

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

[REDACTED] AIU [REDACTED]

Support person present: YES .

Others present: Lesley Allan, Clyde & Co, Solicitor for the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul

1. My name is [REDACTED] AIU [REDACTED]. I was previously known as Sister [REDACTED] for a while when I first went to Smyllum. An older person came to the house around 1970 who was also called Sister [REDACTED] and so I changed my name. I don't know who the other Sister [REDACTED] was who arrived. I was born on [REDACTED] 1942. I am 75 years of age. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul

2. I joined the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1961.
3. From 1961 to 1963, I was in London preparing to become a Daughter of Charity. I was then in Smyllum from November 1963 until 1972 or 1973. During that time, I was relieved for a year to do a child care course in Glasgow. I then went to Wilton Street, Glasgow for three years. That was an aftercare hostel for children leaving children's homes who were 15 and 16 years of age. They were in the hostel and we looked for jobs for them and helped them to leave the hostel when they were about 17½ - 18 years old. In those days they all went on to do some job or other work.
4. Following that I was transferred to London to a newly opened children's home in the Ridgeway in London. I was there for about 7 years. I then did the social work course in London. I then went to work in Manchester with young girls and their babies for just over a year. From there I went on to Newcastle-upon-Tyne to do social work. I

was supporting staff in children's homes, adolescent homes, homes for older people and homes for people with special needs. I then went to America for a year and did a theology course. From there I came back and did a further year in Glasgow in spirituality and religious education for children and adults with special needs. I worked in a programme called SPRED for 17 years. Then I was in Rosewell for a month, and I was with the Romanians at a Drop-In Centre in Glasgow. Then I came to where I am now in Lanark.

5. The child care course I did in Glasgow was a full time course at Langside College. We did three placements on the course. I was in a hostel with Barnardo's, a day centre in Glasgow, for three to seven year olds, and also a hospital with the social worker. The social work course that I did later was a two year diploma in London.
6. During the other years in Smyllum we did regular extra-mural courses in Glasgow as well. This was in another college in Glasgow. They were day release courses. About three of the sisters would go in regularly and follow those courses.
7. I did not apply to go to Smyllum. When I was in the seminary before completing the novitiate, I remember being asked what I would like to do. Before I entered, I worked looking after children for a year and a half with the sisters at the Sacred Heart Home in Dublin. This was a children's home. So, I said I would like to do children's nursing. It turned out I was transferred to Smyllum and I was happy enough. There wasn't an interview or checking process, but the community knew me because I was working with the same order of nuns, and so they knew of my experience and my slant for children.

Smyllum

First impressions and layout of Smyllum

8. My impression when I went to Smyllum was that it was it was a big house. It was divided into six individual flats or houses. Two of those were separate houses. It seemed we were together, but in fact we were very separate. To me it was a happy house. There were difficulties and ups and downs. It was hard work.

9. There were six groups of children. I had a group of children in the big house. My group was called Angel Guardians. The groups in the house were quite separate. I was in the flat upstairs. There were two entrances. You either came in the back door and up the stairs, or you came in the front door and went up the front stairs. The dining room was downstairs, but the bedrooms, bathrooms and the sitting room were upstairs.
10. St Mary's was downstairs and St Joseph's where [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] had across the way. There were the three groups in the house, and Ogilvie House and Roncalli House in two self-contained houses. Then, there was "the wee boys" which was out at the back and up the stairs.

The children at Smyllum

11. Smyllum had boys and girls. The age range was babies directly from hospital to age seventeen and eighteen. There were a certain number of families who were going in and out. There was not a great deal of change in the group I had. If the children finished school and moved on, they would then go into the hostel in Glasgow. That had been opened a few years. Initially my group were all girls, and then it became mixed. There were families. I didn't have many boys initially, and depending if a family came in with boys, we then would take the boys. Most of the children were long stay. Many of them were Glasgow children, and we had a couple of Fife families.

Management structure and staff

12. When I arrived there the person in charge was our superior called [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED]. She was fairly new there. She was there may be from October a year before me. She was well known and well respected in childcare. She showed me around, where I was to be and then introduced me to the other sisters who were in charge of groups. She was the person we went to.

13. We also had one another. There were about thirteen or fifteen sisters in total. This number decreased somewhat during the time I was there. There were older sisters who were maybe in their 30s. We would meet those regularly in the community. The sisters in the groups that I remember were [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] HCC [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] HCE [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ADE [REDACTED]. The Sisters used to talk a lot, or share our anxieties or share our stories
14. There were other sisters in the house, in the dining room or in the laundry and kitchen. I remember there was somebody called Brenda Fairley in the dining room. Sister [REDACTED] FAM [REDACTED] was in charge of the medical side of the children, if they were hurt or fell or whatever.
15. We each had three members of staff who were not sisters. I remember [REDACTED] ACI [REDACTED] and Marion Dunn, but I can't remember other names.

My role in Smyllum

16. In Angel Guardians I had eighteen children and after a while it became fifteen children. My duties were to provide total care for my group of children. This involved feeding, washing and cleaning, taking them to school, and taking them to the doctor. I did everything really, including helping with homework, taking them out on a Saturday afternoon, and taking them shopping when they needed something.
17. [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] would come down mostly into the dining room before the children would go to school and see how things were. She slept just along the corridor, the next landing actually. Any time we needed her, she was there. That arrangement didn't change. I became more confident, I suppose, and I needed her less.

Children's routine and life at Smyllum

Admission

18. When children were admitted to Smyllum, the procedure was that the superior would seem them first of all and then I would see them, and then they would stay.
19. To settle them in, we knew what we would do ourselves. I would watch the new children and relax with them. I would help them, but that was all. There was nothing written.
20. The children got up in time for school. Those who were not going to school got up a little bit later. They would have a wash and dress. If they were having a bath they would have it the night before, not in the morning. They would then have breakfast. The older girls would get up themselves and they would make their own way to school because they went by bus.

Mealtimes

21. We did not cook in the flat. The cooking was done in the main kitchen. We had our own dining room. A year or so later, we had our cooker in the dining room when we just used to do very small bits and pieces. The main kitchen was just along the corridor from us, so the children would come and help us to collect the dishes for the evening meal or the day meal.
22. We were able to say what food we wanted, not in a huge scale but more or less what we liked rather than what we wanted. Everything you got was good. It was basic, but it was good. On a Saturday, we could choose what we needed for the weekend. The van would come around with cakes or whatever we needed for the weekend. We would choose those.
23. If the children didn't like their meal, I didn't cook something else. If they didn't like it or didn't eat it, there may be something else small they could have, but that would be

it. We just got an extra dish from the kitchen of a small amount of something other than the main dish, but it was small.

Bedtime

24. You went through the sitting room on to the landings to get to the bedrooms. There were maybe three children in a bedroom and four in others depending on whether there was a family. I slept close by at the end of the children's bedrooms.
25. The children had a wardrobe each to keep their own belongings in.
26. The children generally went to bed reasonably early on week nights. On a Friday and Saturday night they were late and would be watching television or whatever. I can't remember it being a set time as long as it wasn't too late.
27. I had two children who used to wet their beds. We would just take the sheets out and put them in the bathroom beside the bath. The staff dealt with them afterwards. We had a sister who did the laundry which was outside. The sheets would be taken there later when the children were at school.
28. The children were free to get up in the night if they needed to. The bathroom was just along the side, that is if they were able to do it, as otherwise I would do it.

Washing and bathing

29. The children used to have baths at night. In the morning it was just washing and getting ready for school. If there was somebody wet, it would be a bath.

Clothes

30. The young children didn't wear a uniform. The senior school children all wore uniform. The primary school up the hill in Smyllum didn't have a uniform. They had a uniform if they went to St Mary's which was the local primary school.

31. We had to go out and buy the children's clothes. They all had their own clothes. I did a lot of sewing, so we would make their clothes. We did something very naughty, however. We would go out and buy dresses they liked and then buy the material and then take the pattern, then return the dress. Well we couldn't not afford to buy the dresses that were ready made, so we used to make them.

Personal possessions

32. The children had their own personal possessions, with much argument at times. It depended on the children. Some of them hid their all toys in their wardrobes, and others in a box.
33. They got pocket money every Saturday. They also used to go away strawberry picking, or they had a paper run. The older ones had their bicycles, and strawberry picking was a big thing in the season. They saved the money for their holidays or maybe to buy something.
34. If a family member gave them money, the children usually would come to me or one of the staff, whoever was around at the time and it would be kept then. They would give it over to me like, and it would be kept for them for whatever way they wanted to spend it.

Work

35. The children would make their beds if they could and had time in the morning before going out. I can't remember children having duties other than tidying up their bedrooms, or helping to wash the dishes. We had people who came in to clean you see. I'm not aware of children polishing floors or doing the laundry.

Leisure time

36. We had a big yard where the children could play. The other groups would join them. The two separate houses didn't mix very much because they had their own areas around their house, but the children in the three flats would play together. They

would amuse themselves up in our own sitting room with games or whatever we would have for Christmas. We had a child who went down to the front hall and banged the piano when she was in bad form. She went down regularly and that was her way.

37. There were toys to play with outside and inside the home. Lego was one thing, or the car that runs round the place that was taking up the whole floor nearly.
38. The children had access to television and radio. A couple of them would have a hamster. I will always remember sitting with them and this hamster running round.
39. We had a member of staff who was very interested in plays and drama, so every year we had a play. Everybody assembled in the house and went to that. Any sport that the children were involved in was through school. They went to Brownies and Scouts when they came to the appropriate age.
40. Thankfully we had good staff who went to the library in Lanark. They would get books for the children. They were encouraged to read. I went to night classes myself, so I suppose I was interested in education.
41. On Saturdays, they would go to the cinema or they went down town. They always got their pocket money on a Saturday and they would be taken down town. For Christmas we used to have a day shopping in Hamilton or Motherwell and on the rare occasion we would go into Glasgow.

Trips and holidays

42. We went on holidays every year for a fortnight. St Andrew's was the one place. I can't remember if any of the children went home, but I don't think so.
43. We didn't have organised sporting activities other than school activities, but we always had a gala day out. This was usually the second Thursday in June. The children would be on a lorry or floats.

Christmas and birthdays

44. At Christmas we had a big day out. We would go to Motherwell or Wishaw or Glasgow. We went to the Barrows and the staff would all be on duty. We would go by bus. Everybody bought clothes for Christmas, and we would buy toys. The Mother's Union - they used to give us some toys. First of all they would write in early December for the names of children, and we would give the names and then they would have their present. In those days I cannot think it being as hyped as present-wise, as it is today. They all had toys at Christmas, because that is when every child enjoyed the holidays and they had time to play with their toys.
45. I can't remember children's birthdays being greatly marked, but they were marked with something of a small gift. I cannot remember any of the families coming just for a birthday.

Schooling

46. The children went to our primary school in Smyllum. The older children went to St Mary's secondary in Lanark, or St Aidan's in Wishaw, and we had somebody who went to Our Lady's High School in Motherwell.
47. The school in Smyllum had a head mistress who was one of our sisters, Sister EAA I can't remember the names of the teachers. It wasn't a big school.
48. The children did their homework in their bedrooms or in the sitting room, or in the dining room if it was quiet.
49. Other than what they would learn when we were doing small bits of cooking, there was nothing specifically taught to children to equip them for adult life.

Healthcare

50. If the children had any health problems, Sister **FAM** was the nurse. The children would go to her if they fell or if they had a bump or whatever. I am not quite sure if Sister **FAM** was a qualified nurse, but she undertook all of those duties.
51. We also had the doctor who would come in weekly. I think it was Dr Allan. The doctor would visit the school, but not often. If a child became ill mid-week, we would resort to Sister **FAM** and then from there we would send for a doctor. Dr Allan would come. He was very devoted to the house. At other times, the children would see the school doctor or the school dentist. I don't know.
52. At other times, the children would see the school doctor. The only routine medical checks would be through the school, I don't remember how often. If a child needed treatment in a hospital, it would be Law Hospital in Lanarkshire.
53. I think the children saw the school dentist. If a child has toothache they would see Sister **FAM** and I think she would arrange for us to take the child to the dentist.
54. I can't remember whether any medical reports were kept about medical issues.

Deaths

55. I remember there was a child called Sammy Carr who died during the time I was at Smyllum. I don't know what happened to him. He wasn't in my group, so I didn't know much about this child. He was a young child aged about six. I think he was in Ogilvie House when Sister **EAC** was there at the time. I have no idea what happened as that was a house on its own. I have a feeling I moved on to Wilton Street, Glasgow roundabout that time.
56. I wasn't aware of any procedures about what to do if a child died. I had no experience of that. I don't know what support would be offered to the children.

57. I don't know anything about the graves of children from Smyllum.

Religious instruction

58. There was no instruction as such. The children went to mass weekly. We said prayers at night. Other than that, they made their First Holy Communion. They were confirmed.

59. I think they all came along to mass. I can't remember any child saying "I am not going". These were the days in which most children went.

60. I don't remember children from families of other faiths coming to Smyllum.

Visitors

61. There weren't any arrangements for families to visit. If they came, they did come and they were few. We had one family and mum that came fairly regularly. In another family, a brother would come, and in another family, a sister would come. There was a room near the bottom near another door leading out onto the yard, and they would sometimes go down there with their family or come upstairs. They didn't have to make arrangements. They would just come. The children didn't know when they were going to come. I can't remember any child saying that my mum was coming or my sister is coming.

62. I don't think anything was done to encourage visits, because most of our children were from Glasgow or Lanarkshire but not Lanark, and that seemed a long way away. I don't remember any other kind of visitors other than family.

63. We didn't have a visitor's book. I'm afraid we didn't do that.

Inspections

64. I don't remember anyone who came for inspections. I am aware of Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] saying "Now, make up the beds properly. Tidy it up. There is somebody coming." It is just something as simple as that. That could have been when I was somewhere else in the later years, because I am confused about my ministries and get confused about the time between before I entered and when I was in Manchester. So, no, I am not aware of any inspector coming round, or of any inspection. I don't know because there must have been.
65. No social worker came to look round, but I do remember one family having a social worker. They would see them in what we called it, the 'parlour'. Then they would come up and maybe spend a short time up in the sitting room or in the bedroom with the children. She saw the children on their own, two girls and a boy. She didn't speak with us about the children. We would just say "Hello" or whatever, but that would be it.

Review of care

66. I'm not aware of there being any procedure within Smyllum to review a child's continued residence at Smyllum. Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] our superior, if there was anything, she would see to that and then it would filter to us if the children were going home or if there was any change in the circumstances. Any decision was made with the social worker and Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED]. She probably did say to us that a child would be going home, but it would so seldom happen.
67. If I ever reported something to Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED], I was crying. I do remember, bearing in mind the children were quite a few older girls, and I remember once I was quite overwhelmed. I just had to leave the children I went downstairs and I went to Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] office. I said "I can't cope with those children". She came upstairs and told me to go away and go to the chapel. I did for a while, and she went up to the children. They were very fond of her. Then I went back up. That was at a time when I was overwhelmed.

68. Sister EAL would ask us regularly how the children were and how they were doing. She knew the children by name, so she would ask us how they were doing. There were no written reports.

Families

69. If there was a family coming in, say a family of 5, and I would just have three vacancies, when somebody else had two, the other two children would go to one of the other houses. Eventually they would transfer.
70. The children saw each other in the playground anyway, and they saw each other if they were all going to the primary school but that would be it. They would visit wherever they were, or their sibling would come to our own group.
71. Children didn't keep contact with family outside of Smyllum, unless they came to visit. We didn't take the children visiting their family at the time. I don't remember any letter writing. If there was a telephone, they would go to the telephone but there were few, very few, contacts.

Access to the children at Smyllum

72. Other sisters and staff had access to the children, but it didn't happen very much because every staff was busy with their own children. There was a lot of friendship between the houses. There was certainly friendship between the sisters. We had a staff room for the staff. You could hear the laughter coming from that. All the staff knew each other so there was a lot of sharing in that way. They would meet to go down town on a Saturday with the children, and they would go down with other children and staff from another house.
73. I think we all had maybe two or three priesthood students who would come during the summer. We had student teachers who came in the summers as well.

74. People from the local community in Lanark did not really come to Smyllum. Some children would bring their friends in from school, you know, their pals.
75. I am asked whether there were any arrangements to check whether people who had contact with the children were suitable. It would be word of mouth.

Discharge from Smyllum

76. I'm not aware of a particular process when a child was discharged from Smyllum. The only place they would go to that we would have contact with was our hostel in Glasgow. Then there would be contact because the sister running it was one of our own community. Not every child went to the hostel. Two of my children went to a family in Edinburgh. It was primarily with Smyllum in mind that the hostel begun, although other homes used it as well. Children wouldn't leave us until they had a place to go. The hostel dealt with getting training or a job for the young person.

Discipline and punishment

77. I don't remember anything about rules on discipline and punishment. We didn't have rules as such. Each child was dealt with individually. It could be that they were out of sorts or if they were out of hand or fighting or whatever. They would go to their bedroom or they would only get half their pocket money on a Saturday. They would go to bed early which didn't happen often, because for some reason or another Sister EAL did not agree with children going to bed early as a punishment. That was something that stuck in my mind. Maybe they would not go out to play, or not see their pals on a Saturday. These were punishments.
78. The type of behaviour that resulted in a child being punished was sulking, or kicking the door maybe, or going into the bedroom of his or her own accord. I can't remember what, quite honestly. I can't remember them using bad language. They

didn't know what bad language was. There wasn't a lot of it around, but there would be shouting and maybe crying.

79. It would be the decision in a sense of the member of staff who was there present rather than me, who did not know anything about it, as to what punishment would be given. It would be something that we had talked about ourselves with the staff.
80. I think it depended on the houses how children were dealt with. If they were in their own houses, they had more scope I would say for depriving children of privileges because they were out on their own. We were in a way confined, although we had the scope of the school yard/playground. I think it was similar throughout the houses.
81. We didn't keep any records about discipline or any punishment book, because punishment didn't seem to feature that much and a log book was never mentioned.

Abuse - general

82. I never saw any behaviour towards a child at Smyllum that I considered to be abuse. We were young and the word abuse wasn't in our vocabulary either. I didn't see anyone treat a child in a way that I thought was wrong. I didn't hear of children being mistreated elsewhere in Smyllum. No child spoke to me about being mistreated, other than coming in from school saying so and so hit me in the school yard. I am not aware of any child that needed medical attention for being hit by a member of staff or being mistreated.
83. If a child from my own group had thought they were being mistreated I think they would have gone to the staff who they got on with better. There were three staff or two staff and some of the children related very well with one member of staff and did not relate as well with the another member. I think they would have gone to the member of staff they related with better. The member of staff then should have gone to myself and from there to Sister [REDACTED] EAL if necessary. I can't remember that happening. We dealt with difficulties within our own group, and, other than the time I was upset, I can't remember [REDACTED] EAL coming in and saying "sort this out".

84. I would have considered punishing a child for bed wetting to be wrong. I think we knew the child would be upset. The child didn't like wetting the bed. We had two or three who wet the bed, may be just twice a week or three times a week.
85. Whether I would have considered hitting a child as a punishment to be wrong would depend on how they were hit. They might get a slap on the hand or the bottom, but other than that there were no forms of hitting. I have been asked whether hitting with a cane or belt or hair brush would have been wrong. We did not have access to canes and we didn't have belts. There would be hair brush, and maybe they would be hit on the knuckle with the hair brush or something. I wouldn't have considered that very wrong. If it marked, then that it would be very wrong. This is not something that I did.

Allegations against members of staff

BAC

86. I knew BAC I knew him around outside. He would be working. I don't exactly know what BAC did, but he was a BAC I had very little communication with him because we were upstairs and he didn't do things in the house. I would say "Hello BAC" and he would just answer. He wasn't a man that would stand talking. No, I had little to do with him.
87. I don't remember the children ever mentioning BAC. He wasn't involved with them in any caring capacity. I'm not aware of any other role he had with the children. I never saw him discipline the children.
88. I have been told that it has been said that BAC beat a child to the extent that the child was in bed for a fortnight. I was absolutely unaware of this.
89. I have been told that it has been said that BAC pulled a child by the ear and threw the child into the air and dropped him on to a radiator. I didn't hear about that, no.

90. I have been told that it has been said that [BAC] placed a child in a bath containing something called San Izal which caused burning to the skin. I would say that there was no opportunity for that. He would have had to have come upstairs to our place and to the other two establishments and to the houses. His role had lessened when I went there. He didn't feature very much.
91. I have been told that it has been said that [BAC] beat male children with a belt and he beat a child to the extent of knocking out the child's front teeth. I do not know about this.
92. I have been told that it has been said that [BAC] may not have intervened when a child was being aggressive towards another child. I am not aware if this.

[ADF] – a carer

93. I have been asked about a carer called [ADF]. I remember a carer called [ADF] [ADF]. There could have been other staff called [ADF] but we had a member of staff call [ADF] who was at Roncalli. The head of the group there was Sister [AFK] I would just see [ADF] passing. I don't know anything about her.
94. I didn't ever see her with children. I didn't see her discipline a child.
95. I have been told that it has been said that [ADF] beat a child. I can't imagine that, no.
96. I have been told that it has been said that [ADF] dragged a child out of bed and held the child's head under water. No, I've never heard of that.
97. I have been told that it has been said that [ADF] was digging into children's heads until they cried and they bled. No, I've never heard of that.
98. I have been told that it has been said that [ADF] deliberately soaked children's sheets to put them in a position as if they had been bed wetting and therefore they

were punished for bed wetting. No, I was away from anything like that. I was upstairs and she was way out across the school, across the playground. I was unaware of anything like this.

Miss [redacted] IAQ

99. I have been asked about a member of staff called Miss [redacted] IAQ. I do not recognise the name. Staff were called by their Christian names.

100. I have been told that that a member of staff called Miss [redacted] IAQ is said to have severely beat the children including with a belt, and a child lost consciousness. No, I was unaware of this.

[redacted] LVK

101. I have been asked about a member of staff called [redacted] LVK. I can't say I knew him, but I would recognise him when he would call. He didn't call to our group but I think he used to call to [redacted] HCE house. He worked at the [redacted] in Lanark as far as I know, and we would say "Oh that's [redacted] LVK". We never questioned why he was there, but I think he must have been friendly with somebody in one of the houses.

102. I never saw [redacted] LVK in the company of children. I wouldn't be aware of him disciplining a child.

103. I have been told that it has been said that he was cruel to children. I am unaware of this.

Miss [redacted] ACV

104. I have been asked about Miss [redacted] ACV. There was a [redacted] ACV who was a member of staff in one of the other groups. I think she was in St Mary's group, but I can't place her. That was [redacted] AGD group at the time.

105. I never saw children in her care being disciplined.

106. I have been told that it has been said that Miss [ACV] was abusive to children. I don't know about this.

Allegations against other sisters

[ADE]

107. I have been asked about Sister [ADE] Sister [ADE] was a member of our community. She had a group. She replaced somebody and she was up with the "wee boys", I think we used to call it. They were up the stairs at the back of the house. I think one time and time gone by, it was called the Lofties.

108. I have been told that it has been said that children in her care were being beaten including being hit with keys. I don't know about this.

109. I have been told that it has been said that children had to sit in silence for hours. I wouldn't have been aware of that. I am not familiar with such a practice.

110. I have been told that it has been said that children had to clean for between eight and twenty hours a week. No, I wouldn't have been aware of that.

Sister [AHN] Sister [AFU] Sister [HBP] and [ADE]

111. I have been asked about Sister [AHN]. The other Sister [AHN] was an old, retired sister. I think her surname was [] but I'm not sure as we did not know the sisters' surnames well in those days. She did not have any involvement in the care of the children in my time.

112. I have been asked about Sister [AFU] No, I didn't know a Sister [AFU]

113. I have been asked about Sister [HBP]. There was a [HBP] there for a short period, for about two years during part of my time there. She was called [HBP]. [REDACTED] She had children for a while. She was downstairs from where we were, at St Mary's. I saw her with children if I was passing, and I would go in and say something.

114. I have already spoken about Sister [ADE].

115. I am told that allegations have been made that relate to those four sisters, although it is not always clear which sister is said to have done what.

116. I have been told that it has been said that a child was dragged by the hair, beat simultaneously and the child's siblings were forced to watch. No, I was not aware.

117. I have been told that it has been said that a child in her care was tied to a bedside cabinet with ropes. No, I wouldn't have been aware of that.

118. I have been told that it has been said that a child in her care was locked in a storeroom. No, I wouldn't have been aware of that.

119. I have been told that it has been said that a child in Sister [AFU] care had tinnitus as a result of the child's head being beaten; and that she made a child eat vomit. No, I don't know about this.

120. I have been told that it has been said that a child in Sister [HBP] care was beaten including being kicked and slapped in the face. No, I don't know about this.

Sister [AGI]

121. I have been asked about Sister [AGI]. I knew a [AGI]. She was there when I was placed there at first. She used to be at "the wee boys" at the Lofties. I didn't see children in her care. I didn't see children in her care because actually we hadn't visited her place before she left. She left soon after I arrived, then she was replaced by [AHO].

122. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AGI slapped and kicked a child called Sammy Carr. No, I would not have seen that if that happened. I can't remember if I heard that Sammy Carr had been kicked by someone.

123. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AGI took out a child's penis and rubbed it between her fingers. I never heard of that.

124. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AGI beat a child and humiliated a child. No I wouldn't have seen that.

Sister [REDACTED] EAA

125. I have been asked about Sister [REDACTED] EAA There was an [REDACTED] EAA in the school who was the head mistress of the primary school.

126. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] EAA kicked a child. I haven't heard of that.

127. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] EAA beat a child over a bath with a cane and a strap. I don't think [REDACTED] EAA even had access to children out of school in any of the groups. I can't remember any of the children coming back from school saying that they got the cane. Maybe they did, but I can't remember.

[REDACTED] AEG

128. I have been asked about [REDACTED] AEG who was also known as Sister [REDACTED] AEG and Sister [REDACTED] AEG She was in St Joseph's in the main building. Our dining rooms were side by side. There was a hallway outside our dining rooms and both dining rooms had access from the hallway. Latterly she was in one of the outside houses, but I wasn't there then as I had moved on.

129. I have been told that the allegations against [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] may relate the time that I was there, as our times overlapped, but may also relate to the time when I was not at Smyllum.
130. I have been told that [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is alleged to have committed offences against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I remember the names of the boys, simply because they might be coming out of their dining room when we would be going in or something like that. Other than that I wouldn't know, no.
131. I have been told that [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is said to have forced a child to say the rosary 20 times to stop bed wetting; and on a holiday outwith Smyllum, placed a child in a shower for bed wetting and left them naked in front of staff there and laughed. No, I am not aware of that and have never heard of it. I must say if any of those took place, a member of staff would step in, that is all I can say.
132. I have been told that [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is said to have been involved in not allowing a child to drink after tea because of bed-wetting, beating a child if they bed-wet; wrapping wet sheets around a child; giving cold baths for bed wetting; older children giving a younger child tablets for bed wetting; preventing parents from seeing a child due to them being protestant; and a child to being baptised and to be brought up as a Catholic without his parents' consent. No, I am not aware of this.
133. I have been told that [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is said to have been involved in taking away Christmas and birthday gifts given to the child; telling the child that their mother had died when in fact she was still alive, encouraging or otherwise preventing bullying between children, beating a child who threatened to tell that she was being abused in Smyllum, and beating a child for allowing a bath to overflow. No, I am not aware of this. In relation to the bath overflowing I am not aware that it would happen, it could have happened, but I am not aware that it did happen.
134. I have been told that [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is said to have been involved in pulling a child out of bed and beating a child for reading in bed, beating a child with a belt and clothes brush, beating a child for being sick during the night, punching and slapping a child in the face, beating a child for messing her sheets having had a period during

the night, beating a child for losing their glasses when they had been hidden by a member of staff, forcing a child to appear happy in front of third parties or the police and then beating a child if a child tried to say what was happening to them, failing to prevent or allowing another member of staff, [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] to beat a child, and beating a child for minor things like being a noisy eater. No, I am not aware of this.

135. I have been told that [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] is said to have been involved in making a child eat cigarettes as a punishment for them to stop smoking; telling a child that they were getting a present and then giving them a bathroom plug and humiliating them; putting a child out on the porch at 11.30 at night as a punishment; slapping pulling a child out of the bath by the hair if the child took too long in the bath; hitting a child with a pool cue; forcing a child to scrub floors; and taking a child's personal possessions from them. No, I am not aware of this.

136. I have been told that it has been said that a child lived in fear of Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] the entire time he was at Smyllum. I cannot see how that would be. I have seen Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] interacting with children. I've seen the children laughing and having fun, and so I have no evidence to support that allegation.

137. I have been told that it has been said that when checking for head lice each week, Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] ran a steel comb through a child's hair so roughly that it caused his head to bleed. Again, I am not aware of that at all.

138. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] would bath the whole of Roncalli House in the same tub of bathwater, and the children had to use carbolic soap. I think that is impossible. I do believe that if that had happened, we would have heard from other children about it. We would have heard it from children and staff.

139. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] was the cruellest person; that she regularly hit and slapped a child, and kept a brush in the sleeve of her uniform which she used to hit him. No, I've never seen any signs that that happened.

140. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG gave "a doing" to children to teach them never to run away again. No, I am not aware of that at all.
141. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG made a child clean the floor of the launderette, and if there was a spot of dirt, she hit him as a punishment. Not at all. I am not aware of this.
142. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG "set about" a child and the beating she gave him burst all the water blisters he had from being sunburnt in Girvan. I cannot imagine [REDACTED] AEG doing that.
143. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG took a child to the laundry, made him strip naked and stand for about three hours; ground her heels into his feet; and then set about him with a brush; that it was a frenzied attack and she was so angry, that she was sweating with the amount of effort she was using. It is not in [REDACTED] AEG nature to do anything like that.
144. I have been told that it has been said that a child in Sister [REDACTED] AEG care had limited or no contact with his siblings; and that the only time he had dealings with his sister was when she visited him in hospital after he was seriously attacked by Sister [REDACTED] AEG. No, I am not aware of that.
- Sister [REDACTED] AEX
145. I have been asked about Sister [REDACTED] AEX. There was no [REDACTED] AEX when I was there.
- Sister [REDACTED]
146. I have been asked about Sister [REDACTED] was an older sister who would go round picking up papers and she did some accounts.
147. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [REDACTED] humiliated a child. I am unaware of this.

EAD

148. I have been asked about [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] who was known as Sister [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] I knew her. She was there for a short while when I went to Smyllum. Again she was upstairs in the Lofties. It was the boys' group. I didn't see anything that concerned me. I hadn't seen her other than meeting her in the community for our community exercises.

149. I have been told that [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] is said to have been involved in humiliating a child by pulling a female child into the boys' refectory for public humiliation. We didn't have a boy's refectory. They had their own group.

150. I have been told that [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] is said to have been involved in throwing a child downstairs; children being beaten with a steel hand of a knife, pool cues and straps; making a child stand in cold bath with bed wetting sheets wrapped around the child in connection with bed wetting. I am unaware of this.

AGD

151. I have been asked about [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] who was known as Sister [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] She was downstairs at St Mary's. I knew her well because she was in my own group at the time, and I knew her because she was a member of the community. She was a bright, young woman and efficient. I never saw or heard anything about her care of the children which caused me concern.

152. I have been told that it has been said that a girl was run over by a car and later died in hospital. I am told that it has been said that she was running away with a child in Sister [REDACTED] AGD [REDACTED] care because they could not take it anymore. I remember reading that in the paper because at the time I was doing the child care course at Langside College. I was in Glasgow and I remember seeing it in the headlines of the paper. She wasn't in that group. I think there is a confusion. She was in [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] group. I don't know the girl's name because I had been away at the time. I know she came from Glasgow and she had just come into care. I understand and she was going back to her family.

153. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AGD] may have been involved in forcing a child to eat inedible food and drink sour milk. I am not aware of that.
154. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AGD] may have been involved in giving a child, who refused to eat, the same meal at a later meal until the food was eaten, and sometimes force fed a child. I have not heard of that.
155. I have been told that it has been said Sister [AGD] may have forced children to share cold and dirty bath water with twenty other children. I am not aware of that. I cannot imagine any of that taking place.
156. I have been told that it has been said that children in Sister [AGD] care were beaten with various instruments including a cane and a broom handle; one sibling was forced to watch while another sibling was beaten; and a child was hit with a wooden coat hanger, a clothes brush and a heavy metal spoon. I am not aware of that.
157. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AGD] may have been involved in washing a child's hair with Jeyes fluid and used carbolic soap to wash her body. I have not heard of that kind of practice at all.
158. I have been told that it has been said that when a child in Sister [AGD] care wet the bed, wet sheets were placed around the child and the child was made to put wet underwear on her head. I'm not aware of that.
159. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AGD] may have been a sister who hit a child's head repeatedly whilst washing her hair. I'm not aware of that.
160. I have been told that it has been said that children in Sister [AGD] care had to sit on sailors' knees and give them a kiss and a cuddle, and if a child refused, they were beaten. No. We had sailors visiting but they were in their individual groups. They would be in the large group because they would come to sing or whatever. We were all in it together. I didn't see that kind of behaviour.

161. I have been told that it has been said that children were told that siblings in Smyllum were in prison. I'm not aware of that.

162. I have been told that it has been said that a child was forced to kiss Sister [AGD] feet every day. I'm not aware of that.

163. I have been told that it has been said that girls were told that periods were dirty. I'm not aware of that.

164. I have been told that it has been said that a child in Sister [AGD] care was forced to wear shoes which were two sizes too big. I'm not aware of that.

165. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AGD] allowed other members of staff to abuse children. I'm not aware of that.

Sister [IAC] and Sister [BAH]

166. I have been asked about Sister [IAC] and Sister [BAH] There was no [IAC] of [BAH] during my time at Smyllum.

Sister [AHO]

167. I have been asked about Sister [AHO] She was in Roncalli House. She was also upstairs in what we called the Lofties where the wee boys were.

168. I have been told that it has been said that Sister [AHO] may have been involved when a child was beaten and a child's head was battered against a wall. No, I don't know about this.

Sister [FAM]

169. I have been asked about Sister [FAM] She was the nurse, an older sister.

170. I have been told that it has been said that Sister **FAM** may have been involved when a child was beaten to the extent that the child's hearing was damaged. I don't think that is possible.

Father **ADB**

171. I am asked about a Father **ADB** I wasn't aware of a priest called Father **ADB**

172. I have been told that it has been said that Father **ADB** conducted mass at Smyllum and abused children. No, I wasn't aware of that.

Allegations about the regime at Smyllum

173. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved children being beaten included slapping, punching, kicking and using a cane. I am unaware of any of that. There was no canes around to my knowledge.

174. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved putting wet sheets around a child's neck after bed wetting and making that child walk up and down the dormitory; force-feeding children if they refused to eat; and locking children in cupboards. I am not aware of that.

175. I have been told that it has been said that a child was placed on a nun's breasts. I am not aware of that other than with babies.

176. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved tying a child to a bed and taping a child's mouth. I am not aware of that.

177. I have been told that it has been said that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved placing children in shared cold baths; serving inedible food, making a child eat vomit and what's referred to as allowing abuse but basically children being aggressive to each other and not intervening and preventing it. I am not aware of that.

178. I have been asked whether the passage of time might have affected my recollection of events. From what has just been read out to me, no. I honestly feel that they are quite horrific and I cannot see opportunities or it happening to the children to that extent.
179. I am asked why people would make these allegations if none of that happened at Smyllum. Other than what we have read in the papers, I wonder whether families and children and past people have been hoping to get some money. That is all I can think of.
180. I have been asked if there was a regime whereby children were beaten for bed-wetting, or humiliated with wet sheets, or force feed, or had their personal possessions removed not by way of a brief punishment but that they weren't allow to keep anything, or were severely beaten, whether I agree that that is abuse. That is abuse, yes. Can I just say also, we had so many students and so many really good staff. Some staff that went on to train as teachers after it at Moray House Training College. A few went on to nursing. If any of those did take place, I think they would be reported.

Prior Statements

181. I am asked whether I have given any statements before about my time at Smyllum. I gave a statement recently to Clyde & Co, solicitors who act for the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. I have never given a statement to anyone else, including the police.

Reporting of abuse

182. If a child had any concerns, I feel they could have gone to a member of staff. I'm not aware of a child doing so.

183. If I had concerns, I could have gone to Sister [REDACTED] EAL or one of the other sisters. I never had any concerns about children to report.
184. I have been asking whether with the benefit of hindsight there was anything I should have reported but didn't. No. In hindsight, when I look at an photographs in an album from later years from another children's home in London, I thought, "Oh my goodness, if only we had that in Smyllum". I have been with children in different places and there were different things we did with the children in later years. We had more involvement with social workers in London. Those are changes which have taken place that really did not happen at Smyllum.
185. I'm not aware of any the behaviour that I have been told about at Smyllum being reported to the police.

Records

186. I don't think remember much about record keeping. Perhaps there was something when I went for child care training in the child care course. There were those day release courses we went to in Glasgow. It would be mostly about how to treat children rather than record taking, and how to deal with children and different behaviours.
187. We did keep admission records. Not us personally, but it was kept by Sister [REDACTED] EAL I am sure it was kept by her when children would come in and when they would leave. They were kept in the sister servant's office in Smyllum, the sister superior's office.
188. We didn't have any punishment books, or visitors' books. We didn't have any records in our group.
189. We didn't have health records because we just felt with the doctor coming in regularly, and [REDACTED] FAM being there, that we did not need to worry about that. It did not come into our thinking or doing.

Closing thoughts

190. I have been asked that given all the allegations of abuse at Smyllum, if there was such abuse, whether I can explain why I wouldn't have been aware of it. There wasn't an atmosphere of that, so I think that was the reason. It did not come into conversation with either staff or ourselves. There wasn't an awareness of that at all. I can't explain it better.

191. I have been asked why I think the Inquiry has received a lot of information about the effect on people's lives of their experiences of abuse at Smyllum, if no abuse took place. In my experience and my knowledge, there was not such abuse taking place. I would say children or young people today, or older people as they would be now, are looking for some form of compensation. That is what I would feel.

192. I have been asked whether, on reflection, given the allegations that have been put to me both personally and generally, I have any views which might help the Inquiry. There should be further awareness that such things can happen and further training and knowledge of what can happen; vigilance and awareness. All those things that were read out to me are quite sad. We wouldn't and couldn't imagine those taking place. Then, even in my own group, we would not have thought of those things.

193. 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.

AIU



Signed.....

Dated..... 11 " 10 " 2017