

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Rosalie CROWLEY**

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Rosalie Crowley. My own name is Catherine Patricia Crowley but I haven't been known as that in the community of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. That is my formal name for banks and things like that, it's my Christian name. I was Rosalie in the community and I've been known by that all my life really. I am known as Sister Rosalie.
2. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1941. I am 76 years old.

### **Background**

3. I joined the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1958 in Dublin in Ireland. From 1960 to 1961 I was in Glenmaroon in Dublin working in child care, assisting with care of children with learning disabilities. From 1961 to 1962, I was at St Catherine's in Dunardagh, Dublin and working in catering. From 1962 to 1971 I was in Smyllum in Lanark catering for children, staff and sisters. From 1971 to 1974 I was at an approved school in Gravelly Hill in Birmingham as house supervisor in a hostel. From September to December 1974 I was in Gravesend where I was responsible for a day centre for children and mothers. From December 1974 to 1975 I was at Langdale House in Mill Hill in London overseeing a new facility being built in a family group home called Ridgemount. From 1975 to 1984 I was at Wilson Street in Glasgow working in a hostel for young women. From 1984 to 1985 I was at Commercial Road in London and working in social work. From 1985 to 1987 I was at Horseferry Road in London working in social work. In 1986 I left the community.

4. I was readmitted to the community in 1992. From 1992 to 1994 I was at Seacroft in Leeds working in pastoral care with Our Lady of Good Counsel. From 1994 to 1995 I was at Horseferry Road in London working as Housing Officer at The Passage Day Centre for homeless people. From 1995 to 1999 I was in Heaton, Newcastle as local superior and Chaplain at Newcastle General. From 1999 to 2001 I was at Little Hulton, Manchester and was Chaplain at Booth Hall Children's Hospital and Trafford Park General. From 2001 to 2002 I was based at Provincial House while on sabbatical in the USA. From 2002 to 2008 I was at Mount Pleasant in Liverpool and was Chaplain at Alder Hay Children's Hospital. From 2008 to 2012 I was at Mount Pleasant and was sister servant and Chaplain at Alder Hay Children's Hospital. Since 2012 I have been based at Carlisle Place and Graham Terrace in London and I am Chaplain at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

### **Qualifications**

5. From 1970 to 1971 whilst still resident at Smyllum, I did the childcare qualification at Langside college in Glasgow. From September 1979 to June 1982 I did a social work diploma at Queen's College, Glasgow. This was a special part time course to cater for working people. I had certificates but I didn't think I'd be needing them so when I moved house I got rid of those.

### **Smyllum**

6. As I've said above, I was at Smyllum from 1962 to 1971. I was appointed there in 1962. My provincial at the time appointed me to go there. I can't remember which provincial it was. I moved from Dublin to Smyllum. I replaced another sister at Smyllum who was much older than I was. The sister I replaced was Sister Brendan Virling who has long since died.
7. Before Smyllum, I was in Dunardagh, in Dublin which was not as big as Smyllum but I had some experience from there.

8. My role at Smyllum was in catering. I trained at a domestic science college so I was very interested in cooking. The domestic science college was in Cork and I went there when I left school. I had planned to do domestic science teaching because I loved cooking. Then I changed my mind and got into the education system in Lanark and applied for the childcare course instead. I then went on to do social work so I kind of changed career at that stage.
9. I had never been to Smyllum before I was appointed to go there. But I had met some of the sisters who were there, in the novitiate. I was very happy and delighted to be arriving at Smyllum. I loved cooking so I was ready for the challenge.
10. I don't remember training when I arrived. I had the training in catering already. I am a good cook. I was known to be good which is why I was appointed to Smyllum.

### **My role at Smyllum**

11. My role was to do with catering and cooking. For a few years this was in our big kitchen at Smyllum, in the main building. Initially I cooked for the girls and the younger boys in the main house. The older boys were in another part of the house. The boys' side we called it. There was another kitchen there so another sister cooked there. That sister's name was Sister Joseph but she is long dead now too. I cooked for the main house basically, for all the groups that were in the main house.
12. After a few years of me being there, the groups moved into doing their own cooking, as opposed to me cooking for them. The sisters and staff in the groups then did the cooking themselves. My job was to order in what the sisters asked for. We had a butcher in the town where I would order what people had asked for and it would be delivered weekly to the kitchen. I think that change happened probably in about 1965 or 1966. Around that time anyway.

## The Food

13. I am asked about what the food was like when I started at Smyllum. I took on from the person that was there before me and cooked very plain but good food. Everyone, the sisters, children, and staff, got the same food. I suppose reflecting today when you think of the difference between today's menus and then, it might feel very different. At the time it was plain food but good food.
14. When I first arrived I would be catering for about a hundred, a hundred and twenty children maybe altogether. The food I made in the main kitchen was collected by staff and taken to the units. They children ate in their own units.
15. For breakfast, there would be different cereals and porridge. It was different each day. It was a bit more difficult when you were cooking for the larger group. When you cook in advance, which you had to do when you had big numbers, the food would never be quite as nice as it would be when we moved to the sisters cooking themselves straight off the pan at meal time. Even in the early days I was there, the units would have had the cereal themselves, and there was always bread and butter and jam, and the meals I cooked would be transferred to the units.
16. Lunch was a main meal. The sisters would have had their own meal before the children came from school and then they'd be free to serve the children's meal at lunch time. Always on a Friday we'd have fish and chips. We'd have different things like maybe chicken, stew, beef stew, pork, shepherd's pie, mince and always fresh vegetables.
17. I don't remember anything about snacks after school. I would cook the evening meal. The evening meal would have been burgers or beans or spaghetti and sausage, bacon and egg, different sorts of lighter meals in the evening time.
18. For the first few years I was involved in cooking all of these through the day - breakfast, lunch and dinner - and once cooked it would be taken to the units. I

am not certain of the timing when that stopped and they actually started doing their own cooking in the units.

19. I know that at the time the quality of the food was good. I came from a domestic science college so I would have known the nutritional value. Within the means that we had, we had good food and perhaps better than many of us would have had in their own homes at that time.
20. The sisters and staff ate the same food as the children. I usually joined the sisters for the main meal.
21. I had some help in the kitchen. I had one member of staff who was [REDACTED] ACK [REDACTED] ACK. She was the wife of [REDACTED].
22. When I arrived in 1962, we didn't have menus for the food initially. I wouldn't have known about menus at that stage. I think it was possibly in 1963 or 1964, I am not sure, when Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] came to Smyllum that menus started. She had come from a local authority children's home. She told me they had had menus there and she got me a menu book. So from thereon we had menus. We wrote menus for each day, a week ahead.

### **The move to sisters and staff cooking in their own units**

23. I've said that after some years we moved to a different arrangement whereby the sisters cooked in their own units. They gave me their orders of what they needed. They'd send me a list. That worked very well. It felt that the children were getting the food directly cooked as opposed to something that had to be taken from one place to another. I was really very happy about it and I think the sisters were happy as well that they were able to produce that food on the unit.
24. I am asked if I kept any overview on how that food was cooked in the units or what the quality of the food was like that the children were getting once the food was cooked in the units. I didn't actually. I often would pop into the unit at

lunch time or maybe more in the evening time and it seemed fine. I didn't look into the quality of it to be honest. A number of sisters that were there were Irish and when you come from an Irish background you are always a very good cook so I think I was pretty confident.

25. I continued to cook food for the sisters and staff to eat, cooking the same food as what I had been doing before. We continued with our Friday fish and chips as we always used to do at that time. For a feast day maybe we might have had something extra. I can't recall exactly but looking back from what we do now, we celebrate feast days. I am not sure if we celebrated them much in those days.

26. I always ordered the ingredients we needed, first what I needed for the whole group, then later what the sisters and staff in the groups told me they needed and what I needed myself to cook for the sisters. I am asked if I was given a budget from the sister superior for that. No, I wasn't actually. I wouldn't be very good at that. I would always overdo it as opposed to under doing it. I still do that. I ordered what I needed and the bills were paid by an assistant to my superior. She did the bills. Nobody ever questioned what was spent. I didn't have a limit but I would have been told there wasn't a huge amount of money and to try and be careful.

### **Structure and other sisters**

27. Sister BAF was the sister superior when I arrived at Smyllum. It changed a couple of years later because she got sick. She was replaced by Sister EAA. Then we had Sister EAL who made a great difference. I think she maybe came before Sister EAA but she made a great difference to the whole experience of being in Smyllum because of the change to the small groups. She was very anxious that the children got into the small groups like she had experienced in London and that made such a difference. She was amazing.

28. Under the sister superior, all the other sisters were on the same level of seniority.
29. The sisters I remember being there while I was there were Sister **AEG**, **AEG** Sister **AGD**, Sister Cecilia Dowd who was Vincent at the time, Sister **AGI**, Sister **AHO**, Sister **FAM**, Sister **EAA** and Sister **EAC**. There may have been others I knew very briefly because they moved on in my time at Smyllum. There were sisters coming and going and it's difficult to remember back on all those years ago.
30. The sisters were accountable to the sister superior. The staff I had in the kitchen, the one I mentioned, **ACK**, was accountable to me. I wasn't involved in recruiting staff. I can't remember who in terms of staff was with the sister that I replaced. **ACK** came in my time and she was appointed and we got on very well. It was a good time. She was very good. I trained her to cook well initially. I was always there, she assisted really.
31. I slept in the main house at Smyllum. I had my own room, a small room but it was very nice.

### **The children**

32. I did not have much interaction with children on a day to day basis. I am a seamstress so I used to do a bit of sewing and make things for the little ones, clothes like little dresses. I remember when capes came out first and they couldn't afford to buy them so I used to make them. The sisters would get material at the market and I would make it for them. I used to help to do curtains and different things so I had a bit of interaction but not individually with children.
33. I would sometimes see children eating their food if I popped into the dining room. They always seemed happy and there seemed to be enough food for people. There was no shortage of food. If people asked they could have whatever. I used to pop into the groups and the children seemed happy.

34. I am asked if the children ever came to speak to me. They didn't come to the kitchen, but we had kind of a platform at the top and they'd sometimes come in to see what I was cooking for the tea. If I was decorating a cake like I would for birthdays or Christmas, they'd sit and watch and we'd have little chats. That was not in the kitchen itself as they wouldn't be allowed in the kitchen. This was at the top of the stairs and there was about eight or nine stairs leading down to the kitchen so they would sit there. Usually if they came in they got a lollipop or whatever you might have. If you were baking cakes or something you'd share them with them through the little bar in the kitchen, leading up to the stairs.
35. They'd chat away and I'd ask them how was their school and they'd chat away, very pleasant but nothing in depth. They were more interested in what I might be cooking for them.
36. I am asked what the children wore at Smyllum. I think the children at secondary school had a uniform. They were always beautifully turned out. When they were not at school, the children wore casual clothes. They had their own individual clothes as far as I can remember.
37. I was not involved at all in the process of when children were admitted to Smyllum. I was not ever involved in the early morning arrangements. I was not involved in bed time or on duty in the evening or anything like that. I was not involved with washing and bathing children. I also had no involvement in the schooling side of things.
38. In the playground the children would be shouting and screaming and laughing and being very happy. Other than that I wouldn't have access to games in the different units. They'd have played football. I really don't know more than that.
39. I can't remember much about trips or holiday. I was never involved in going away with them on holiday or on trips. I think for holidays everyone didn't go away together, they went away at different times. I might have arranged to be



away myself during that time if they were away. I can't quite recall. I can remember groups of children going away at times but I wasn't involved.

### Health and medical issues

40. I am asked about the children's health, and procedures dealing with health or medical issues. We had a little surgery, beside the kitchen actually. Sister **FAM** was the nurse that was there, she was an older lady. She was always there welcoming children. I used to sometimes have a cup of tea with her because I was quite near the office, and children would come in maybe with a sore finger or for a plaster, the way kids do. She was always lovely with them. We had a doctor coming in once a week and we also had a nurse. I didn't see her but she came in and I think she went around the groups and if there was anybody for a referral to the doctor, names would be given to Sister **FAM** who was in the surgery. The doctor then would go round to the units and see them. Sometimes they came to the surgery as well.
41. I am asked if I was ever asked to cater specially or cook any special kind of food for a child who was ill or anything like that. I have done that, perhaps a little bit of scrambled egg if somebody was poorly, or the sister would come down and ask for something specific. There was never an issue really about food. I wouldn't always know if children weren't well as I wasn't on the units but sometimes I was asked and I responded appropriately.

### Deaths

42. I am asked if there were any deaths at Smyllum while I was there. I honestly don't remember.
43. I know two children were running away and one was knocked down by a car in the local area and was taken into hospital. I think the family dealt with it from there. That's something I was told, I don't remember it per se. I am not sure if it happened in my time or not. I think I was told that at the time it happened, but whether it actually happened in my time there I am not certain.

I didn't know the children. It resulted in a death, not in the home itself but in the hospital I think and then the family dealt with the aftermath of that I think. I heard that one of the children's parents were meant to visit that day and they didn't visit and the child was upset and was running home. I don't remember the children.

44. I remember the name Sammy Carr. I've seen in the paper since that he actually died. I have no recollection of that but it was a death in my time according to what I've read. I don't remember him, I remember the name. I remember the name from the time I was there but I don't remember anything else. I didn't remember that he died actually, only what I have read recently.
45. I can't remember anything about any funeral or a mass after a death. I am asked if I remember anything about a procedure for reporting of deaths to the Home Office. If a death happened in Sister [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] time it would certainly have been reported. She was amazing. She was beyond her time. She would be good in today's age. I just don't recall the incidents but I would imagine that they would have been recorded to be honest.

## Religion

46. I don't know if religious instruction took place in the groups. I would have no idea of that. The children did come to mass on a Sunday. I think there was a service on a Friday evening, a benediction and the children came across. It might have been if it was a holy day or something like that that they would come. I do recall seeing the children in the evening, one evening during the week, but other than that it was a Sunday mass. All the sisters and all the children attended Sunday mass.
47. I am asked about the children doing manual work. I'd have no idea what would happen in the groups so I don't know.
48. We had a sister doing the laundry. That was Sister Brede Daly. She's dead now too.

## **Birthdays and Christmas**

49. I am asked what I remember about children's birthdays. I don't remember a lot actually. I would have done the cakes initially but then the sisters would have planned their own birthday parties for the children later on in the units. I remember making cakes and I remember they'd have ice cream and special things that they wouldn't normally have during the week. The sisters would tell me if there was a birthday. There must have been many birthdays with the number of children there, but the sisters mostly organised them on the units themselves. That's my recollection. I don't remember any specific birthdays being marked in the dining room. I think sometimes the children themselves might come to tell me because they used to pass the door of the kitchen and they used to pop in. I do remember a couple of them saying that it was their birthday. That might be the time they'd have got a lollipop or something like that if they'd come in and said it was their birthday.
50. My understanding is that the sisters would never have picked out one birthday and not others. All birthdays were celebrated.
51. Christmas would be similar. The sisters themselves would decorate their units and I would do cakes for the units and there would be a special meal on Christmas Day, the same as we would have generally for everyone. A number of children would go home as well during holiday time. I don't remember the specifics of it now, but I would imagine the sisters would have responded to it well in those times. In terms of food, we would have had Turkey, we had the usual traditional dinner.

## **Visits from family**

52. I don't remember if parents and family visited children at Smyllum. I wasn't on the unit so I couldn't answer that.

**Inspections**

53. I do not remember anyone ever coming to inspect or do a formal visit of Smyllum. I don't remember hearing from any other sisters that anyone had been in to inspect. I am asked if anyone doing an inspection or formal visit ever came into the kitchen to ask me about the food the children were getting. They did not. I am asked if I remember anything about officials or social workers coming in to see particular children. I don't. I don't remember seeing any reports or reviews or any documents written about Smyllum. I wouldn't see that because I was in the main house and in the kitchen. The sisters dealt directly with the superior at the time or the superior would go to their unit and it would be done like that. I don't remember any report to do with the kitchen or the food.
54. I am asked if I recall any visits or inspections from the Catholic Welfare Society. I remember them visiting and I would have met them. I do not know what interaction they had in the groups. I presume they were there to provide support for sisters.

**Siblings**

55. I remember there being sibling groups in Smyllum. Initially they were housed separately but then as the years went on they were brought together. I honestly don't know what contact siblings had when they were housed separately. I would imagine out playing that they would have had contact or if there was celebrations or birthdays or something. But that's not fact, as I do not know what contact they had. I am asked if sibling contact was encouraged and I wouldn't know to be honest as I was not on the units.

**Updates about family and personal possessions**

56. I don't know if children were given updates or information about their families at home. I would not have been involved in that. I also don't know if children

had personal possessions. They'd bring things like little dolls into the church with them, the little ones, if they were coming into church on a Sunday. They would bring bits and bobs with them but other than that I wouldn't have seen. They would have belonged to them if they were carrying them around. I think they had individual toys, definitely yes. I don't know if children had a space or an area to keep their own things.

### **Pocket Money**

57. I know that children were given pocket money. I used to hear them talk about that. I haven't seen it happening but they were given pocket money. I don't know how much or anything like that. I would hear the sisters saying that they were organising pocket money for the children.

### **Access to children**

58. I am asked about what people, other than sisters and staff, would be allowed into Smyllum and to have access to the children, for example priests, or trainee priests. I think some people who were training to be priests went in. I didn't know them individually, but I would hear the sisters saying that they were in their area, in their groups. I am asked why they would be there. Well I suppose to support the children really. If they were training for priesthood it would give them the experience of relating and supporting, and learning how to deal with children, which would be led by the sister that was on the unit. I don't know if they were allowed to spend time with children on their own. I couldn't imagine it but I don't know because I wasn't on the unit. I really couldn't say if any checks or vettings were carried out on people who had access to children as I did not work on the units.
59. I was not involved with children in the process when they were leaving Smyllum.

**St. Mary's Hostel in Wilton Street**

60. I was later involved in the aftercare hostel that some of the older children joined when they left Smyllum. This was St. Mary's Hostel in Wilton Street in Glasgow. I was there from 1975 to 1984 and during that time I trained as a social worker on a part time basis. I was the head of the unit there, following my social work diploma. I wasn't there directly after I left Smyllum but at a future point. It had many of the Smyllum children there. I remembered them from being in Smyllum. Often these young people spoke of their memories of Smyllum and all were very positive and they laughed and talked about the happy times. I never once heard anyone make a complaint.
61. The Daughters of Charity operated the hostel in conjunction with the Catholic Society at the time. It was open in response to caring for the children when they left. It was for children who were of age to leave Smyllum but perhaps didn't have somewhere else they could go. I can't remember when it opened. It has operated for a couple of years before I went there. I didn't open it. I wasn't the first person, there were two people before me. I was there from 1975 to 1984. It was just girls who were there. It was an aftercare hostel for children who had been in care, not necessarily all from Daughters of Charity places but the majority were from Smyllum. We also had young people from Nazareth House. They'd stay there until probably eighteen until they were able to move on to work or training. They were aged approximately 16 to 18.
62. There was a boys' hostel open at the same time and someone else did that. That was Father Eammon Cowan, a priest. The boys' hostel was in Nithsdale Road in Pollokshields. It was opened a couple of years after the girls' hostel. They saw the need with the girls and had to purchase a house and all that. There wasn't a sister in the boys' hostel. It was staff.
63. The girl's hostel was part of the original St. Mary's hostel that was there anyway so it was easy, we had the building so it was all refurbished. It was a lovely house. We had eight girls living in the girls' hostel. I was the person in charge. I was the only sister and I had a number of staff in that particular

building. There were other sisters in my community in the main house which was attached to the hostel. The girls' hostel continued when I left in 1984.

### **Discipline and Punishment at Smyllum**

64. I am asked about discipline and punishment at Smyllum. I don't remember anything at all about discipline or punishment. I don't remember any children being disciplined for anything. I just don't remember anything. Not being in the group, it wouldn't register with me actually.
65. I was not involved in supervising children. Sisters and staff supervised them. I can't remember any code of conduct about discipline or punishment. I wouldn't know. I am asked if there was any guidance on what should happen if a child needed to be disciplined or anything like that. I wouldn't know.
66. I am asked if I can remember children displaying any kind of behaviour that had to be disciplined or punished at any time. I don't honestly remember that. My experience of seeing children coming up and down from school was happy, carefree children. That's my memory.
67. I am asked about how the children behaved. They were happy and carefree. They were just children. There was nothing untoward really.
68. I heard nothing at all about discipline or punishment of any children while I was at Smyllum. I wouldn't have occasion to really, not having been in the groups. I never walked into anything. I have no recollection to be honest.
69. I did not see any behaviour that I considered to be abuse, nor did I hear of anything, not at all.
70. No child ever spoke to me about any concerns they had about how they were being treated. If a child had relayed those kinds of concerns to me, I would have passed that on but I was never in that situation. There was nothing untoward that was said to me. I am looking back from now and from my social

work experience as well and there is no way I would have held on to anything like that. I would have passed it on to my superior.

71. If a child didn't like their food, it was never brought to my attention. On the odd occasion the child would come to the door and ask what was for tea and they'd say they didn't like that and I would send something else. I would send something else specifically like cold meat or something like that that a child could eat instead. But how the sister managed it in the group I really don't know. I would not know if there was left over or uneaten food.

### Various sisters and staff

72. I am asked about various sisters, staff and others and my recollection of them.

BAC

73. I remember

BAC

He ran a band, he was the head of a band and that was really great. They used to play each year at the Lanimers festival where there were floats, a bit like Notting Hill but not as good as that. He would then take his band down there. I know when Sister EAL came she didn't approve. She didn't feel that the children should be brought out like this and paraded in front of everybody so she stopped it. She wanted them involved in the band but she didn't want them paraded in the town. It was a brass band actually. They would play for other things like when they went away on holiday and different things. They may have played in the groups. I didn't know about him being involved in anything else.

74. BAC was at Smyllum long before me and was still there when I left. He was there for most of the time I was there anyway. He was very pleasant. I didn't have a lot to do with him obviously but he was very pleasant and very respectful. If I ever wanted a bulb changed or something done he would come



and do it and that was it really. I didn't really see him interact with children. I didn't have any concerns about him from what I saw.

**A carer called** [ADF]

75. I remember [ADF]. She was a carer and worked at Roncalli house I think. She worked with Sister [AFO]. I'm not sure if she worked with Sister [AEG] [AEG] as well. That's really all I know about her. She was a lovely girl, very pleasant. I did not know her well. I wouldn't have seen her interacting with children.

**Miss** [IAQ]

76. I don't remember Miss [IAQ]. I am told she may have also been known as Miss [REDACTED]. I remember the name, but I don't remember anything about her to be honest. I can't visualise her. I'm not sure if she was there at the same time as I was.

**Brian Dailey**

77. I know Brian Dailey's name. I think he was in a shop in the town, in a chemist that we used to go to collect medicines. I didn't know he was in Smyllum if he was. I didn't see him at Smyllum, just in the shop. I'm not sure if he was a chemist but he worked there anyway. I didn't know him as a person.

**Miss** [ACV]

78. I remember Miss [ACV]. She was a member of staff. I think she worked with Sister [AGD]. I don't remember anything about who she was with the children. I didn't have any concerns. I wouldn't have known her that well.

**Sister** [REDACTED] ADE

79. Sister [REDACTED] ADE was a member of my community. She was at Smyllum for part of my time. I don't know exactly for how long but she was there during my time. She worked with the boys I think. I wouldn't have seen her interact with the children. She was a pleasant member of the community, that's all I would know her as, really.

**Sister Vincent**

80. I know Sister Vincent, Cecilia Dowd. I only knew one Sister Vincent at Smyllum. She was in charge of a group as well and very pleasant, gentle. I think she was in Angel Guardians group. She was in the novitiate with me so I knew her a bit better than others. She was an amazing, lovely person.

**Sister** [REDACTED] AFU

81. I don't remember a Sister [REDACTED] AFU.

**Sister** [REDACTED] HBP

82. I remember Sister [REDACTED] HBP. She was there early on when I went and she left shortly, probably within the year really. She had a group. She was in St. Mary's group before Sister [REDACTED] AGD she was in that group. She was very capable and I never saw her interacting with the children. I suppose I had a bit of an affinity with her because she was a great seamstress as well.

**Sister** [REDACTED] AGI

83. I knew Sister [REDACTED] AGI. I think she was there when I arrived. She was certainly there during my time. She was lovely lady, gentle lady. I didn't see her interact with children.

**Sister** EAA

84. Sister EAA was head teacher in the school and she was my superior for some of the time. She was a lovely person.

**Sister** AEG

85. I knew Sister AEG. She was there in my time. I think she arrived after me but I don't remember the exact dates. I knew her well. She was one of my community. Again, I had a bit of an affinity with her as she was a great seamstress. She was even better than any of us. She made proper kilts and all sorts. She was amazing. I didn't see her interacting with children.

**Sister** AEX

86. I knew Sister AEX. I think there may have been more than one but the one I remember was there when I first went to Smyllum. But she moved on. I think she went on to do training. I didn't see her interacting with children.

**Sister Louise**

87. Sister Louise was an assistant. She is the one that paid my bills, she never questioned them.

**Sister** EAD EAD

88. Sister EAD was there in the early days of my time there. She was with the older boys so I don't remember her really. I never saw her interacting with children.

**Sister** AGD

89. Sister AGD was in St. Mary's. I knew her quite well. She was a very good cook. I would never question anything she would cook because she was

probably better that I was. She was always very pleasant to her children. They were the nearest group to the kitchen so they'd come in to the top of the stairs and if they didn't like what I was cooking that night, they'd say that. I had no concerns about Sister [AGD]

Sister [BAH]

90. I don't remember a Sister [BAH].

Sister [AHO]

91. Sister [AHO] was there in my time. She worked I think in two different groups. She worked in Roncalli for a while before Sister [AEG] time and [ADF?] her staff worked with her. She worked in another group as well I think. I didn't see her interact with the children.

Sister [FAM]

92. Sister [FAM] was the nurse. I don't know how old she would be but she had a little zimmer frame, she was the granny, the little granny figure. She was in the surgery near the kitchen.

Sister [EAD]

93. I know [EAD]. She was there. She was in one of the boys groups initially and then she had one of her own groups in Ogilvie House. That was a separate building to the main house which was altered and made pleasant for the group. I didn't see her interacting with children.

Sister [AGJ]

94. I don't remember a Sister [AGJ].

[ADB]

95. I have never heard of Father [ADB]. He certainly never came to say mass.

### **Interaction with the other sisters**

96. I am asked what interactions I had with other the sisters at Smyllum. I didn't see them with the children. I saw them at prayers in the morning and at recreation. I saw them in the evening time. A few of us went up to night school because we'd come from Ireland and there was a different education system there. So we would go out to get A levels before we went on to do our training so a number of us went out there at night. We did that at the grammar school in Lanark.

97. We didn't go out that much in those days but we would meet at recreation times and we would have a good laugh, good fun. They wouldn't talk about the children you see. In those days there was confidentiality about the different groups and we would hear very little about the children. It didn't occur to us to speak about the children much because I think even early on there was always confidentiality about the children so there would be very little conversation about them. So if someone had a concern about a child or something to do with a child they wouldn't necessarily tell me.

### **Allegations**

98. I am asked about some children who may have been at Smyllum while I was there and who I am told have made allegations. I wouldn't generally know the names but I might know the odd one here and there.

[AOO]

99. I am asked if I remember a child called [AOO]. I don't remember him.

100. I am told that he has said that on his very first day at Smyllum that he told a nun that he wanted to go to the toilet and that she asked what he needed and

he said a shite. I am told that he has said that the nun slapped him on the jaw and told him *"we don't say that in here"*. I don't know anything about that.

101. I am told that [AAO] has said *"I never wet the bed, but there were lots of boys who did. When the nuns found out you had wet the bed, they made a big thing of it. They made a lot of noise, making sure everyone could hear and would know who it was that had wet the bed. They would take the boy out the bed, put the wet sheet over his head and make him stand there."* I don't know anything about that. I am asked if I know anything about a regime at Smyllum whereby children were made to stand with wet bed sheets on their head. No I don't.
102. I am told that [AAO] has said that *"Generally, the food was disgusting. It made me retch. The nuns would watch you and make sure that you ate it. They stood over you and forced you to eat it."* I never saw that happening and I just can't believe it did happen to be honest. I am told he goes on to say that personal possessions such as a pocket watch that his father had given him were taken away from him. I don't know if possessions like that were taken away from children. It blows my mind but I don't know.
103. I am told he has said that *"The nuns would hit you for anything. If you didn't write quick enough. If you were running. It would be an open hand slap. They would also hit you with a ruler or a stick across the legs. I saw a lot of the other boys getting hit by the nuns. I saw the nuns kicking boys in the shins if their shoes weren't polished."* I never saw or heard anything like that. I don't know anything about it.
104. I am told he has said that you got sent to the priest for doing something wrong and that he would give you a slap as well. I would know that that wouldn't have happened. They certainly wouldn't go outside the group to send somebody to a priest. I lived in the house and I would be certain that that never happened. I didn't hear about it but that just would not have happened.

105. I am told that [AAO] has spoken about an occasion where he says that his father had bought him a radio and he and some other boys were listening to it and that [BAC] came in and battered him. I am told he has said that "*[BAC] went mad and smashed up my radio by throwing it against the wall. [BAC] then started to batter me like a man would do to another man. He was kicking me on the ground. He kicked me on the head and ribs. I think if he had kicked me any more on the head, he would have killed me. I think the attack might have lasted about 5 minutes before I lost consciousness. I don't remember anything else. I don't remember being taken to hospital. I woke up in a different dormitory from mine. This might have been an infirmary, but I'm not sure. ... After the attack by [BAC] I was in bed for nearly a fortnight. I only got out of bed to go to the toilet. I was in so much pain.*" I didn't hear anything about that but if he was in bed for a fortnight, somebody would want to know why, I think for example Sister [FAM]. There would be somebody in the infirmary if he was in bed for a fortnight and surely if he was missing from school or whatever there must have been some documentation from that time. I just can't imagine that happening, but I wasn't in the unit.
106. I am told that he has said that "*Mother superior asked me what had happened and I told her about [BAC] attacking me. She said it must have been what I had said to him, as [BAC] wouldn't do that to me. I told her I wouldn't smash up my own radio that my daddy bought me.*" I don't know anything about that.
- [REDACTED]
107. I just remember the name [REDACTED]
108. I am told he may have been in Smyllum from 1962 until 1968 and that he has said that he remembers some of the carers being very cruel and that he has mentioned [BAC] and Miss [IAQ]. I am told that he has said he was forced to eat inedible food and to drink sour milk and that "*when you sick you had to pick up your own vomit and at times were made to eat it.*" I don't remember anything like that. I don't remember the food being inedible at

all. He would have been in the other kitchen probably and I can't talk of that. I never heard of the food in the other kitchen being inedible. I concentrated on my own so I didn't hear but certainly the food was not inedible I can tell you that. I don't remember anyone being forced to drink sour milk. Children having to pick up their own vomit and at times made to eat it is just outrageous, totally outrageous, by any standards. I didn't hear of anything like that. I am told he has also said that it was completely forbidden for him to go into where the girls stayed at any time. I don't know about that. That's when the groups were separated.

109. I am told that he has said that he was in a dormitory known as Sacred Heart which was run by several staff and Sister [REDACTED] EAD and that *"my left arm was constantly slapped by Sister [REDACTED] EAD this was normal punishment for everyone"*. I don't know anything about that. It surprises me. They might just get a slap like I had from my own parents but it would never be constant slapping. I mean I don't know because I wasn't there so obviously I can't talk to it but I would be very surprised.
110. I am told he has said that himself and other boys had told a joke about Popeye and were sent to [REDACTED] BAC and that he *"pulled each of us in turn into the air by our left ear, we were then dropped by him and his hand smashed into the side of our heads on the way down (the was not a slap!), I went headlong into a metal radiator and cut my forehead"*. I don't know about that. I am asked if I think I would have heard about these things if they happened. I don't know that I would, as I did not work on the units.
111. I am told he has said that if he couldn't eat his food they would just force it down his throat and if he was sick he just got a slapped and had to clean it up and that many times his dinner was served up to him for three or four days at every meal until he finished it. I'd be surprised but I don't remember it happening. I am told that he has said that something called San Izal, a disinfectant for cleaning drains, was put in the bath by [REDACTED] BAC. I don't know anything about that as I did not work on the units.



- [REDACTED]
112. I am asked if I remember a boy called [REDACTED] who may have been in Smyllum from 1969 until 1980. I don't.
113. I am told he has said that he had to stand half naked whilst waiting to get his hair bone combed and his nails cut and ears cleaned and that they got slapped if their nails or ears weren't clean and that they would be beaten if they didn't do his bed right, that a nun would show him how to make an envelope of the corners and would check it and if it wasn't right she'd strip it again and slap him and make him to it again. I don't know anything about that.
114. I am told he has said that after his father had an argument with a nun that she banned his parents from seeing him, and that he was told his mother was dead but he was then told again about two years later by a social worker that his mother had died so that she hadn't in fact been dead for those two years. I don't know anything about any of that. I am told he has said he was beaten for bed wetting. I don't know about that. I am told he speaks of [REDACTED] BAC being violent and that he feared for his life, and that he had his mouth washed with soap. Again, I never heard any of that, as I did not work on the units.

- [REDACTED]
115. I am asked if I remember a girl called [REDACTED] who may have been in Smyllum from 1964 to 1969. I remember the name. I am told she has said that the nuns who were cruel were in particular Sister [REDACTED] AHO and a carer called [REDACTED] ADF. I am told she has said that she beaten and was made to wear wet sheets around her as punishment for bedwetting. I won't know anything about these things. I did not work on the unit so I am unable to comment on that.

- [REDACTED]
116. I don't remember [REDACTED].

117. I am told that he has said that the nuns that were cruel were Sister **EAD** and a carer Ms **IAQ** and **BAC**. I am told he mentioned the food as being inedible, and that he was made to pick lice out of other children's hair and if he was found doing something wrong he was beaten and that he had to wear the sheets around him if he wet the bed. I am told he has said he was "*I was beaten with a steel handle of a knife in the kitchen by Sister **EAD** on many occasions for bed wetting ...*" I don't know anything about these things.

**[REDACTED]**

118. I am told **[REDACTED]** may have been in Smyllum from 1964 until 1970. I remember that name. I am told she has said she was made to wear shoes that were two sizes too big and the so called staff were nothing but bullies. I don't know anything about that. I didn't notice clothes or shoes being too big or small. They were very well dressed I have to say.

**[REDACTED]**

119. I am told **[REDACTED]** may have been in Smyllum from the spring of 1958 until the winter of 1963. I don't remember her. I am told she has spoken of being forced to eat inedible food and if she was sick, being made to pick up her own vomit and eat it, sharing baths and her toenails and fingernails being cut to the quick which made them bleed. I am told she has said that if she wet the bed she was made to wear the sheets around her and if she wet her underwear that she had to wear that on her head. I don't know any of that.

**[REDACTED]**  
AAI

120. I remember the name **[REDACTED]** AAI. I am told he may have been in Smyllum from the late 50s into the 60s. Yes, I remember the name. I think there was a family of **[REDACTED]** and they weren't all there at the same time.

121. I am told he has said that "*You got that many beatings in the place, you didn't even question it. It was just the norm. The nuns and staff beat the kids. You*

got hit for anything, like speaking or not eating your dinner.” I don’t know about that.

122. I am told he has said of [BAC] that “There was a man called [BAC] who was employed as a [REDACTED] I don’t know his last name. He was a vicious child beater. He got a puncture on one of his tyres once and blamed me. He hit me so hard that my feet came off the ground. I don’t think I’ve been hit that hard since.” I never saw [BAC] hit anyone.
123. I am told that he has spoken about Sammy Carr and said that he and Sammy were playing with a match and pink nylon cloth and that Sammy lit the cloth and he [AAI] grabbed it and started screaming. I am told he has said that “Just as I started screaming, Sister [AGI] came round the corner and asked what had happened. I shouted “Sammy’s burnt my hand”. She went straight for him. She was slapping and punching him around his head and body. I was holding my wrist and knelt down on the ground, looking down. When I looked up, I saw Sammy was on the ground and she was kicking into him. I had to put myself on top of him. He was only five years old. I said “Sister, please don’t hurt Sammy. ... I know in my heart that Sister [AGI] killed Sammy.” I don’t know anything about any of that. I mean I had heard of Sammy when I was there that he wasn’t well or something but I didn’t know him myself but I didn’t know that he subsequently died, I just read that more recently. I haven’t witnessed anything like that. I didn’t hear of it. It surprises me very much. I just couldn’t see it happening. I have no way of explaining how someone could say that happened. I don’t know. I just couldn’t see [AGI] doing that. I really couldn’t.
124. I am told [AAI] has also said that “Sister [AGI] used to come and get me out of my bed at night and take me to her room. She’d sit on her bed facing the door and I’d have my back to the door. She would take my penis out and put it between her fingers and thumb and rub it. I was about five at the time. It was weird.” I could not associate that with Sister [AGI] I’ve certainly not heard of it.

AAL

125. I don't remember anybody called [REDACTED] AAL or [REDACTED] AAL. I am told she may have been at Smyllum from 1969 to 1981. I am told that she has said Sister [REDACTED] AEG was in charge of her house. I wouldn't know all the children in any of the houses to be honest. I would know of some names for whatever reason. I don't remember her name at all
126. I am told she has said that "*I used to wet the bed regularly during my time at Smyllum. Sister [REDACTED] AEG would come into the room in the morning. She would ask if anyone had wet the bed. She would dig her knuckles in the top of my head. She made me strip the bed. Sister [REDACTED] AEG would then run me a bath. The water tended to be always cold. She would then throw liquid disinfectant over me. It used to sting. My skin would be all red where the disinfectant had hit my skin. Sister [REDACTED] AEG told me to put talcum powder on it. She would stand over me the whole time I was in the bath. I wet the bed up until I was about fifteen years of age*". I know nothing at all about that. I am told that she has said of Sister [REDACTED] AEG that "*she would then make me wash the sheets. Then, just before nine o'clock when all the other kids were walking up to school, she would make me hang my sheets out so that everyone knew I had wet the bed*". I do not remember seeing children hanging their sheets out or anything like that.
127. I am told about allegations about a trip to Holy Island. I wasn't involved in any trips.
128. I am told that about the food [REDACTED] AAL has said that "*A lot of the kids in the home didn't like vegetables. If you didn't eat the vegetables you would get served them in the morning. By that time, the food was cold. We learned how to hide the food so that the nuns would think we had eaten it we would hide the food in hankies. The nuns would also force-feed you food. They would hold your nose and use a spoon to shove the food in your mouth...*" I do not remember anything at all like that.

129. I am told she has spoken of being hit by Sister [REDACTED] AEG for reading in bed, and children doing chores including scrubbing floors if they misbehaved. I never saw anything like that. I am told she has said that she was battered by Sister [REDACTED] AEG because she told another child that Sister [REDACTED] AEG had forgotten her birthday. I wouldn't know anything about that.
130. I am told she has said she was not supplied with sanitary towels when she started her period. I wouldn't know to be honest. I am told that she has said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG would end up taking personal possessions from her. I just couldn't imagine it but I don't know as I wasn't on the unit.
131. I am told that she has said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG locked her out of the house one evening, and that "*Sister [REDACTED] AEG would take me upstairs to the staff room. She would use the clothes brush or the belt. The belt was an ordinary belt. She would hit you on the body, on the back or the sides. You would be hit over your clothes. This would happen to me about two or three times a week.*" I just don't know as I wasn't on the unit.
132. I am told she has said she also saw other children getting battered by Sister [REDACTED] AEG. I've never seen anything like that, I haven't at all.

- [REDACTED]
133. I remember the [REDACTED] but I can't put a face on them. There was a little one. A little girl. I am told that [REDACTED] was born in 1965 and has said that she was in Smyllum from 1969 to 1985.
134. I am told she has said that Sister [REDACTED] AEG is the nun she remembers as being the most cruel. I am told she has said she was punched in the face and slapped by a nun with anything she had in her hand and was battered for starting her periods at eleven and making a mess of the sheets and battered "*for the least wee thing*". I don't know as I wasn't present on the unit.

AAX

135. I think I remember [REDACTED] the name but again I don't recall the name [REDACTED] AAX [REDACTED]. I am told she went to Smyllum in 1964 and has spoken about being given various punishments by nuns.
136. I terms of food, I am told she has said that *"I hated pineapple. The nuns used to make me eat pineapple. I remember being sick and made to lick it off the floor by one of the nuns"*. I don't remember serving pineapple in my time
137. I am told she has said she was tied up and gagged by nuns. I can't answer that, I'd just be so shocked. I just couldn't see it happening.
138. I am told that she has said that *"One time my mother visited when I had just been tied up and gagged. The nuns who had tied me up had left the room. Very soon after that, a whole lot of the nuns came back in. I thought to myself "Wow that was quick. That's the quickest ever that they've come back to release me." Sister [REDACTED] AFY or Sister [REDACTED] AEX then said "Don't you tell them what is going on in here. I will be listening through the keyhole."* I've never heard of anything like that.
139. I am told she has said that the nuns would sometimes try to split her up from her brother or sister if she was speaking to them while playing outside. I would see children playing outside on the swing and very happy. I wouldn't know whether they were interacting or not. I never saw any children being separated or anything like that.
140. I am told that she has said that if they wet the bed they had to wrap the wet sheets around them. I don't know about that.
141. I am told she has said that *"One time, the sisters got me to help out with setting up the dining room. I couldn't set the tables right. Every time I put down a fork, a nun leathered my hand."* I don't recall. I wasn't there.

[REDACTED]

142. I remember the name [REDACTED], not the individual [REDACTED] but I remember the family name.
143. I am told she has said she has said she was in Smyllum from 1965 to 1971 and that she remembers Sister [REDACTED] AGD in particular as being very cruel. I am told she has said that *"One time I ran away from the home with my sister and another girl as I couldn't take it anymore. The girl who was with us was killed outright by a car, I cannot take this out of my mind. I have tried. I am on medication and I get panic attacks."* This must be the one I mentioned earlier. I remember the name [REDACTED] and I'm not certain whether I remembered the incident she talks about at the time or if it's something I heard more recently but I know I have heard it and that the child died in hospital and then the family took over to do the funeral and to follow on from that.

[REDACTED]

144. [REDACTED] will be the same family. I don't remember her. Only the surname.
145. I am told she has said she was in Smyllum from 1965 to 1977 and was forced to eat inedible food and milk that was sometimes green and lumpy. I don't know anything at all about that.
146. I am told that she has said she was beaten with various instruments including a broom handle and a cane and had to wash with carbolic soap and her hair was washed with Jeyes Fluid. I don't know. I am told she has said that if you wet the bed you were made to put the sheets around you and made to put your wet underwear on your head. I am told she has said that she remembers being forced to watch her oldest brother and sister being beaten which was horrible and she'll never forget it as long as she lives. I don't know anything about it.

[REDACTED]

147. With [REDACTED] again I remember the family name. In relation to food I am told she has said that when she could not eat her custard she got it put down to her every meal until she ate it, and that it was two or three days old sometimes. That didn't happen to my knowledge but, again, I wasn't on the unit.

[REDACTED]

148. I am asked about [REDACTED] I remember the surname but I don't remember the child. I am told there is information which says he was forced to kiss the feet of Sister [REDACTED] AGD on a daily basis and was assaulted by the same sister on a regular basis. I never heard of that.

[REDACTED]

149. I am asked about [REDACTED]. I remember the surname. I am told he has said he was at Smyllum from 1965 to 1969 and that Sister [REDACTED] BAH and Sister [REDACTED] HBP are the two nuns he remembers as being most cruel. I don't remember Sister [REDACTED] BAH. I am told he has said that when his hair was washed a nun would plunge his head into the sink to wash it and his face was banged off the sink numerous times. I wouldn't know that.

150. I am told he has given an account about his first introduction to violence at Smyllum which he has said took place in his first week there. I am told he has said when he was returning one morning from getting washed that a nun in the corridor slapped him across the face and he screamed in agony. I am told that he has said that one of the worst experiences was being sent to a sewing room by a nun called Sister [REDACTED] BAH and he goes onto describe a beating that he got from her. I don't remember. I don't actually know if there was a sewing room. I don't remember Sister [REDACTED] BAH at all to be honest unless she had a different name.



AAT

151. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] AAT [REDACTED] who has said he was in Smyllum from 1961 to 1976. I think I remember the surname. I don't remember anything about him and I can't picture him. I just remember the name for whatever reason. I am told he was in Roncalli House.
152. Of the food I am told he says that "*The food was terrible. For breakfast we got porridge that looked like golf balls. You had to chew it to be able to swallow it. If you failed to eat you would be force fed until you finished it. The only way to eat it was to force it down when it was still hot*". I don't recall. It would have been cooked in Roncalli House.
153. I am told he has made allegations about the regime at Smyllum and in particular about Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] such as that she made his head bleed with a comb, and would regularly slap and hit him, including with a brush she kept under her sleeve. I didn't know a Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED]. I am asked if [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] was known as Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] as well as Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED]. She was not. At Smyllum I only her knew her as Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED]. I am asked if Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] was in Roncalli House. Yes she was. I never heard of any abuse taking place in Roncalli House, but I was not on the unit.

AAH

154. I am asked about [REDACTED] AAH [REDACTED]. I do remember the [REDACTED] family for whatever reason. I think they were discharged from Smyllum. There were quite a few of them. I don't remember [REDACTED] AAH [REDACTED] specifically.
155. I am told he has said that "*We were beaten by the nuns and the civilian staff. I can honestly say that the beatings were a daily occurrence for me. I have no reason to lie.*" I don't know anything about it.
156. I am told that he has said that "*One particular incident sticks in my head. It happened at the back stairs of the house I stayed in. Tramps used to come up*

*to the home. One day I asked one of them to tie my shoelaces for me and a nun came walking out and saw him. The hiding I got for that was unbelievable. She punched me all over and hit me on the head with a wooden hand brush. I had bumps all over. I was told that I was never to speak to any of them. I was then put into the laundry room and told that I couldn't come out until I had learnt how to fasten my lace. Nobody tried to show or teach me how to do it. It wasn't that kind of place. There was never any kind of display of love like that from them." I don't know anything about what is being said.*

### **Other children I am asked about**

157. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED]. I don't. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] I don't. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] AAA. I don't. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] AAR. I don't. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] AAV. I don't. I am asked if I remember a child called [REDACTED] AAN. I don't.

### **Looking back**

158. I am asked again if in my nine years at Smyllum my recollection is as I have said, that I never saw any children being disciplined for anything. Yes, that's correct. I saw absolutely nothing.
159. I am asked if going through some of the allegations that have been made has brought back any memories or changed my recollection about what I said about discipline and punishment and having never seen or heard of a child being disciplined. It hasn't because I wouldn't have experienced it at all. One of the things that I would like to say is the similarities between the allegations and that kind of surprised me because from what I understood at the time the groups worked independently. It feels like there are so many repetitions in what is being said and I wonder how that could be. It almost would say to someone reading these that there was a real culture of abuse in Smyllum and that was not the case. That clearly wasn't the case. It was a happy place.

There's no place perfect obviously but I would know from the sisters that I worked with that they would have done the best they could. They might not have got it right all the time but there was certainly not a culture of abuse, of beatings or anything like that to my knowledge during the time that I was there.

160. If these things happened I think I would have heard some of it, I would have noticed it. The sisters came in happy. I am sure I would have heard it. I mean certainly there was never a culture of that. How could a place be happy if that was going on?
161. Some of the information there suggests that there were certainly regimes for things like punishment for bedwetting, of force-feeding, of sisters and staff beating children. If these things were happening then of course I accept it was abuse. But I was never aware of it happening.
162. I am asked, looking back, if a child did have concerns or was being treated in any of the ways that have been described, who they could have spoken to. I think it would have been the superior or the social worker but I don't know that for a fact. Remember I've done my social work training so it's difficult to think back to that time but one would imagine they would have been quite open with the people involved which would have been the social worker and certainly Sister EAL who was the superior for quite a bit of my time there. As I've said, no child raised a concern with me. I don't know of concerns being raised with others.
163. I am asked, looking back now, if I ever saw anything while at Smyllum, that would cause me concern today. I did not, honestly, not at all. That's why I am so shocked.

## Records

164. I am asked about records at Smyllum. I don't know where these were kept. They probably would have been kept in the superior's office if there was

anything like that. I had a menu book. I had that myself in the kitchen. I don't remember where the menu book ended up eventually. I didn't continue doing the menus when I stopped cooking. I think the sisters in the houses kept their own menus once they did the cooking. I didn't keep a record of what they cooked, they just handed me a list of the ingredient they needed. I am not certain if my menu book was in the kitchen, and if it was, the kitchen was gutted. There was an electric fault in the kitchen which led to a fire. That was during my time there. I don't remember the year but then we got a beautiful new kitchen which was really lovely. It may have been lost in there. I thought it might have been in our records in London but I made inquiries and it's not there.

### **Other Statements**

165. I have previously given a statement to the solicitors of the Daughters of Charity in connection with Inquiry. That was on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017. I am happy with the content of that statement. Other than that, I haven't been asked for or given other statements. The police have never spoken to me.

### **Conclusion - helping the Inquiry**

166. I am asked if I can explain the allegations that have been made if I didn't see or hear anything of the sort while living in Smyllum for nine years. I don't know. I am shocked at the allegations and I would never have envisaged them happening in that place. I don't know how I should have known or maybe would have known but I just did not experience any of it, any abuse whatsoever during my time. I don't know how helpful I can be from the point of view of not having the knowledge of any abuse in any way.
167. It is pointed out to me that for some of the allegations I've said I don't know or wouldn't have any knowledge and that for others I've said I could not imagine them. I am shocked at the allegations. I am not saying that they didn't happen. The Inquiry has to listen to allegations that have come in. Knowing the sisters

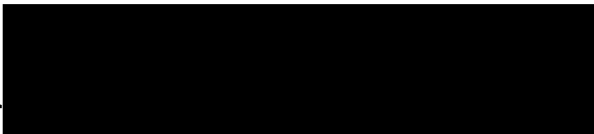
that I lived with, I could never imagine abuse or wrongdoing happening in Smyllum.

168. I am asked, if they didn't happen, whether I can you offer any insight into why I think people would say these things happened if they did not happen. I honestly don't know. That's a question for the Inquiry to answer.

169. I am told that some people have told the Inquiry that they are still affected today by the abuse they suffered in Smyllum, that it continues to have an on-going effect on their lives. I would understand that from my own social work training and from the work that I do at the moment. And from my own kind of sensitivity of it I would know that that can happen following any abuse or hurts.

170. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.



Dated.....

19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.