for ages about opening the window and running away. We never did run away.

Mornings and bedtime

10. We would get up about seven o'clock in the morning. Sister **AEG** would wake us up. We would get washed then go down for breakfast. We would have to be on the bus by five past eight at the latest to go to school. At night-time you had to be in your bed at a certain time. I think I was probably in bed by nine o'clock but it all depended on your age.

Mealtimes

11. I think it was the day after we arrived that we were in the dining room and me and my brothers were given a plate of macaroni. I had never seen macaroni before. We just sat and looked at it. We didn't know what it was so we weren't going to eat it. They took it away and gave us something else to eat.
12. When I first arrived the food was generally cooked in the main kitchen and then it was split up and sent to the four houses. We had our meals in the dining room of Roncali where there were four tables. FBN and AGR, the staff, would serve up the food. There was always some food that I didn't like and just couldn't eat. After a while the meals stopped coming from the main kitchen and the food was cooked in Roncali. The food was generally a bit better after that and the staff gave us food that we wanted.
13. We got breakfast at Smyllum. We were given dinner money to have lunch at school. We had our dinner after school then at supper time you would get a diluting juice and a digestive biscuit or a cake.

Clothing

14. The clothing that we wore was all hand-me-downs. There were cupboards with school clothes and everyday clothes. When you grew and you needed clothes the staff would just get something from the cupboards. When you were given clothes they remained yours until you were finished with them. When your clothes went to get washed you would get the same ones back again. I don't think we stuck out as being from a children's home when we were out of the home. We had a shared wardrobe in the bedroom where we hung our clothes up. We were made to hang up our clothes as soon as we got in from school. Clothes that needed washed were washed for us.

Washing and bathing

15. Every week Sister [REDACTED] AEG used to have you over the bath wearing only your pants and vest. Your hair would get washed with horrible smelling shampoo. You had to wait for a while then the shampoo was rinsed off and Sister [REDACTED] AEG went through your head with a fine tooth comb.
16. You weren't restricted when you could wash or have a bath. You could more or less have a bath when you wanted. When you got washed in the morning there was no-one there checking to make sure you were behaving or that you had washed properly.

School

17. I went to Smyllum Primary School which was in the grounds of Smyllum. It was only for children from the home. There was a head teacher but I can't remember her name. There were two classes and only two teachers, Miss Keown and Mrs Donaldson. If you misbehaved in Miss Keown's class she would make you stand up on one of the big long benches in the classroom. There was a tape player in the class and they just played the same songs over and over. I didn't get a proper education in there. I can't remember how many were in my class. The only thing I do remember about school was doing a project on snakes.
18. When Smyllum was shutting down we were moved to St Mary's Primary. I don't think I got treated any differently by the teachers or the other children because I came from Smyllum. When we got homework we had to do it before we were allowed out to play football. I don't remember the nuns ever helping or checking my homework.
19. One of my worst memories was when I was at St Mary's Primary [REDACTED]. I remember other children were messing about wanting to go to the toilet. The teacher Mrs Kennedy got fed up and said that no-one else was allowed to go to the toilet. Lo and behold I needed the toilet. We were all standing at our desks waiting for the bell to ring for lunch. I was standing beside a girl in the class. I couldn't stop it and I wet

myself in front of the whole class. The bell rang and the teacher just told me I should go to the toilet. Everyone knew I had wet myself and it was humiliating. I ran all the way back to Smyllum and got changed. I was more worried that Sister [REDACTED] AEG got to hear about it because if she did I would have got a beating. I never got a beating so I presume she never heard about it. Nothing was said to me by the teacher when I got back after lunch. The other children did take the mickey out of me for a while.

20. When it was time for me to go to High school I went to St Aidan's High School in Wishaw. Lanark Grammar School was much closer to Smyllum but I went to St Aidan's which was about fourteen miles away because it was a catholic school. We got the local SMT bus to get there. St Aidan's was good. I wasn't treated any differently in there. The education I got at St Aidan's was much better than what we got at Smyllum. I don't think I ever caught up with all the other children the education that I had lost at Smyllum Primary.

Chores

21. I never had to do any chores or work when I was at Smyllum. I never had to Hoover, clean, or polish. Absolutely nothing.

Leisure time

22. Almost all of my spare time I would play football. Football was everything to me. [REDACTED] BAC started up a football team called Smyllum Park Rovers and he used to coach us. The team was open to other boys outside the home so we invited some of our school mates from St Mary's Primary. We played in a league against teams from local towns. When I was in primary 7 I learned how to play chess and I loved that. Sometimes, at the weekend, me and my brothers would go to [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] and he taught us some card games.
23. Sometimes the staff used to take us swimming to the Clyde falls and we would go swimming in the River Clyde. We would take a picnic and have a packed lunch. I think everyone from Smyllum went there on this day out, including the staff.

24. [REDACTED] FBQ was a member of staff and when there was a football match on the television on a Wednesday night she used to come up the back stairs from the kitchen. She took me and my brothers down to watch the football. Sister [REDACTED] AEG never knew about this.

25. There was a living-room where we could watch the TV. We watched a lot of television. On a Friday night a member of staff often brought in sweets so we all chose something to have. If you got to choose first you got the biggest and best chocolate. If you were last you got the Milky Way. There were loads of books if you wanted to read and there were toys galore to play with. There were plenty of things to keep us amused. Outside there was a swing up in the woods. We also used to go to Lanark Golf Club to find golf balls then we used to sell them. We were allowed to go out ourselves on a Saturday when you had free time. We were given our pocket money so we could go to a local shop to buy sweets. We would go to the cinema in Lanark but I can't remember if the staff took us there or not. We even had a dog. It was an Afghan Hound. It lived in Roncali and was called Cuddles. The dog was specifically for [REDACTED]

Holidays

26. Every summer, as far as I can recall, we used to get taken to a big house in Girvan for a holiday. We would go for two weeks. We went at a different time from the other Smyllum houses, and then they would go. We would spend all day at the beach and have a packed lunch. We had great times. We also used to go to the Holy Island. We stayed right next to the chapel. There was a trainee priest there and he used to give us a taste of some mead. Everyone who was in my house, including the staff used to go on these holidays.

Trips / excursions

27. When we were at Smyllum and even when we went to Glengowan, me and my brothers sometimes went to [REDACTED] FBN [REDACTED] AGR and [REDACTED] FBQ

houses. We even stayed overnight sometimes with **FBN** and **AGR**. We were even invited to, and went to their weddings.

28. When **FBQ** came to the home she took us to see the film Grease at the cinema in Wishaw. We couldn't get into the showing that we wanted so rather than bring us all the way back we went to her mother's house in Cleland. We were all fed there, then we went back to watch the film.
29. Every year before Christmas the staff would take us in to Glasgow to do some Christmas shopping. They helped us buy presents for our brothers, friends and Sister **AEG**. Sometimes they would help us buy stuff for Sister **AEG** from the Avon catalogue.
30. We used to get taken to Dunoon or Rothesay by families who used to take us out for the day. Sometimes we would get taken by bus to either Airdrie or Coatbridge and we got dropped off at these ladies houses. We got taken by these families for something to eat or to watch a game of football somewhere. The Honeywell factory in Glasgow used to arrange for us to get taken to Dunoon for the day. On the way back we would get a pie supper. Another time we were taken to the Cartland Bridge Hotel for a Christmas Dinner. Another time they arranged for Tommy Burns who played for Celtic to visit us. We had a lot of good times like this at Smyllum.

Religious instruction

31. We went to chapel every Sunday at 9 o'clock and Father McDonagh used to come up and take mass. We were in the Chapel all the time at Easter. During Lent it was mass after mass. We had mass before school then again after school. We always prayed by our beds when we got up and before we went to sleep. All the boys did it. I was never forced to do it and there was no-one making sure that we did it. We always said a prayer before every meal too.

Birthdays and Christmas

32. Christmas in Smyllum was amazing. There was a Christmas tree and there were lots of decorations. We made some of the decorations. We were all excited on Christmas morning and we would get up early and everyone was buzzing. We would all sit on the stairs waiting to get into the room to get our presents. When we went in, there was a pile of presents waiting for us. Some of the presents were amazing. I remember I always wanted a leather jacket and one Christmas I got one. Christmas dinner was special. I remember eating Christmas pudding and looking for the shilling. Christmas was great. Birthdays were good too. Easter's were good too and we got chocolate Easter eggs.

Pocket money

33. I remember I couldn't tie my laces when I was at Smyllum. Sister Dorothy told me that if I learned to tie my laces she would give me ten pence. I remember when I could do it, she kept her word and gave me ten pence.

Visits / Inspections

34. My mum and dad came occasionally. When my dad came, me and [REDACTED] would see him. My other brother [REDACTED] ABZ didn't want anything to do with him. Sometimes we would go by train to his house and visit him. I know that Bob Hay was our social worker. He started visiting us when we were at Smyllum. He worked from the Calder Street social work. Sister [REDACTED] AEG would always arrange for me and my two brothers to be in the television room to wait for our social worker to come. Sometimes he used to take us out. Bob Hay sometimes took us out to watch a game of football, and once we went to his house. We had time on or own with him. I couldn't say how often or how many times Bob Hay came to see us. He was trying to arrange for us to go into foster care but said that they might not be able to put all three of us with the same family. When he told us that, we said we didn't want fostered. We never heard any more about it. I have no idea if Smyllum was ever officially inspected by anyone.

Healthcare

35. I don't remember ever seeing a doctor when I was at Smyllum. I once saw a dentist down in Lanark because I had to get a tooth taken out.

Abuse at Smyllum

36. An important thing for me was the poor education that I got at Smyllum and because of that I suffered. We went to the school in the grounds called Smyllum Primary School. I just don't think we were taught very well. All I remember was singing songs. When I moved to St Mary's Primary [REDACTED] I was basically a dunce. I think I was probably three or four years behind everyone else. For example I didn't know anything about decimal points. Maybe we mucked about in school and made it difficult for the teachers and that's why I didn't learn properly.
37. There was some food that was served up that I really didn't like and couldn't eat. Mostly that was puddings. One day the custard was runny and the next day it would be thick and lumpy. It was the same in the mornings with porridge. I hated tapioca and semolina. If you didn't eat your food Sister [REDACTED] AEG mostly, but sometimes [REDACTED] FBN and [REDACTED] AGR would come behind you, hold your nose and pull your head back. They would then ram the food into your mouth. They did this to me and sometimes I was sick. It would only stop when your plate was empty or when you were sick. I saw this happen to my brothers and others. Eventually we got wise and if nobody else at the table wanted to eat what you didn't, we used to spoon it into our pockets. Sometimes the staff knew if you didn't like something and they deliberately gave it to you. The food did improve when the food stopped coming from the main kitchen and the cooking was getting done in our house. The force feeding stopped after that.
38. My brother [REDACTED] ABZ and a few others in Roncali were regular bed-wetters. By that time me and my brothers were in one of the bedrooms that had seven beds. Sister [REDACTED] AEG used to come into the bedroom in the morning, draw the curtains and say "I can smell the fishes" referring to the smell of wet beds. I seldom wet my bed and if I

did, I sometimes managed to hide it and get away with it. Sister [AEG] came in every day and checked the beds. If she found you had wet your bed, you were made to strip your own sheets off. You would then be paraded past all the other rooms to the room where the washing machines were. You would then be taken into the washroom and made to wash in a cold bath. There would be a queue waiting to get into the bath. It happened to the girls too. This happened to me because I couldn't hide it all the time. If you were a bed wetter you would be given nylon sheets which were a different colour from the other white sheets. I think it was easier to wash these sheets.

39. I remember once at Smyllum, when I must have been about eleven, I swore. Sister [AEG] grabbed me by the back of the neck and the hair. She dragged me into the toilets where she made me wash my mouth out with pink carbolic soap. I saw that happen to other children. I had my mouth washed out several times by Sister [AEG]. I saw that happen to others too. She did it to people who were smokers.
40. If you did something wrong, the staff would hit you with a slipper or a sandal over your backside. That was Sister [AEG], [AGR] and [FBN]. They would get somebody else to go and get a sandal or a slipper so that they could do it.
41. Sometimes Sister [AEG] would give us money to go to the local swimming pool. One time, on the way, we decided to go to the Clyde Falls. We were there for ages. Sister [AEG] knew we hadn't been because of the length of time we were away and there was no smell of chlorine. She battered us for that. She hit me with the sandal several times across my backside. She usually hit me more than once and often it was on my bare backside. I was usually left with a red backside and it was red raw. She did this regularly.
42. A big group of us from Smyllum and other homes used to go to the Co-op supermarket in Lanark. We stole sweets from there. When we got back Sister [IAG] from Ogilvie House at Smyllum had all the Smyllum boys lined up. There was a boy [REDACTED] who was with us, and he admitted to stealing and pulled out lots of sweets from his pockets. He got a serious beating from Sister [IAG]

with her hands. I didn't get a beating on this occasion but she made us all pay back money to the shops for the sweets we stole.

43. Another form of punishment we used to get was we were made to stand in a dark room. One of the places was at the bottom of the stairs in a dark corner near the back door. There was a marble floor and it was freezing. You weren't allowed to move away from there until told. It was pitch dark. This happened to me a few times. I had to stand there until the member of staff who put me there told me that I was allowed to move. You weren't supposed to talk when you were in your bed at night time. If you were caught talking or making a noise you would be made to stand in the dark corner downstairs.
44. There was a staff toilet which children weren't allowed to use. I decided to use it but when I tried to get out I couldn't get the snib to move. I climbed out the window which was two stories up. Sister **AEG** heard about it so she gave me a thrashing for climbing out the window.
45. Sometimes we used to play at a nearby farm and climb on the roof. We weren't allowed to be there. **BAC** tried to catch us and if he didn't catch us all he would later line us up. He would then go along the line asking if you had been at the farm. If you denied it he would just move on. You thought you were getting away with it then all of a sudden, he would scud you on the face with the back of his hand. I saw him punching my brother, **ABZ** on the face once because he climbed through the window of a workshop and burst a toilet. This was a proper right hook to his face.
46. One time I remember we were in the dining room and **BAC** was beating my brother **[REDACTED]**. He was hitting him about with his hands. I don't know why. **FBQ** came in and had to stop him and stood between them both. **BAC** maybe gave you a backhand or the occasional right hook, but he wasn't that violent. He never hit anyone with a stick or a golf club, which is a story I heard about him. I looked up to him.

47. [AGV] was a nursery teacher at Smyllum. She used to go out drinking sometimes with [AGR] and [FBN]. They must have had a drink in Smyllum before they went out for the evening. I remember her coming to me before they went out and asked for a kiss. She said that if I did she would bring me back some chocolate. I just remember she smelled strongly of alcohol. I can't really remember kissing her. I never did get any chocolate from her. She did this to me more than once. I never saw her doing this to anybody else.
48. Another time I saw one of the non-religious members of staff [FBO], kissing her boyfriend. Being a young boy I made a noise like "Woo Hoo". Something was said back to me and I might have sworn but I am not sure. The boyfriend went away and the next thing I knew was when I was going for a bath. I was only wearing my pants and [FBO] appeared and gave me a hiding. She slapped me all over with her hands.

Leaving Smyllum

49. Me and [] were the first to leave Smyllum. [ABZ] although he was older, stayed there after we left. [ABZ] stayed there because he was doing his O' Level exams. He joined us six months later. According to my records we left Smyllum on [] 1981. We went to Glengowan Hostel, 196 Nithsdale Road, Pollokshields. I was fourteen and [] was thirteen years old. Bob Hay never mentioned to us that we were getting moved or even explained to us why we were getting moved.
50. The boy who ran Glengowan was a boy called [AGW]. He just turned up one day with another bloke called [AGX]. They came to Smyllum in their own car. They had lunch with us then drove us to Glengowan.

[Redacted]

51.

[Redacted]

52.

[Redacted]

53.

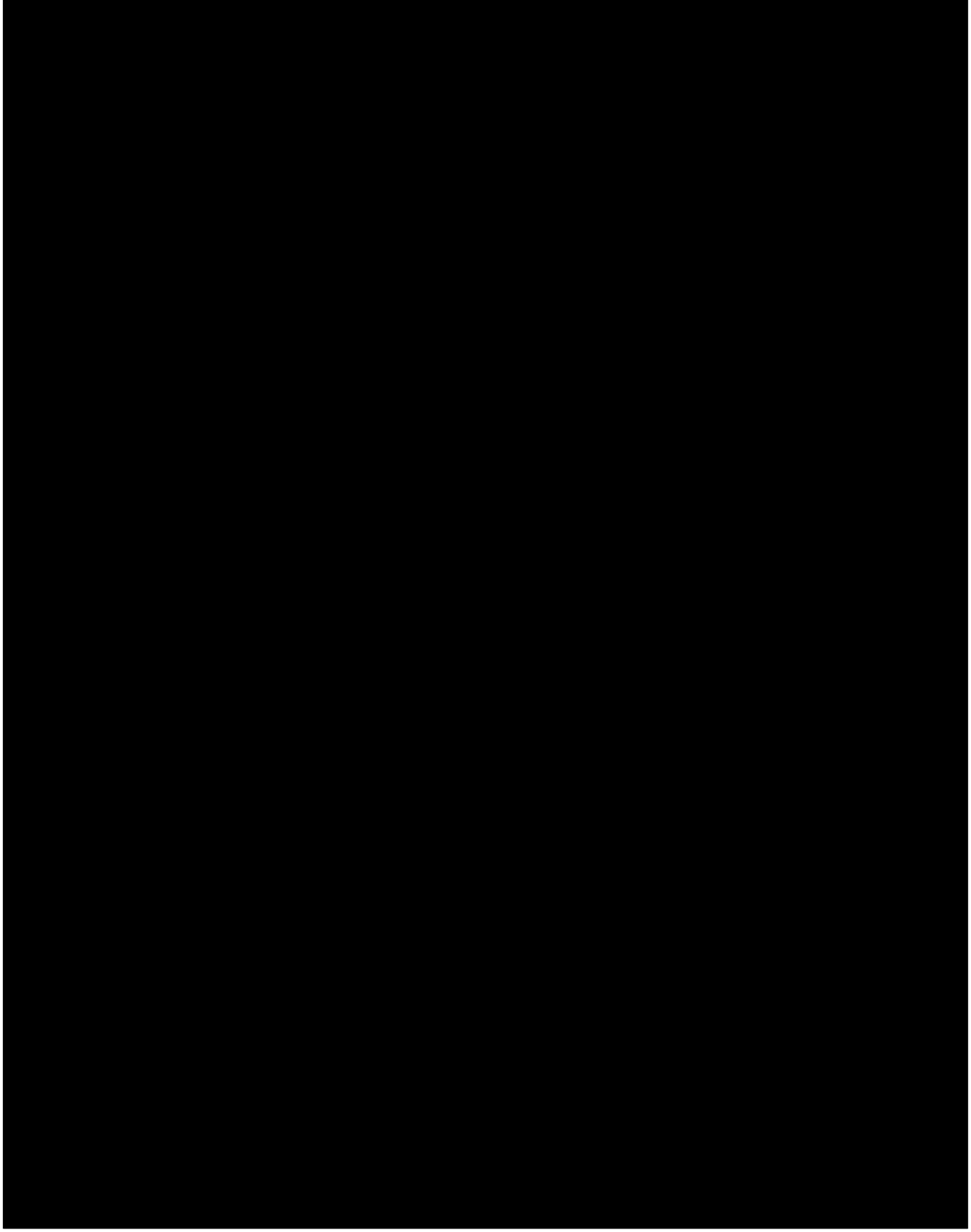
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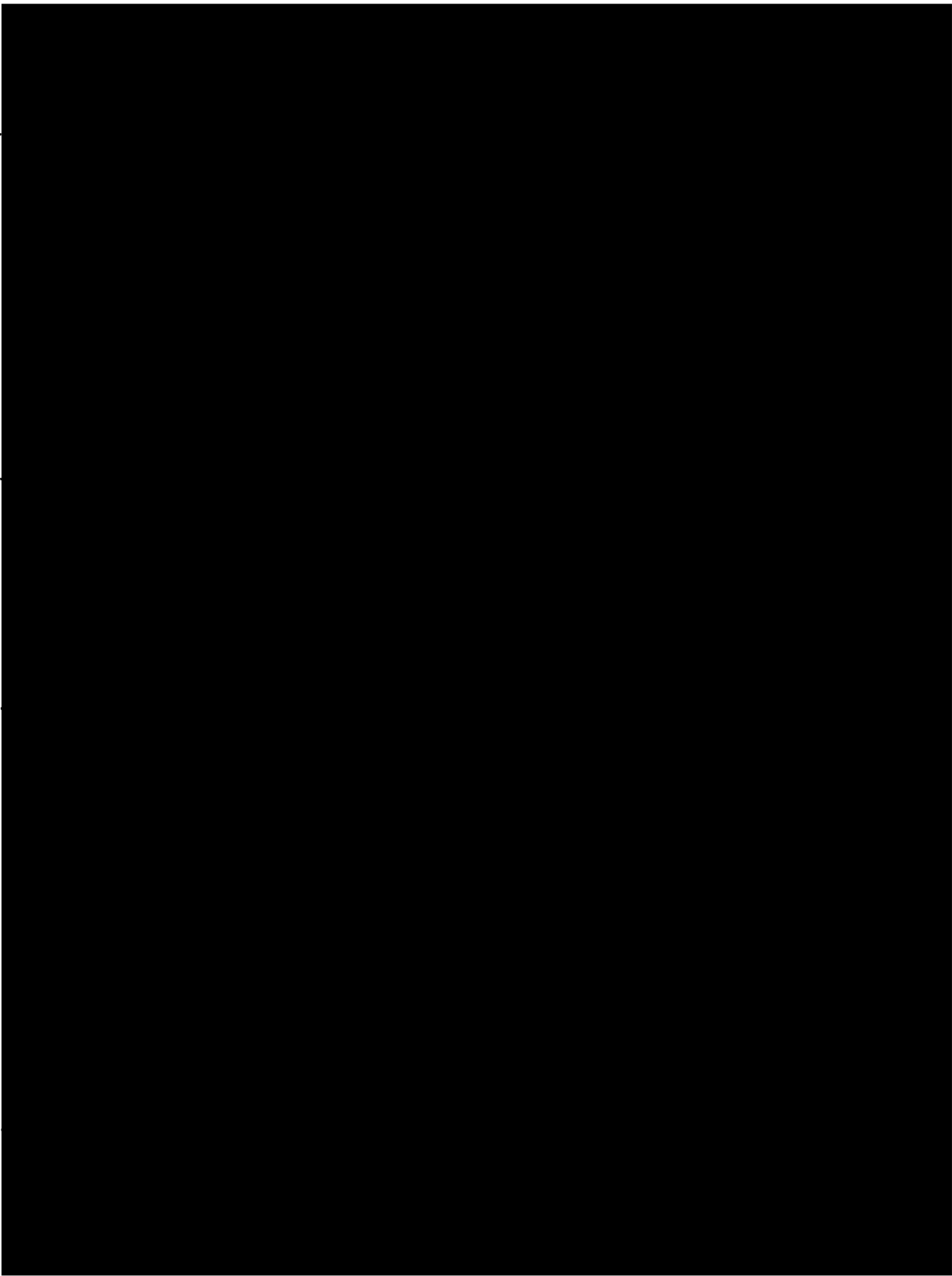


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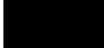
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Reporting of abuse at Smyllum

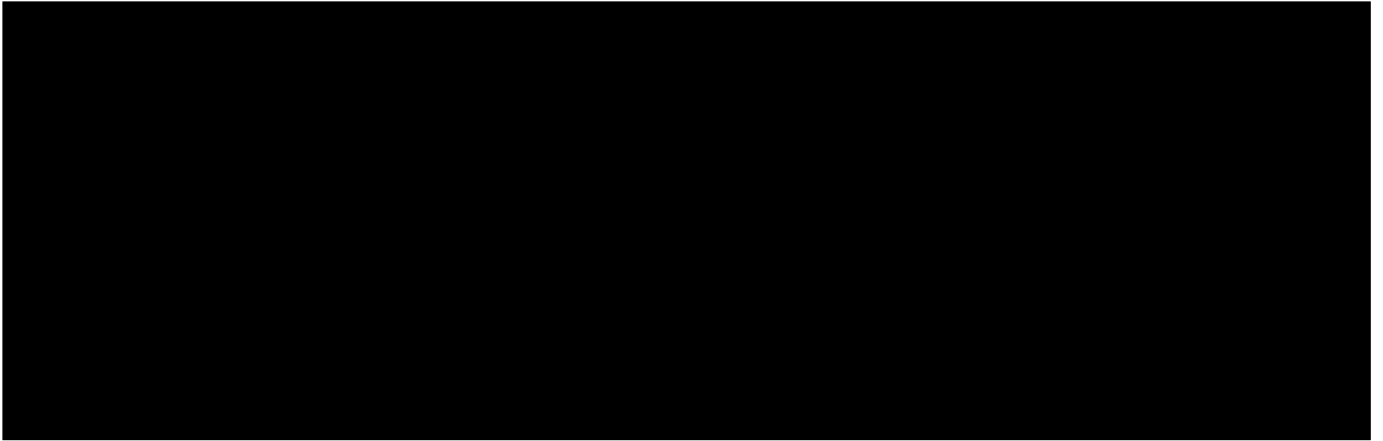
64. Bob Hay used to visit us at Smyllum, and sometimes he took us out for the day. I am sure that when we were with him we told him about being force fed and the bed wetting. I don't know if he ever did anything about what we told him. Things did eventually improve in Smyllum but I am not sure if it had anything to do with what we told Bob Hay.

65. After the incident where the member of staff **FBO** slapped me about I told Sister **AEG** what she had done to me. I don't know if Sister **AEG** did anything but I never saw **FBO** again.

66. I only told my counsellor a few days ago about the time in Smyllum when **AGV**  wanted me to kiss her and she said she would give me chocolate.

67.





Reporting of abuse in General

68. I have never reported anything that has happened to me to the police.
69. Since leaving care I have often talked about my time in care with my brothers. I have met some of the other boys and girls who I was in care with, and we discussed what happened to us. They were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I have also told my partner [REDACTED] and my nieces almost everything.

Life after being in care

70. When I left Glengowan at seventeen the only place I could really go was to stay with my brother [REDACTED] ABZ By then he had his own flat in the Gorbals. It says in my records that they were paying [REDACTED] ABZ £10 per week for me to live there.
71. Bob Hay remained my social worker until 1984 when I was in my own flat. My flat was in [REDACTED] in the Gorbals. The social work department put claims in for me and I think I got £872 to furnish my new flat. I got brand new carpets and linoleum. The housing department gave me £90 to redecorate the house. The social work got me a woman called a home maker. She got me a recycled sofa for £30. I also got a second hand cooker and fridge. I must have been about eighteen and a half when I got the letter from Bob Hay who said that the social work department were no longer responsible for me.

72. My brother [REDACTED] got a flat too but he couldn't cope so he moved in with me. I had never paid a bill in my life. I didn't know what to do so I never paid my rent and I never paid my electricity. I got letters and they said they would disconnect my power. I stupidly thought that they couldn't disconnect me if they can't get in my flat. I came home one day and the power was off. I eventually got it back on. We ate very poorly for a long while. My wee brother even stole some food for us to eat. This lasted for nearly two years. [REDACTED] eventually left and I just stayed in the flat on my own. I stayed in that flat until I met my partner [REDACTED] in 2007. She has brought three children into our relationship.
73. I got various jobs on and off and was unemployed for some of the time. I laterally got a manager's job in a bookmakers.
74. I got back in touch with my mum in 1993. She came to Glasgow to see us and I then went down to visit her in [REDACTED]. At my mums funeral in 2010 I found out that I had two half-sisters. I also have another half-sister and half-brother on my dad's side.

Impact

75. Because I was exposed to alcohol when I was at Glengowan I developed a bit of a drink problem and that has stayed with me. I don't think I was ever an alcoholic because I can go without alcohol for long periods. I just had regular binges. Even though I was much younger I was drinking with the older boys, especially after I had a job when I was sixteen because I had money to buy drink. I also got a lot more freedom. It ended up that I got drunk and assaulted [REDACTED]. That's when I was asked to leave Glengowan. I also got involved in gambling because I had some spare cash. I can't say for sure that I wouldn't have started drinking at fifteen or started gambling anyway but by putting me in Glengowan it definitely wasn't good for me.

76. I have been arrested a few times just for street disorder following drinking sessions. Since I met my partner [REDACTED] eleven years ago things have improved. When I drink I sometimes become quite aggressive. I have never hit my partner. I think the last time I was involved in a fight was in Smyllum.
77. Because I have never been shown how to do things in the house when I was in Smyllum and Glengowan, I don't know how to use an iron or work the washing machine. I can't cook either. I am hopeless with these sorts of things. I found it really difficult when I got my own flat. No-one had ever taught me how to budget, or how to pay bills, or basically how to run a flat. No-one ever tried to teach me how to be independent. When I got a flat I thought it would just be like Smyllum and everything would get done for me. I struggled.
78. My partner makes cheesy pasta and I can't sit at the table when others are eating it. It just reminds me of my time at Smyllum. If I am washing the dishes I can't wash the dirty plates that the pasta has been on and I have to leave them for her to wash. I hate custard from the times that I used to get force fed at Smyllum.
79. I have never been diagnosed with any mental problem but I suffer from stress and I panic. I have suffered from anxiety and depression. I have considered suicide at one point but this was as a result of something else that happened in my life.
80. I just can't handle love. I have a very strained relationship with my step daughter. Even though I have known her for eleven years I can't get close to her. As an example she passed her school exams and I couldn't go up to her and cuddle her and say well done. I find it difficult to build any sort of relationship especially with women.
81. I never ever wanted to have any children because I was too frightened that I would turn out like my father. I was worried I might turn out an alcoholic or in some other way let my children down. Despite all the things that I have said about Sister [REDACTED] AEG and [REDACTED] BAC I think I could have turned out much worse.

82. Christmas I just can't handle because I never had a family upbringing like that and never experienced a happy family environment. When the presents are getting opened in our house I have to either leave the room, or keep myself occupied by picking up all the wrapping paper.
83. I still consider myself a Catholic and still say my prayers. I don't go to chapel probably as much as I should. I don't hold grudges against the church.
84. I recently saw a report on the television about [REDACTED] ACB [REDACTED] and she claimed she was abused by a priest at Smyllum. I remember she was at Smyllum when I was there. She used to play tennis against the wall all the time. I was really upset by this story and I broke down. I can't say it never happened because [REDACTED] ACB [REDACTED] was in a different house. I just couldn't believe it or at least didn't want to believe that it was true. I had to go to the doctor after this.

Other action taken / other information

85. Looking back I have told my partner that I had great times at Smyllum, and I did. I have a lot of good memories. I have taken my family to Girvan and Holy Island where we used to get taken for our holidays. I have taken my family back to Smyllum to have a look about. I would even consider buying a house in Lanark if I could afford it. I wouldn't have done all that if I hated the place. It is possible that I only want to remember the good times and all the bad times are locked away in my head somewhere.
86. I still feel that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was like the father I never had. He ran the football team and was really good to me. He used to take us football training at St Mary's Primary School. Coming up the driveway it was pitch black. He used to wait for us all then tell us to jog up in front of his car and he had his headlights on and we could see where we were going. He didn't turn off to [REDACTED] until we were right back at the building. I had a lisp when I was at Smyllum. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] spent time with me and helped me overcome it. I was baptised when I was at Smyllum because they

couldn't find my baptism certificate. I then made my confirmation into the Catholic Church. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was my sponsor. He was always there for me so that's why I asked him. This is a big thing in the Catholic Church. I remember years ago hearing that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was ill and I visited him in hospital. I went with my brother [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I subsequently went to his funeral in 1983. I still go to his grave and lay flowers.

87. Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] even after all the things she did to me, was like the mother I never had. She was the closest thing I ever had to a mother. About five years ago I was told that Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED]. I took my family to visit her. She has changed her name and is now Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED]. We talked with her about all the good times at Smyllum. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I still pray for Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] and for [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] even though he is dead. I have forgiven both Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] because my faith has taught me to forgive.

88. [REDACTED] AGY [REDACTED] who was training to be a priest when we were at Glengowan is now the parish priest [REDACTED]. I went to see him but he just said he didn't remember me. I went through the names of all the other boys who were there when I was. He just repeated that he didn't know me and just really wanted me to go away.

89. I have never tried to make any contact with either of the institutions I was in or tried to contact the order. A few weeks ago I decided to go down to [REDACTED] and talk to the Parish priest because I felt I needed guidance. He wasn't there so I went back later. When I was there a car pulled in and it was a bloke who said he was the deacon. I told him that I was coming here to speak to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. He asked me if I thought it was really in anyone's real interest in talking about the Catholic Church. I realised by what he was saying that he wasn't interested in what I had personally been through at Smyllum and Glengowan. He told me that I had to tell the truth. I told him that I was going to tell the truth because it wasn't all bad. He invited me in to the chapel but I declined.

Treatment / support

90. After my mum's funeral I went to see my GP and I was off work for a while. I was given tablets and I contacted [REDACTED] for counselling. I only spoke to them on the phone and because I told them I wasn't suicidal they never arranged an appointment for me. I did actually feel suicidal but I wasn't going to admit that to them over the phone. Although I felt suicidal I never actually tried to follow it through.
91. I have contacted Future Pathways and I have had two appointments with a counsellor. In the first appointment she just wanted me to do all the talking. I actually wondered why I was there. On the second appointment I told her about the time I kissed the female member of staff on the promise of some chocolate. I had never told anyone about that incident before. She just advised me that when I came to speak to the Inquiry I should only speak about what I felt comfortable. I am not sure if this counselling is going to be of any benefit to me. I am booked in for twelve counselling appointments.

Records

92. I saw something on the television saying that people were entitled to get their own social work records. Because of that [REDACTED] and I went down to [REDACTED] Social work department. It was shut down so we went to the social work offices in the [REDACTED]. A woman helped me apply for my records and she filled in the forms. I hadn't heard anything two months later so I went to [REDACTED] Social work office. I was passed from pillar to post and I had to resend the application forms, this time by recorded delivery. I eventually received my records in 2014. The records are very sparse and contain very little information. Big sections are missing. They are basically unreadable.
93. There is one page in my records from Smyllum dated 1977. There is no mention of anything about us telling Bob Hay about being force fed or the bedwetting. All it says

in the records is that I was in care from 1968 to 1972. I presume I then went back to live with my dad. It then says in 1974 I went to Smyllum.

Lessons to be learned

- 94. I really don't think that your Inquiry is going to change things and stop things like what happened to me. Institutions are not going to change. You read the stories and see it on the television about how old people are still being treated in old folk's homes. That is probably the same for children's institutions. I don't think it will ever change.

- 95. 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.

KAV


Signed.....

Dated..... 17/10/17.....