

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

AHM

Support person present: No

Others present: Stephen Smart, Clyde & Co, solicitor to the Daughters of Charity
of St Vincent de Paul

1. My name is [REDACTED] AHM [REDACTED]. When I first worked at Smyllum the children called me Miss AHM [REDACTED]. When I returned later on to Smyllum Park as a Sister I was known as Sister AHM [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED]/44. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before working in Smyllum Park Orphanage

2. I was born off Dalry Road in Edinburgh. We lived on Orwell Place. I was the ninth of twelve children. My family later moved to Craigmiller. It was a poor place but it was a nice place to be. Everybody was good. You were never lonely because there were so many people to play with.
3. Before, Smyllum I had only done office work. I had no training or qualifications in childcare. I was enjoying my work in the office but I didn't feel as if it was what I wanted to do. I felt I should be doing something better and more for God.

Times spent working at Smyllum and childcare qualifications

4. I note the document entitled "Ministry History" and found at WIT.003.001.0692. It is an accurate record of my ministry history. That document sets out the roles that I had with the Order during my time with them.
5. I worked in Smyllum Park on two occasions. The first time I worked in Smyllum was between 1966 and 1968. My role was assistant house mother. I only worked in Ogilvie House for that period. After I left Smyllum I had various roles. I eventually took my vows.

The childcare course

6. You were always trained to do something after your vows. The Order asked me whether I wanted to do childcare. That was what I wanted to do anyway. I ended up doing a childcare course at Langside College in Glasgow. It was a course in residential childcare. I think the course was run by the council. The course started either at the end of 1974 or the start of 1975. The course went on for a school year. You got a certificate at the end of that when you passed the course. You had to do some essays and things.
7. ██████████ did the course with me. She had worked in the main house at Smyllum for a year when I was there. She was an assistant to Sister ██████████. She remembers loads of things. ██████████ later became a Sister. She became a Sister the year after me. She didn't return to Smyllum though.

Returning to Smyllum

8. I didn't have Smyllum in mind for after my childcare course. I remember that there was a priest saying mass in our house in Pollockshields in Glasgow. I remember after communion saying to God "I will go anywhere, even Smyllum." Neither ██████████ or I wanted to go to Smyllum. It wasn't because we didn't like it, it was because of the big groups. There were twenty children in each group. You were

taught a lot of nice things you could do with the children on the childcare course. I felt that, because of the size of the groups, I wouldn't get the chance to do a lot of the nice things that I had been taught to do.

9. When I returned as a Sister I went into St Kentigern's House in Smyllum. That was straight after the childcare course. It would have either been in 1976 or 1977. I worked there right up until just before Smyllum closed down in 1981. There wasn't anything like an interview when I went back to Smyllum. You just went. I got placed in St Kentigern's because there was a Sister moving on somewhere else.
10. I don't know why they did it but, about six months before Smyllum closed, my group was closed and we were all put back into Ogilvie House. I remember that the Sister who worked in Ogilvie House at that time was moved away to do nursing. Moving back to Ogilvie House was quite hard because I had to get used to new staff and a new group.

Smyllum Park, Lanark

First impressions

11. I was nearly 22 when I started working at Smyllum the first time. I think it was [REDACTED] 1966 when I started in Ogilvie House. I worked there until 1968. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I liked the atmosphere in Ogilvie House. I was a bit homesick at first. That's when I went home every week. I did that for a couple of months. Once I got into it, I only went home every two or three weeks.
12. Maybe I've got rose-tinted spectacles but I never felt as if it was a job. They weren't bad children. I can't really think if any of them were bad.

Layout at Ogilvie House

13. Ogilvie House was set apart from the other houses. I didn't have much contact with the other houses. I had a key for the big house but I hardly ever used it. I never did any work with the other groups.
14. There were only three rooms. They were more like big dormitories than rooms. There were eight boys in one room. The other rooms were for the girls. Those rooms came off one another.
15. The accommodation was terrible for the assistant house mothers. In the end it was ok. The two staff members shared one bedroom which was divided between two. It was a cubicle really. The dividing wall didn't go right to the top.
16. We had a sitting room. I can't remember whether the Sisters used to call it "the parlour room". We only used that room on high days and holidays. It wasn't used very much.

The children at Smyllum

17. It was boys and girls. In total I think there were 120 children at Smyllum. I think they were divided into six groups of twenty. It didn't seem like 120 children. The place was set in spacious grounds.
18. I can't remember exactly the age range of the children in Smyllum. Sometimes there were babies awaiting adoption. I remember a couple during my time in Ogilvie House. There were toddlers also. There were children up to the age of fifteen.
19. We didn't know what was wrong with the children or what their family circumstances were. We didn't know why the children were there. I don't know why but I used to think that it was mostly because their parents had drink problems.

Management structure and staff during first time at Smyllum Park

20. Sister [REDACTED] EAC was in charge of Ogilvie House. She was my boss at Ogilvie House. She covered us if we needed to go and do things or needed time off. It was flexible. Sister [REDACTED] EAC slept in a room in Ogilvie House. She came over to Ogilvie House at about nine thirty in the evenings. She was also in and out during the day too.
21. We just knew what we had to do in Ogilvie House. We weren't given instructions or anything like that. I think if we had asked Sister [REDACTED] EAC what we had to do she would have thought we were nuts. We just knew what to do.
22. Sister [REDACTED] EAC was an overseer but the assistant house mothers did most of the stuff. It wasn't as if Sister [REDACTED] EAC didn't do anything but we did most the work. She wasn't one for telling us to do things. I suppose it was because we kept things tidy.
23. There were two main staff members who lived in Ogilvie House. It was me and one other. The first member of staff I worked with only lasted a month. She used to go around holding her handbag when she was on duty. I can't remember her name. After she left, [REDACTED] AFM joined. She's now called [REDACTED] AFM. She's still alive and I am in contact with her. I have her phone number and occasionally see her. She lives in Lanark. She was good.
24. I had Monday and Tuesdays off and [REDACTED] AFM had Wednesdays and Thursdays off. We were both there on a Friday and Saturday. One of us would have the Sunday morning off and the other would have the afternoon off.
25. There was another girl who came to help out between four o'clock in the afternoon and nine o'clock in the evening. I think that was on a Tuesday and a Thursday. That was so we had more help. Her name was Mary Ann and she was from Barra.
26. There were two "daily women" who cleaned Ogilvie House. They were like domestics. One cleaned upstairs and the other cleaned downstairs. We all got on

well. I don't remember their names. They didn't have anything to do with the children.

27. I don't think we met up with the other Sisters and staff outside of Ogilvie House. I remember that when Sister **EAC** was on holiday another Sister would come down to Ogilvie House to check and see whether we were doing things properly. The only other time you saw the Sisters was when you went over to church. You didn't really see that much of them.

28. **[REDACTED]** had a family. He did the vegetables and that. **[REDACTED]** didn't have much to do with the children.

29. **BAC** was a handyman. He had something to do with the stage when the Variety Club came to show the films. **BAC** always got everything ready for them. I don't know whether he had anything to do with the football.

Management structure and staff during my second time at Smyllum

30. When I started in St Kentigern's the person in charge was Sister **HCC**. She was the only person above me. She would have been the person I went to if there were problems in the workplace. After Sister **HCC** left, Sister Maria Lannigan took over her role. She was also known as Sister Vincent. She took over a year or two before Smyllum was closed.

31. I can't remember the other staff when I was in St Kentigern's. There were a lot of changes in the staff when I was there. I do remember one staff member there but she only stayed a couple of months. I can't remember her name. I remember there was an assistant house father called Mark. I think his surname was Myles. He was good with the children. He didn't stay in the house.

Priests and trainee priests

32. I don't think we had any trainee priests who came to Smyllum during my time there. The only priest I remember coming into Smyllum during the time I was a Sister was Father Liam O'Rafferty. He just liked the children. He would give them things for their birthdays. It wouldn't matter what child it was. He didn't come all the time.
33. There was someone called Willie Monaghan. He was a trainee priest. He used to come and tell the children stories. He didn't come often but the children loved him.

Routine and life at Smyllum*Admission*

34. I suppose we just showed them to their room when they came in. You tried to make them as at home as possible. There was no official introduction to the other children. All the children were friendly. I can remember when they came in I wanted to wash their clothes and put them on them again the next day. That helped me remember who was who.
35. There was a child who came in during the first time when I was in Smyllum with a shaved head. I remember thinking "I wish they had let her come so that we could have sorted out her hair." It was awful for her to have to come in like that. That was all wrong. I don't know why the social workers did that to her. Maybe they would have refused to take her in if she hadn't had that done.

Daily routine

36. We got the children up at about seven- thirty in the morning. They got themselves dressed and washed. They sort of made their beds. They then came down for breakfast. They then went to school at about nine.

37. When I was in Ogilvie House, after the children went to school we went upstairs and tidied and things. We did the washing whilst the children were at school. We also did the ironing. We didn't do the cleaning unless it was a Saturday and Sunday. It wasn't rigid as to what we would do.
38. When the children came back from school in the afternoon they changed into their play clothes. If it was summertime they went outside to play. The wee children went to bed about seven or seven thirty. The bigger children went to bed at nine or nine thirty.

Washing and bathing

39. There were two baths and some sinks in Ogilvie House. I don't think there were any showers. The staff used the baths as well. There were toilets upstairs and downstairs. I think there were four toilets.
40. The children didn't get a bath every night. We couldn't have done that. There were too many children. It wasn't a great arrangement. Saturday was the only night we tried to get everybody bathed.
41. The boys and the girls were bathed in a different bathroom. They all got fresh bath water as far as I know. It was always warm water. We wouldn't give them a cold bath. They'd have never have gone in if it was cold. The only children who shared a bath were the twins. They had a bath at the same time. When they were in the bath they had to sit back to back.
42. The only time I remember there being cold showers was one time when we took the children on holiday. The showers where we were took a while to warm up. I remember the children taking a cold shower to begin with there.

Food

43. We ate at the same time as the children. When we were in Ogilvie House we had all our meals in there. We had a food diary in Ogilvie House. Whoever who was on duty amongst us would do the cooking. We cooked all the food in Ogilvie House. I can't remember anything coming across from the main kitchen in the main house.
44. Breakfast was cereal and toast. Once a week they got bacon and beans. The primary school children would come back during lunchtimes from school to Ogilvie House for their lunch. I can't remember what the food was like. It was hot food. The children got a cooked meal at dinnertime as well. I made stovies. That was what I was famous for. The children liked that.
45. If the children didn't like eating something you tried to coax them. They didn't get battered for not eating. They didn't get the same food the following day to eat or anything like that. There was never a big deal made at food. I remember a big deal over making the children washing up. We usually ended up doing it ourselves.
46. I know we had plenty of vegetables because Smyllum had its own vegetable garden. [REDACTED] would ask what we wanted and he would go and pick it for us.

Clothes

47. The children were always clean and tidy. The children had school uniforms. They changed out of it when they came back from school. I think that they had their own clothes. I don't think the children wore each other's clothes. I know that some of the children had clothes that were the same because I have a photo with some of the children in the same dresses.
48. I remember there were benediction berets and mass berets. I honestly can't remember anything special other than that they wore for Sunday mass. They must have had good clothes for mass.

49. I remember there was a wee girl who was about three in Ogilvie House. Because she was there most of the time, and I wanted her to be nice, I spent some of my money on her. I bought her a pinafore.
50. Sometimes my family would give us clothes for the children. Other people did too. The children did sometimes get second- hand clothes at times. I can't remember ever taking children to shop for clothes. When I was a Sister, we went to Sher Brothers in Glasgow to buy clothes for the children.
51. I can't remember going shopping for shoes during my first time at Smyllum or when I was a Sister. They definitely had their own shoes. I can't remember them wearing each other's shoes.

Chores

52. The children were supposed to do chores. We had women cleaning and us doing washing and ironing. The main thing that the children had to do was the washing up. Other than that I can't remember the children having to do anything.

Leisure time

53. The children didn't stay in. They were out most of the time playing. There was a playroom they could play in but there was never all twenty of them in there at the same time.
54. The playroom room and the television room were the same room in Ogilvie House. There were toys and games in the playroom. I remember that we used to have competitions doing the hula hoop. I could do it. I was one of the best at doing it. The children enjoyed that kind of thing. I can't remember playing all that much with them but we did play. The children got to watch television after their tea.
55. I can't remember there being a lot of books there. There must have been some books around. I wouldn't have had time to read any of them.

56. I don't think anyone went to brownies or scouts or anything when I was in Ogilvie House. The Variety Club would come in and show films. I think the bigger ones got to occasionally do plays. I think it was BAC who did the plays back then. He didn't do that when I returned as a Sister.
57. Sister EAC did Saturday nights in Ogilvie House. The children loved that. The girls used to get their hair in ringlets. They were washed and got ready for Sunday. We would watch Val Doonican on a Saturday night on the television. The children seemed to really enjoy Sister EAC being there.

Possessions and pocket money

58. In Ogilvie House there may have been a drawer which belonged to each child to keep their possessions. They definitely didn't have a chest of drawers or the space we would have now. I know they didn't have much in their way of privacy but they all knew what was what and what was whose. If they got presents they were allowed to keep them.
59. The children got pocket money on a Saturday after lunch. Everybody got the same pocket money. They either went to the town to spend it on sweets, getting taken to the cinema or for when their parents visited. If the children said they wanted to go to the cinema or go into town we took them in.

Holidays

60. The children always got a fortnights holiday. We took them either to St Andrews or Girvan. It was two groups from two different houses that went. We had no extra help. I didn't like the holidays. I was always happier when they were back safe. The children liked the holidays though.
61. St Andrews was very primitive. It was a school. We had to take beds with us. There was always something wrong with the toilets or the water or the children were

getting diarrhoea. The children enjoyed it though. I think the children liked Girvan better.

62. The children played in the sand. They would go in the water. We would watch them. I remember counting their heads to see they were all there. When I think about it now it was a wonder that nothing happened.

Trips

63. When I was in Ogilvie House, if we had enough money between us, we would take a couple of the children out for a treat on a Thursday. I don't remember how often we did that. I remember taking some of the younger children down into town when we were not on our shifts. We didn't want time off for that.
64. During my time in Ogilvie House I once took all the children to the loch. There was a wee paddling pool by the loch. One of the children fell into the paddling pool. When we got back to the house I said to the girl that I wouldn't "tell" if the girl went upstairs, got changed and put dry clothes on. I remember thinking to myself that I would get killed if I got found out that the girl had fallen in the paddling pool. The girl survived and I don't think anyone found out. This incident occurred the first time I took any children out.
65. I remember that we took a group of children to London during the Year of the Child. That would have been in 1979. We went overnight. Sister **AEG** and I went. I can't remember whether we had ten or twenty children between us. I remember the children being so well behaved. We didn't see half the stuff because we were watching the children so much. I remember going to a restaurant for something to eat. We took all the children. I remember someone in the restaurant complimenting on how well behave the children were.

Birthdays and Christmas

66. I really can't remember the birthdays. There would have been something. They wouldn't have got big present. There would have been something for them. There probably would have been a cake. I'm not sure though.
67. Some of the children went home for Christmas and others stayed. You tried to make it good for the ones that were left. My family would have a party on Boxing day in a hall. Sister IAG would drive a minibus with the ones who were left in my group and myself. I think the children enjoyed playing with my nieces and nephews.
68. There were outside companies that put on parties for the children at Christmas. There were certain parties that the children loved going to. Only one of the companies let all of the children over a certain age go. I can't remember the company. The rest of the parties only invited some of the children. Celtic football club were good. They gave a party. The children always came back from those parties with presents which they could keep.
69. We had to give the children something for Christmas. I remember my first Christmas there I felt they didn't have an awful lot. The things that were there were things that were handed in.

Bed-wetting

70. The number of children who had problems with bed-wetting varied. Sometimes there would be four or five children who would wet their bed. I think, by the time I left Ogilvie House, there weren't many at all.
71. Everybody usually got a milky drink before they went to bed. I think that the bed-wetters didn't get a drink too late at night.
72. Sister EAC used to get the "wet beds" up in Ogilvie House. She did that so they wouldn't have wet beds in the morning. When Sister EAC got the child up she

would get them to bring their sheets down. She would get them to do that if they were old enough to carry their sheets. There wasn't a big deal made I remember the children had to get a bath. They had to have something so they wouldn't be smelly going to school.

73. I used to think that we should have just left them so as we didn't disturb their sleep. I thought it was a shame because the children were sleepy. I don't think that getting them up was the answer. Getting the children up was the "done thing" then. I decided, later on after I did my childcare course, that I wouldn't do that.
74. Children could get themselves up to go to bed during the night. If they needed the toilet they went on their own. Maybe some of the children were scared to go and that was why they wet the bed. I don't know. I don't think there were any lights on. You never thought about those sort of things then.

Schooling

75. The primary school aged children went to the Smyllum Park School. I can't remember whether the secondary school aged children went to St Mary's during the first time I was at Smyllum. I know that when I came back to Smyllum as a Sister the secondary school aged children either went to Wishaw or Motherwell for high school.
76. I don't remember having any contact with the teachers. I think if there was anyone who would have done that in Ogilvie House it would have been Sister EAC. I don't remember doing that when I became a Sister. I think we were all too busy minding the children to do that. We weren't encouraged to go up to the primary school in Smyllum.
77. I can't remember the children ever having homework. I can't remember any children doing any. I can't even remember asking them if they had homework.

78. I remember there was one girl called [REDACTED] who would read. The other children would call her "a snob". I met [REDACTED] many years later. She lived in Edinburgh at the time. I think she said that she was called "a snob" more for being from Edinburgh. Most of the other children were from the west.

Healthcare

79. There was a doctor who came into the main house regularly. It was a local GP from a local practice. The children were free to go and see the doctor when he came.

80. Sister [REDACTED] FAM had a wee room where we sent the children if there were wee things that were wrong with them. I can't remember any of the children getting anything serious. We sent them to Sister [REDACTED] FAM if the children had sore throats and things like that. It was minor ailments really.

81. It was the Law Hospital that we took children to if they needed to go. I don't know who kept medical records. I don't know what went on there.

82. I remember I was involved in a horrible incident where one of the children was scalded. He was a child in my care. I did all the wrong things with the child. I took all of his clothes off. I couldn't take the child straight away to hospital. I had to go to Sister [REDACTED] FAM first before going to hospital. That was the only serious thing I was involved with.

83. There was a boy who climbed a tree and fell. The boy said he was dying. We knew fine well he was ok. We had to take the boy to hospital. When we got there the doctor said to the boy that he thought he had to operate. As soon as the doctor said that the boy was ok.

84. I remember one of the children from Ogilvie House had something wrong with his eyelids. He was called [REDACTED]. We had to take him to hospital. The hospital was in Stonehouse. It was quite far away. I didn't drive. Somebody took Sister

EAC to visit him. We had to take the bus. I remember the boy was spoilt stupid in the hospital because he was in a ward of men.

85. I can't remember any dentist coming in or any dentist check-ups.
86. We checked for nits on the children every Friday after they had had their hair washed. We used a bone comb. I remember my pal saying she didn't know what she was looking for. When I was a Sister we started using a preventative special shampoo. After that there were hardly any nits.
87. I remember there was a child who was crying. I'm sure it was [REDACTED]. Sister EAC didn't hear him crying so I went to see him. The boy said he had earache. I went downstairs and got him M and B tablets. When I went back up he was asleep. I got him up to take them. I felt cruel doing that but he would just have got up later again in the night.
88. I remember that Sister Vincent saved a child during my second time at Smyllum. The children had been playing in their bedroom with darts one night. I don't know where they had got the darts. They had a paper dartboard. One of the darts got thrown into one of the children's eyes. The children didn't tell us when that had happened. Sister Vincent came across and saw the boy. She said the boy needed to go to hospital. The eye was saved.

Deaths

89. When I was at Smyllum there were no deaths. I heard about a death involving a golf club that happened before I got there. I also heard of someone being knocked down by a car after I left the first time.

Religious instruction

90. The children probably got religious instruction when they were in school. We were too busy to give them any religious instruction. That was a shame.
91. Religion wasn't "down their throats." There was occasionally grace at mealtimes. They did say their evening prayers. I can't remember morning prayers. There wasn't a big deal made about that sort of stuff. They didn't have to say the rosaries all night or anything like that.
92. I don't know what they did about confession with the children during my time at Smyllum. The children should have been going. I know that a priest didn't come to Smyllum for confession. The children must have gone. If they had gone it would have been down in town in St Mary's.

Visitors

93. There was no set visitors day. I think visitors called before they came. I think they could come at any time. Some children had visits from relatives and some didn't. When the visitors came they were definitely made welcome. It was hard. You felt for the visitors when they came sometimes.
94. Some of the children would get disappointed when they didn't go to town because they were thinking they were getting a visit and the visitor didn't turn up. That was hard for them.
95. Social workers would come to visit. Some social workers were better at doing that than others. Some children's social workers came every month. Other social workers just phoned up. The social workers didn't always come.
96. It was more Sister EAC that spoke to the social workers during my time in Ogilvie House. We would just give them a cup of tea when they came to visit. I can't

remember the social workers taking the children out when I was there. I can hardly remember any of them coming.

97. Sometimes the children from Ogilvie House went on home visits outside of Christmas. If the parents felt they could take the children then they did. The children went at Easter time or for parts of the summer holidays. They wouldn't go for the whole summer holidays. I think that the parents came and collected the children but I don't really remember.

Inspections

98. I don't remember any inspections from either from the council or the Order. I never heard anyone say "There's someone coming." Nobody spoke to me saying that they were an inspector or anything like that.

Review of care

99. I wasn't involved with case reviews in Ogilvie House. Sister EAC would have done that. I think there were case reviews. There should have been them if there weren't. We were too busy looking after the children to be involved in anything like that.

Families

100. Ogilvie House had family groups. Sister EAL got the children into those groups. During both times I was at Smyllum we tried to keep family groups together. Recently, I heard from [REDACTED] that she remembered a family was split between two groups. I didn't think they did that. They must have done that because there wasn't enough space to put all the family in one group. Children would be allowed to keep contact with other family members in Smyllum if they

wanted to. I don't think anybody said to any of the children that they couldn't speak to their siblings.

101. Normally, they didn't take single children in Ogilvie House. I think that was to avoid children feeling left out. There were too many children in Ogilvie House. I think there were 20 or 24 in there.

Discharge from Smyllum

102. The children that left Ogilvie House were not mostly leaving because they were old enough to leave care. It would've been more because they were going home or going to foster homes. I don't remember them leaving to go to a flat or anything like that.
103. Sometimes the boys used to go elsewhere. They went to another place ran by some Brothers. I can't remember that happening during the first time I was at Smyllum but it happened later on when I was a Sister there.
104. I do remember that the Daughters of Charity opened a hostel in Glasgow. It was on Wilton Street. I think either Sister Anne or Sister [REDACTED] ran it for a while. Some of the children who were leaving us went there. I don't think there was any routine for children who were leaving.
105. I remember that when Smyllum was closing there was a girl called [REDACTED]. She was about seventeen. Sister Vincent went to the council looking for a flat for her. I remember Sister Vincent saying to me that the council were almost saying that if [REDACTED] had been pregnant then she would have got a flat. [REDACTED] eventually did get a nice flat in Lanark. I remember that she got lonely when she went there. She ended up moving in with family she had down in Corby. I think [REDACTED] is the only resident who I remember getting their own flat when leaving Smyllum.

106. When Smyllum was closing down, we had a family who we got on television to try and find a foster home. There were three of them, two boys and a girl. They were called the [REDACTED]. In the end they didn't get foster parents. They ended up going to another home. That must have been hard for them.

Discipline and punishment

107. There wasn't any set thing. If a child did something and he was youngish they would get a slap. That was all they got. Older children were talked to or shouted at. We knew that a slap wasn't anything good to them. They were far too big for that.
108. There were no written rules that the children had to confirm to. They just had to do as they were told. Sometimes the only way I could get the children to do as they were told, when they weren't listening, was to talk to a wall. When I did that the children would start thinking "Oh she really wants us to do this." They would start doing whatever I was asking them to do after that.
109. I never heard of any corporal punishment being used. It wasn't like what the teachers were able to do. I never saw anything. No children ever came to me and told me anything like that. I don't remember any children being taken for medical attention after being struck. I only remember children being taken because they were hurt through falling out of a tree and things like that.
110. We never gave the children extra chores to do. They didn't do the ones that they were supposed to do anyway. I honestly can't remember saying "You can do that because you haven't done 'such and such'".
111. One of the things I never did was put the children to bed early as a punishment. I had learnt from my childcare course that that was when they would get upset and start thinking about all the things that had happened to them. Our thinking was always that if they were tired when they went to bed then they would go to sleep.

112. You forget what kind of things they did. The children might be shouted at if they were cheeky. I did that myself sometimes. Discipline sounds an awful "hard word". You couldn't stop their pocket money. The fact that they knew you were annoyed with you would mean that they would try and get back in with you. That was how the discipline kind of worked.
113. Children were children and they did things wrong but they were easy compared with some children. I remember that when I did the childcare course the children we were trained about and with were children from List D schools. I remember thinking "Thank God the children at Smyllum aren't like that."
114. I never heard of or saw children being disciplined for things like bed-wetting. I can't remember Sister EAC doing anything. The children who wet the bed couldn't do anything about it. The only thing I remember not agreeing with was getting the children up who wet the bed up at night time.
115. So far as I know, nothing happened like children having their wet sheets put over them. I never saw anything like that at all. If I had heard of that sort of thing happening I would have thought it was abusive. I don't know whether I would have told anybody if I had discovered that.
116. I think the other Sisters would have a different approach to discipline than me. I would moan and groan at the children then forget about it afterwards. I would go away and forget about it.

Recollections of Sister EAC's discipline

117. There was a boy and girl. They were brother and sister. They used to fight like cats and dogs. I don't know why they did it because they did like each other. I would always think "What am I going to do with them?" I told Sister EAC that I was fed up with them. She said to me "If you show the boy you liked him then he would do anything for you." I gave that a go. After that the boy would do anything for me. I

remember that the girl ended up working as a member of staff with Sister [REDACTED] EAC down in London.

118. I remember Sister [REDACTED] EAC once saying about a child "You would think he came from a tenement or something." I remember thinking "You cheeky thing. Where did that come from?" That was their culture though.

Recollections of other specific incidents of discipline and punishment

119. I remember one time, when I was a Sister, there had been some thefts. I couldn't make out which child was doing it or how they were doing it. Sister [REDACTED] IAG found out which child was the one who was stealing. She lined up all of the children because I wasn't very good at that kind of thing. She asked the children "Who was it?" This one child then said "I know who it was but I'm not telling you." She then said "Well you know that he also stole from you?" As soon as she said that to the boy said "It was him" and pointed to one of the other boys. That was how we got it out.
120. I can't remember what we did after that. I think getting caught and not being trusted again was the boy's biggest punishment. There wasn't much we could do with him. We could have started battering him around the place but that wouldn't have done any good. Stopping his pocket money would have meant that he would have stolen some more. I think the humiliation of other people knowing that he was the one who had taken the things was enough.
121. Some children did run away. I don't know how they were dealt with when they returned. There was one who ran away from my group with another child before I joined. I can't remember what happened when they came back. I remember a woman brought both of them back.

Abuse in Smyllum – specific incidents witnessed or heard of by me

Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED]

122. There was something happened involving Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED]. This is the only thing I can remember which was wrong. I feel awful speaking about this because I worked with her. I enjoyed working with her.
123. I was on duty one evening. The children had been “carrying on” at bedtime. It was a “happy carrying on”. They weren’t out of control. It was bedtime though and they shouldn’t have been carrying on. I felt I was doing alright with them. I remember that Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] came along and she was really annoyed about it all. I went away.
124. I discovered the next day that Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] had hit this one lad after I went away. One of the children told me. The child must have also said that the night had been a laugh because I remember saying in reply “There will be no more laughing in Ogilvie House.” Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] was behind me when I said that.
125. I saw the marks on the boy. The boy’s name was [REDACTED]. The boy was about 10 or 11 years old. Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] showed me the redness on the boy’s back. I can’t remember why she did this but can only think it was because she regretted it. It was a shame. I remember Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] being ashamed of herself. I remember thinking that if Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] had come in five minutes earlier into the room it might have been worse because he was in one of the girl’s beds fooling around. I remember that when he had been doing that there were other children there at the time.
126. With the benefit of hindsight, I think I would have reported the incident with Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] if I had been older. I just couldn’t believe it at the time. I always got the impression that the children really liked Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED]. I feel awful telling the Inquiry about the incident. I never saw or heard of anything happening with Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] other than this one incident. I was really upset about it at the time. I didn’t see the incident happen.

Sister [REDACTED] AEG

127. I remember a former resident called [REDACTED]. She still lives in Lanark somewhere. She wasn't a child who had been in one of my groups. She said to me that she had got hit with a hairbrush across her hand by Sister [REDACTED] AEG. The girl told me that after she had left care. I brought it up with [REDACTED] later on when I met her after she had left. She said "She never did do that." She was sticking up for Sister [REDACTED] AEG. I think she liked Sister [REDACTED] AEG. I never worked with Sister [REDACTED] AEG and I had the impression Sister [REDACTED] AEG was good to her.

[REDACTED] LVK

128. I remember that [REDACTED] LVK had contact with the children when I was a Sister at Smyllum. I don't know why he used to come into Smyllum. He didn't have a role. He just used to be there. I always thought that he came into Smyllum just to speak to the staff. I think he had something to do with the scouts. He was a scoutmaster or something.
129. [REDACTED] LVK must have come on the last holiday we had with the children. I remember him being in the photos. We had gone with another group to Girvan.
130. I got told by Sister [REDACTED] HCC a while after we came back from that holiday that two children by the name of [REDACTED] were not coming back. They were not coming back because [REDACTED] LVK had asked them to do something. I don't know whether I was told this by her or not but I remember it was something to do with "touching". Sister [REDACTED] HCC told me that they wouldn't take the children back because the children wouldn't say that the incident didn't happen. She also said that the children's grandmother didn't want anything done about it. It must have been the boys' social worker who told Sister [REDACTED] HCC. The social worker must have been the one who told her that the grandmother hadn't wanted to do anything about it.

131. At that time I was delighted. It was only later on that I felt that maybe I should have said something. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I felt I had to tell [REDACTED] because I wanted the boys to know that they were believed.

132. [REDACTED] had never spoken to me about the incident with [REDACTED] LVK . I believe it was their grandmother who was told. I didn't get a chance to speak to them because they never came back to Smyllum.

Specific allegations of abuse against Sister [REDACTED] EAC

Time spent working with Sister [REDACTED] EAC

133. I only worked with Sister [REDACTED] EAC in my role as assistant house mother in Ogilvie House. She had left by the time I returned to Smyllum as a Sister. She was the only Sister I worked for or with during my time in Ogilvie House.

134. I wasn't about when Sister [REDACTED] EAC was about. She was only there really on a Saturday. I don't know what she did about discipline.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] EAC by [REDACTED] AAU

135. I don't remember a girl by that name. I've never heard of her. I've never heard of a family called [REDACTED]. I have been asked by the Inquiry whether I remember a girl by the name of [REDACTED] AAU . I understand this is [REDACTED] AAU maiden name. I do remember the name but I do not remember anything about the girl.

136. I have been told that when [REDACTED] AAU has told the Inquiry that when she arrived at her dormitory she came in with her sister. She has said she went into her sister's bed because she was scared. I have been told that she alleges that when she was found by Sister [REDACTED] EAC she was dragged out of the bed, put in her own bed and told

by Sister [EAC] that she would be punished. I don't remember anything about this. I have honestly never heard of any of the children getting into their siblings bed for comfort.

137. I have been told that [AAU] alleges that her sister, [] was battered by Sister [EAC] because she had been shouting at Sister [EAC] on her behalf. I didn't know the girl so I don't remember anything like that.
138. I have been told that [AAU] says that the children were given fish every Friday and on one occasion she was caught hiding sardines up her sleeve. She alleges she was caught by Sister [EAC] whacked off the bench by her and battered in front of everybody. She alleges that Sister [EAC] shouted "The Lord provided this food" and she said in reply "Well tell him I dinnae like it." She alleges that she was then slapped by Sister [EAC] for saying that. I never heard anything about that. I can't remember them getting fish on a Friday but I know that Friday is a meat free day. I can't remember frying fish or doing anything with fish. We must have bought fish though.
139. I have been told that [AAU] alleges that Sister [EAC] would call the children names like "ungrateful wretch", "scum of the earth" and "devil's spawn". That doesn't sound like Sister [EAC]. I never heard her saying any of that stuff.
140. I have been told that [AAU] says that mealtimes were the worst because if Sister [EAC] set her sights on you then there was no escaping her. She alleges that when Sister [EAC] hit her in the face she was left with a red mark and that Sister [EAC] never held back. She alleges that Sister [EAC] would hit her every time she was on mealtimes. I never heard anything like that.
141. I have been told that [AAU] says that when she was taken to St Andrews for a week on holiday she collected crabs from the beach. She says that the children put the crabs in the nuns' beds. She says that the biggest crabs were reserved for Sister [EAC]. She alleges that they were all battered for doing that. I didn't hear anybody talk about that at all.

142. I have been told that [AAU] says that she was a bed-wetter during her time at Smyllum and that she would do that two or three times a week. She alleges that there were checks done through the night and alleges that Sister [EAC] was particularly bad. [AAU] alleges that Sister [EAC] was psychotic and would drag her out of bed, batter her, punch her, kick her and use her knuckles to hit her over the top of her head. She also alleges that Sister [EAC] would also use a brush, a metal ruler or whatever she had hold of at the time to hit her. I didn't know [AAU] and I didn't hear of anything like that happening.
143. I have been told that [AAU] alleges that Sister [EAC] would make her stand with her wet sheets over her head. She alleges she was made to stand up straight with the wet sheet over her head for what felt like hours. She alleges that she was then taken for a cold bath, made to wash with the cold water and was sometimes made to wash the sheets in the bath at the same time. It must have been a different Sister [EAC] to the one I know because that doesn't accord with anything I remember.
144. I have been told that [AAU] has said that her father used to visit her at Smyllum. She alleges that Sister [EAC] didn't get on with her father and would try and refuse to let him visit. She alleges that Sister [EAC] would say to her father that she had done something wrong or bad and her father would have to appeal to Sister [AFR]. Sister [AFR] was a retired teacher when I went back to Smyllum. I don't remember anything about this.
145. I have been told that [AAU] alleges that Sister [EAC] would slap her for answering back. She says that her sister, [REDACTED], once bit Sister [EAC] after she had been hit by her. [AAU] says that her Dad had said to Sister [EAC] there would be trouble if he heard anything more about her hitting the children. I didn't know [AAU]. This doesn't accord with any of my memories
146. I have been told that [AAU] alleges that she never saw her sister except at mealtimes. She says that her sister would run over when she was getting force- fed

porridge and throw the porridge at the nuns. I don't remember that. This must be a different Smyllum to the one I was in.

147. I have been told that [AAU] alleges that other Sisters would hit her but not to the extent that Sister [EAC] did. She says that Sister [EAC] was a maniac who would snarl at her when she hit her and that anything would set her off. She also says that Sister [EAC] wasn't an old nun, [REDACTED] Sister [EAC] Apart from that, that is all I know.

Allegations made against Sister [EAC] by [ACB]

148. I have heard of the name [ACB] I can't remember whether she was in Ogilvie House. I have been told that she has told the Inquiry that she stayed in Ogilvie House. I can't remember what [ACB] looked like. Someone did say to me that a person of this name was in the paper and there was a photograph. They asked me whether I would recognise her. I said that I wouldn't recognise her unless there was photograph of when she was wee.

149. I have been told that [ACB] says that, on her first day, she hadn't felt well, had been taken into the playroom and vomited on the floor. She says that Sister [EAC] was with her social worker, Mrs Reuch, at the time. She says that Sister [EAC] was nice enough and told two girls in the playroom to help clear up the vomit. [ACB] alleges that after Mrs Reuch left she was told by Sister [EAC] "Clean that up young lady or I'll make you eat it." She also alleges that Sister [EAC] forced children to eat their own vomit when they were being force-fed in the dining room. I never saw any children being force-fed in the dining room. They all fed themselves.

150. I have been told that [ACB] alleges that when she wet the bed in Smyllum, Sister [EAC] would shame and humiliate her in front of the other children. She alleges that Sister [EAC] would make her strip naked and make her strip the bed in front of everyone. She alleges that she would be made to have the dirty

sheets draped over her head. She alleges that Sister [EAC] would drag her along a corridor to the showers and that sometimes she would have to walk the length of the corridor naked. She says that she tried to use the soiled sheets and her hands to cover up her private parts, that she had to walk past the boys rooms and that boys would laugh and point at her as she walked past. She alleges that it was made deliberately shameful. There wasn't a corridor in Ogilvie House that I remember.

I have been told that [ACB] says that in the main building she shared a dorm with [REDACTED]. She says that they were her friends. She alleges that the nuns would separate her from her friends if they felt she was getting too close. She alleges that she would play chess with [REDACTED] and that when Sister [EAC] would see that she would kick the chess board over without any explanation. [REDACTED] is a name that I do recall. [REDACTED] I don't remember chess ever being played. I was never in the main building working with any of the Sisters, nevermind Sister [EAC]

151. I have been told that [ACB] alleges that Sister [EAC] would get really angry with her if she spoke back to her. She alleges that Sister [EAC] would fly into a rage and that, on one occasion, she grabbed her by her hair and flung her across the room. She says that she literally saw stars. She alleges that she broke her tooth and probably broke her nose as well. She says that she was in great pain and alleges that she was only given some paracetamol and a wet face cloth to chew on by Sister [EAC]. She alleges that she wasn't taken to see Sister [FAM] and otherwise wasn't taken seriously. I don't know anything about this.

152. I have been told that [ACB] says that she recalls an occasion when one of the girls ran away and that two police officers brought the girl back. She says that she approached the police officers and said that she didn't like it at Smyllum and that the nuns were doing things. She says that she explicitly remembers saying "They are hurting me" and that she was not the only one. She says that she was taken by one of the police officers and that, at that point, she thought that the police man was going to confront the nuns. She says that, instead,

she was taken to see Sister [EAC] instead. She alleges that Sister [EAC] said to the police officer "Thank you so much officer, yes she had an over-active imagination." She alleges that as soon as the police left she was whacked by Sister [EAC] I wasn't there and I wouldn't know about that.

Final thoughts on Sister [EAC] in light of allegations

153. I can't remember any of this stuff. I honestly can't remember it. It doesn't sound like the Sister [EAC] I knew. She might have done things but certainly I don't believe the things that have been said here. It didn't happen in my time to my knowledge. None of these things happened in front of me or anything.

Specific allegations of abuse against Sister [AEG]

Time spent working with Sister [AEG]

154. I remember [AEG] [AEG]. I have been told that she was also known as Sister [AEG] and Sister [AEG]. She was always Sister [AEG] when I knew her. I knew her after I came back to Smyllum for the second time. She was a fellow Sister.

Allegations made against Sister [AEG] by June Smith

155. I don't remember the name June Smith. I have been told by the Inquiry that June Smith's maiden name was Miller. That name rings a bell. I know June Miller was not in my group. I have been told that June Smith was at Smyllum between 1969 and 1981. She was there all that time and I can't remember her. She must have been quiet. I have been told that June Smith was in Roncalli House and she says that Sister [AEG] was in charge of that house. It is right that Sister [AEG] was in charge of that house.
156. I have been told that June Smith says that she wet the bed on a regular basis. She alleges that when she wet the bed she was pulled out of her bed by Sister [AEG].

She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG dug her knuckles into the top of her head, put her in a cold bath and threw liquid disinfection over her. She says that that made her skin red. She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG stood over her throughout the bath. I don't remember anything about that. You didn't see any of that or heard of that because it was a different house. I wouldn't have thought that they would have done that.

157. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG would make her strip the bed, wash the sheets and hang them out so everyone knew that she had wet the bed. I don't know about Sister [REDACTED] AEG but that wasn't a practice I did. Roncalli House had their own washing machine. They had their own washing facilities.

158. I have been told that June Smith says that on a holiday to Holy Island she wet the bed. She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG threw her into a shower and made the staff there watch her when she didn't have any clothes on. She says that the staff laughed at her. I would never have dreamt of that happening. That's not to say that that may not have happened.

159. I have been told that June Smith says that Sister [REDACTED] AEG made her say the rosary twenty times to stop her bed-wetting. I never did that. Thank God I wasn't in that group if that happened.

160. I have been told that June Smith says that she and older children were given a pill for bed-wetting and that the older children would hit her if she didn't take it. I never heard of that. I wouldn't have heard any of that because I wasn't anywhere near that group.

161. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG would hit her for reading in bed. I wasn't anywhere near Roncalli House so I wasn't aware of any of that.

162. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG had forgotten her birthday and that, when she told Sister [REDACTED] AEG she was battered for bringing it up with her. That's a horrible thing if it did happen. I'm sorry but I just don't remember that.

163. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG took her personal possessions from her. Those possessions included her chain and her alarm clock. I never heard of anything like that.
164. I have been told that June Smith alleges that, after being made to get into another child's bed with them by another child, Sister [REDACTED] AEG found her and beat her. I don't remember hearing anything about that. This sounds like a different Sister [REDACTED] AEG to the one I knew.
165. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG locked her on one occasion outside and that she had to stand on the porch until 11:30 at night in the cold and dark. I never heard anything about that. Even if I didn't see it, I never heard anything about this. Hearing this makes me feel sick.
166. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG hit her with a clothes brush and a belt. I don't remember this. I wasn't in Sister [REDACTED] AEG's group so I didn't see that.
167. I have been told that June Smith alleges that a member of staff hid her glasses and when she couldn't find them Sister [REDACTED] AEG blamed her, slapped her and pulled her hair. I have no memory of this. I wasn't there.
168. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG battered another girl called [REDACTED] with a belt and kicked her up and down the hall. She alleged that Sister [REDACTED] AEG did this because [REDACTED] had accidentally allowed a bath to run over. This could be [REDACTED] I never heard anything about this.
169. I have been told that June Smith says that she told [REDACTED] over the phone at Smyllum that she was being hit by Sister [REDACTED] AEG. She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG overheard the phone call conversation and hit her for talking about it over the phone. I don't remember that.

170. I have been told that June Smith alleges that Sister [REDACTED] AEG hit another boy for trying to tell a social worker about being badly treated. I never heard anything about that.

171. All the allegations that have been told to me by the Inquiry concerning June Smith I never witnessed or heard anything about until I was told by the Inquiry.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] AEG by [REDACTED]

172. I do remember [REDACTED]

173. I have been told that [REDACTED] said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG was the nun she remembers as being the most cruel. She alleges that she was beaten with a clothes brush by Sister [REDACTED] AEG whilst she was in Smyllum. I never heard anything like that.

174. I have been told that [REDACTED] alleges that she was put in a cold bath for wetting the bed. I never heard anything like that.

175. I have been told that [REDACTED] alleges that she was punched in the face or slapped by Sister [REDACTED] AEG with anything that she had in her hand. I don't remember anything like that.

176. I have been told that [REDACTED] alleges that she was sexually abused by older children whilst in Smyllum. She alleges that the nuns knew about this but, instead of helping her, she got battered and was made to feel dirty. I didn't hear that.

177. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that she was made to eat lumpy, salty porridge and lumpy custard. I don't remember that.

178. I have been told that [REDACTED] has said that at the age of ten she was made to wash clothes and polish shoes for thirty children. No, I honestly don't remember that.

179. I have been told that [REDACTED] has alleged that she was battered for taking her periods at eleven and making a mess of the sheets. I never heard of anything like that. That's awful. I've often thought that I didn't give any of the children sex instructions. I didn't get that either. I can't remember any of the girls having their periods. If they did I would have provided them with sanitary towels. I would never have done anything like what [REDACTED] is saying. There is no way I would have done that. I would have just cleaned her up.

180. I have been told that [REDACTED] has alleged that she was battered for the least wee thing like having lice or making a noise eating her dinner. I never heard that.

181. All the allegations by [REDACTED] that have been told to me by the Inquiry. I never witnessed nor heard anything about any of these allegations.

Allegations made against [REDACTED] AEG by [REDACTED]

182. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]'s brother. I knew of him but I didn't really have anything to do with him because he was in a different group. I never really went over to Roncalli House.

183. I am told that [REDACTED] has said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG was the most cruel nun. He alleges that children were not allowed to drink after tea if they were bed-wetters. I can't remember whether that was the thing. I know that, when it was me, I would just give them the drink because they were going to wet the bed anyway.

184. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that he was beaten for wetting the bed. I never heard of anybody being beaten for wetting the bed.

185. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that he and other children had wet sheets wrapped around them and that they had to wear them so that everyone saw they were bed-wetting. That's horrible. I never heard of that happening to anybody.

186. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that he had the Catholic religion forced upon him and that he was baptised a Catholic without his parent's consent. I wouldn't know about that. I do remember that we did once have a child who was young and we got him baptised. I am sure that we got his parent's permission.
187. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that when his parents tried to visit him they weren't allowed to see him and they were banned from coming to see him. He thinks this is because they were Protestant. I don't think so. I could be totally wrong but I don't remember any of the Sisters being like that.
188. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that he was told that his mother had died when in fact she was alive for another two years. That's horrible. I never heard anything like that.
189. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that a child who had threatened to say that she was being abused or being mistreated was beaten by Sister [REDACTED] AEG I never heard anything about that.
190. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that children were forced to appear happy in front of third parties or the police and would be beaten if they tried to say that they were being mistreated. I never heard of that. How can you make somebody look happy?
191. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that he was made to eat cigarettes because he had been found smoking. I never heard of that.
192. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that there was an occasion where he was told that he was being given a present, had got excited about getting the present and then he was given a bath plug. He alleges that the purpose of being given a bath plug was to humiliate him. I never heard that.
193. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that children were slapped and their hair was pulled if they were too long in the bath. I never heard that.

194. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that at one stage he was hit by a pool cue but it is unclear who had hit him. I don't know where a pool cue would have come from. I never heard of that.
195. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that Christmas and birthday gifts were removed from children and they weren't allowed to keep them. That didn't happen in my group.
196. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that he was beaten for being sick in his bed overnight. I would never have done any of that. I never heard that.
197. All the allegations that have been told to me about [REDACTED] are things that I never witnessed or heard anything about until I was told about them by the Inquiry.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] AEG by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

198. I have heard of their names. I would never recognise them though. You would hear names when other Sisters were talking.
199. I am told by the Inquiry that they made a complaint to the police and Sister [REDACTED] AEG was investigated, if not charged, in relation to that. Years later, I did hear that something had happened. I didn't hear what it was about. I am told by the Inquiry that Sister [REDACTED] AEG has said that she was alleged to have locked [REDACTED] in a cupboard. I can't believe that she would have done that. I have no knowledge of any such incident.
200. The allegation that has been told to me concerning [REDACTED] is something that I never witnessed or heard anything about until I was told about it by the Inquiry.

Allegations made against Sister [AEG] by [AAT]

201. There was probably a [AAT] around. That was a common name. I cannot remember [AAT]. I am told that [AAT] says that he lived in fear of Sister [AEG] and what she would do next. I am told that [AAT] [AAT] alleges that Sister [AEG], when checking for lice each week, would run a steel comb through his hair so roughly that it caused his head to bleed. I wouldn't know that because it was a different group.
202. I am told that [AAT] alleges that Sister [AEG] would bath the whole of Roncalli House in the same tub of bathwater. I am told he said that if a child was at the head of the queue, the water would be scalding hot, and if a child was at the back of the queue, the water was cold and filthy. He also said that the children had to use carbolic soap. I didn't hear that. It doesn't sound like Smyllum.
203. I am told that [AAT] alleges that Sister [AEG] was the cruellest person and that she regularly hit and slapped him. He alleges that Sister [AEG] kept a brush in the sleeve of her uniform which she used to hit him with. I don't know anything about that.
204. I am told that [AAT] alleges that on one occasion, when he ran away from a child called [AAT] Sister [AEG] gave them both a "doing" to teach them to never run away again. I didn't hear about that.
205. I am told that [AAT] says that Sister [AEG] would inspect the cleaning that he did in the morning and that it was his job to clean the launderette floor. He alleges that Sister [AEG] would hit him if she discovered a spot of dirt as a punishment. I didn't hear about that.
206. I am told that [AAT] alleges that during a holiday time in Girvan he got water blisters on his skin from being badly sunburnt. He alleges that Sister [AEG] "set about him" for something he had done wrong. He alleges that the

beating Sister [AEG] gave him resulted in the water blisters being burnt. I didn't hear about that.

207. I am told that [AAT] alleges that the worst beating he ever got from Sister [AEG] was when he was eleven years old. He alleges he was beaten after having broken a light by throwing a pillow. He says that he was crying before Sister [AEG] had even entered the room. He alleges that Sister [AEG] took him to the laundry, made him strip naked and made him stand for three hours. He alleges that Sister [AEG] then ground her heels into his feet then took a brush out of her habit and set about him with it. He alleges that Sister [AEG] had a system of hitting where she would strike him at his elbows, then his head and then his body. He also alleges that when he pushed Sister [AEG] back he was told that he should never have touched her and that she went on a frenzied attack. He says that Sister [AEG] was so angry that she was sweating from the amount of effort she was using. I never heard of that. If that's true he is a poor soul.

208. I am told that [AAT] alleges that he had limited or no contact with his siblings during his time in Smyllum. His siblings must have been in another group. I do remember other [redacted] in another group. I would be surprised if the Sister in charge of the other group didn't try to get them together.

209. All the allegations that have been told to me about [AAT] are things that I never witnessed or head anything about until I was told about them by the Inquiry.

Final thoughts on Sister [AEG] in light of allegations

210. I must admit that I was a wee bit scared of Sister [AEG] at times. I remember one of her children, a lad, was bullying one of the girls in my group. I felt that I had to stick up for my girl. I didn't want to tell her because I wasn't sure what she was going to do. I went over to Sister [AEG] and told her what had been happening.

She listened to me. After that there was no bullying again. I don't expect her to have done any of these things. I can't believe that she did these things.

Specific allegations of abuse against Sister [REDACTED] AGD

211. I do remember Sister [REDACTED] AGD She was also known as Sister [REDACTED] AGD I wasn't really at Smyllum during the time she was there. She was only at Smyllum for a couple of months before I left Smyllum the first time. She joined Smyllum in 1968. I did see her at Smyllum. I think she left before I came back.

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Allegations made against Sister [AGD] by [REDACTED]

218. I have never heard of that name. I am told that [REDACTED] alleges that she was forced to kiss Sister [AGD] s feet on a daily basis. I can't believe that. Either she is a crackpot or Sister [AGD] was a crackpot.

Specific allegations of abuse against Father [ADA]

219. Father [ADA] was a lovely man. He was a very popular priest in the parish. He hardly spoke to us on our own.

Allegations made against Father [ADA] by [ACB]

220. I have been told by the Inquiry that [ACB] alleges that Father [ADA] would abuse her. I never knew anything about that.

Prior statements

221. I do remember having to fill in a form sent to us by the Order concerning our time at Smyllum. That was a few years back and I don't know what that was in relation to.

222. I have provided a statement to the solicitors to the Order. It runs to eight pages. I signed that on 25/08/15. That statement is the document can be found at WIT.003.001.0785. I have said the same thing in that statement as I have said in this statement.

Reporting of abuse at Smyllum

223. I don't remember there being a procedure for reporting things that you heard. We were never told of one being there. I never heard anything about that. I have never spoken to the police regarding anything happening at the Smyllum.

Closing thoughts

The geography of Smyllum

224. There was a main building where three groups lived. There were two houses which were separate from the main building. There was another group which was half in and half out of the main building. By that I mean that that building was semi-detached to the main building. That is the only way I can describe it.
225. There were three groups that I never saw. I did see the group that stayed in Ogilvie House when I worked there. I never saw the group that stayed in Roncalli House. I did see the group in St Kentigerns but that was only when I worked there as a Sister. The only time I saw the children from the other groups was when they were out playing in the grounds.
226. I might know the names of some of the children in the other groups, however, I only know those names from when the children in my own groups spoke about them. As a Sister I heard the names of different children in the other groups because the Sisters would talk.

Other thoughts

227. I have been asked by the Inquiry whether there were problems at Smyllum. I think one of the problems in Smyllum was a shortage of staff. At the same time, when I did placements on the childcare course, when there were plenty of staff they just left it for other persons to pick up. People didn't take responsibility for anything in those places. They left it to the next person who came on shift.
228. Another problem was that the Sisters didn't have a lot of time to themselves. That was needed. The groups were far too big. Nowadays you just wouldn't have only three staff looking after between 20 and 24 children on a funny timetable. There definitely shouldn't have been as many children as there were.
229. I have been asked by the Inquiry what I think about the allegations. If any of this is true then it is terrible. I never heard of any of these things going on at Smyllum. I wouldn't have been staying in Smyllum if I knew that all of these things were happening. The allegations I've heard sound like something from a different world. They are horrible.
230. I can't believe any of the allegations. I wouldn't have joined the Order if they were true. I would never have stayed as long if they were true. I have no explanation why so many children would be saying these things about the Sisters.
231. I have been asked by the Inquiry what I think about the allegations against Sister [REDACTED] EAC. Maybe I didn't see the things Sister [REDACTED] EAC might have done because I wasn't there during the times she was there. I remember Sister [REDACTED] EAC saying to another Sister that I was the best staff member she had. Maybe she thought she could trust me with the children and that was why she wasn't there most of the time. She would pop in and out but she wasn't always there. Maybe she felt she could do other things when I was there. If all the things alleged have happened with Sister [REDACTED] EAC then it is awful and sad, but I would find it very difficult to believe from my knowledge of her and my experience at Smyllum.

232. The Inquiry has asked me why someone should make these allegations. I think that being away from home was a big impact for the children. If the allegations are not true then maybe the former residents have had to blame somebody other than their parents for being in care. I don't know how I would have felt if I had been taken away from my home. I suppose, if I had been taken away from home, I would have had to blame somebody.

233. Maybe if these children had anger issues going on inside of them they maybe got the worst out of the Sister. I know it's not an excuse for anything if that did happen. If these things did happen then what came first? Was it because the children were angry that the Sister lost their head or were the children naughty because they were so afraid of the Sister? I don't know what happened.

234. I wouldn't like to think that the children were afraid of me. I loved the children and did my best for them. I can only think that the other Sisters must have loved their children too. However, if any of the allegations are true I would have to wonder whether they did love their children. How could they?

235. 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..... 
The signature area is redacted with a black box containing the initials "AHM".

Dated..... *13th November 2017*