

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MKO

Support person present: No

1. My full name is MKO. My date of birth is 1950.  
My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. I know from records that my mother's name was . My father changed his name a few times and was called when he died.
3. I had older siblings called who was born in 1936, who was born in 1937, and who was born in 1946. I also had a brother called who was a year older than me.
4. I have a copy of records from Glasgow Corporation, which have been redacted. They pertain to both of us and that is where I have received the information about my family. The records say I was born in 1951, but they have that date wrong. I was born in 1950.
5. records say that my dad was living in London and my mother died from tuberculosis on 1956. Her death certificate said that she was last seen on Friday and was discovered dead on the Monday. An aunt came downstairs to get a pale that my mother had borrowed, and that is when she discovered my mother was dead.

6. We were taken to Lochgarry Children's Home. I had just turned five years old the month before.

### **Early life in care**

7. Lochgarry was a children's home and reception centre on Cleveden Drive in Glasgow. It was a holding place until they decided where to put us.
8. I was then in three or four different places. I remember Gryffe Children's Home because there was a big safe and that was where they kept my toy shot gun.
9. I then remember being in Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon where I had my 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. I wasn't there with any of my siblings. I don't know where [REDACTED] was.
10. I was very happy in Dunclutha. I got attached to a woman called Mabel. She used to take me out to the village and I even went to her house a couple of times.
11. I was in Dunclutha for over a year. Then one day I was just told I was leaving. Apparently I was a danger to myself in traffic. I think it was because one day I went for a hurl, which was when you hung onto the back of a car, and I fell flat on my face. If I'd known that I would be moved, and what I was going to, I wouldn't have done it.
12. I was moved to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1958, when I was seven years old. I have no recollection of the journey to Smyllum.

### **Smyllum Children's Home, Lanark**

13. When I got to Smyllum, I cried for a couple of months. I would say that I wanted Mabel and the nun would just snarl at me and tell me to shut up because I wouldn't see her again.

14. Smyllum was a big building with a quadrangle in the middle. It had massive dormitories, which were just plain rooms.
15. There were about 600 kids in Smyllum and they were segregated by sex. I don't really remember the names of any other kids in the home. I didn't make any friendships there.

### **Routine at Smyllum**

16. We got up in the morning and put some clothes on. Then went to school, which was on the grounds.

### *Mealtimes and food*

17. They used to serve us mashed potatoes with black eyes in it. They also used to serve us milk with yellow blobs floating on the top, which tasted sour to me. I would say it was sour and the nuns would just say it wasn't but I knew different.
18. They did have a farm that allegedly supported the place, so I don't know why children used to die of malnutrition there in earlier years.

### *Clothing and possessions*

19. The only clothes I remember were the new summer clothes we got. We would get a specific number of t-shirts, shorts, socks and maybe sandals instead of shoes.
20. I had a watch which was taken from me by the nuns. I wasn't told it was for safe keeping so I just thought that I wouldn't see it again. I told another boy that it had been taken from me and I wasn't going to see it again. Somebody heard it and told the nun. The nun then came out to me, made a fuss and threw my watch at me. That was quite unpleasant.

*School*

21. The school was on the grounds. We were taught by nuns. Some people have told me there were some lay teachers, but I don't remember any.
22. I have no idea how I did at school. I remember there was a chart on the wall with silver and gold stars on it.
23. I won the [REDACTED] prize every year. Not because I was a [REDACTED] but because I had a good memory. I could repeat what I had been told. I would get a prayer book and rosary beads.
24. When I got to primary seven, the head teacher, Sister<sup>EAA</sup> [REDACTED] who was a nun, called me out in front of the class. She said that my name had been forwarded for the religious education prize [REDACTED], but because I had messed my essay three times, I wasn't trying hard enough to please God so I wasn't getting it.
25. In primary seven, we had started to use dipping ink pens and I was left handed. Apparently there are left handed nibs, which is what I needed, but I wouldn't expect the nuns to know that. This meant that my pen kept stabbing the paper and tearing it.
26. The school was long on religion and short on homework.
27. In December 1952, I was about to leave the classroom one day and the nun told me to stay there because I was to take an exam. I had no idea what the exam was for. There were algebra questions in it, but we had only just started covering algebra in class. I was extremely confused about it.
28. I found out nine months later, after I had left Smyllum, St Ninian's and been sent to Castlebay School at the Isle of Barra, that it was the eleven plus exam that I had been made to sit and that I had failed it. I had been made to sit it six months early because I was being transferred from the home shortly after, even though I hadn't covered the curriculum. Had I covered the curriculum, I probably would have passed it.

*Religious instruction*

29. I was always a cynic about religion. There was a ludicrousness between religion and sanctity, and the reality of my life.
30. I probably went to Communion. I remember being Confirmed.

*Trips and holidays*

31. We used to go on these summer camps at Aberfoyle for a couple of weeks. A man called BAC [REDACTED] who worked at Smyllum, came with us. He was a pretty tall guy and was the nun's enforcer.
32. We slept in dormitories there too, which must have been ex-army dormitories. They had night lights that stayed on, which I hated. I would have preferred it to be dark. I was in a lower bunk on these steel bunk beds.
33. On one of the camps, I spotted a pony in a field. I was adventurous so I went up to it and jumped on its back. The pony walked about two steps and then I got nervous and jumped off.
34. One of the kids went back and told BAC [REDACTED] and he beat me every night for the three weeks that we were there.
35. I was also sent to my aunt's house with my brother for the summer holidays, but she cut it short because apparently we were being rude and disobedient. I have no recollection of that.

*Visits*

36. My brother, [REDACTED] came to visit me. He was a mixed blessing because he'd call and say he was coming to visit. [REDACTED] and I would get very hyper about getting a visitor,

and then [REDACTED] would either appear very late or not at all. That would then make us very upset.

37. I remember at least two social work visits. I remember [REDACTED] and I were taken into the office at the front of Smyllum. The social worker was sitting and we were standing. I suppose he asked us social worker type questions, but I suspected that the nun was standing outside the door listening, which modified our statements and answers to the social worker. The boys used to talk amongst themselves about the nuns listening in.

#### *Running away*

38. I did run away two or three times. I ran away on my own once. On the third occasion, I ran away with another boy. I nicked a bike thinking it would get me further. I have no idea where I learned to ride a bike.
39. I can't remember if I got into trouble for running away, but I imagine I would have.
40. I had to go to the children's court for it. I told the lady there that the older boy told me to do it. I was lying through my teeth as I was actually the master criminal.

#### *Medical treatment*

41. We never saw a doctor from one end of the year to another. They had a sanatorium and a nun who may or may not have had medical training.

#### *Bed Wetting*

42. I think there was a terror around bed wetting. I believe people were stuck in cold baths for it.
43. I did wet the bed once when I was about eight years old. I woke up in the middle of the night and the bed was wet. I was absolutely terrified so I took off the sheet and

folded it up. I went to the clean linen cupboard, got a dry sheet out and put the wet one in the cupboard. I put the dry one on my bed and went to sleep.

44. When it came to bed changing day, I accidentally pulled my wet sheet out of the linen cupboard that I had put in. I took it, scrunched it up and put it in the dirty laundry pile so I was never discovered.

### **Abuse at Smyllum**

45. The nun wasn't very supportive of me when I first went in, when I was crying for Mabel.
46. We used to get locked in a cupboard as a punishment. I have no idea for what misdemeanour they would do that. Some of the boys would scream when they were put in there.
47. The nun would shove me in the cupboard, but I loved being in there. When the nun would later pull me out, I would have a big grin on my face, which ticked them off something chronic. I was out of the way of all the kids and had some personal space so I was happy.
48. I woke up one night and couldn't get back to sleep. I sat up in bed while everybody else was sleeping in the big, oblong, dormitory.
49. There was the open doorway to the dormitory, then two or three little steps. This white apparition appeared in the doorway. I thought it was the "Virgin Mary" and was absolutely terrified. I tried to scunch myself up under the covers and make myself really small.
50. The "Virgin Mary" came floating over to my bed and stood at the foot of my bed. Any metaphysics of the situation were dispelled when the "Virgin Mary" grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and dragged me out of the dormitory. She took me to the toilet and beat the crap out of me with a cricket stump. She hit me everywhere, on the head,

arms, legs, back. That was probably the biggest trauma with one of the nuns, and that was bad enough.

51. I am told by a source who doesn't want to be identified or involved, that then nun's name was Sister <sup>EAC</sup> [REDACTED]
52. This same source tells me that the nuns and other staff used to pick on my brother and I. Apparently, I had sticky out ears but that doesn't seem like a good reason for child abuse. My brother was in a different dormitory so I never saw what was going on with him.
53. I don't remember ever getting the belt, but I think the nun in school used the blackboard pointer.
54. I didn't see anything happening to other children but then most other nights I was asleep.
55. I remember being in the quadrangle one day. Other children were around too. All of a sudden <sup>BAC</sup> [REDACTED] appeared, and lifted me up by my ears. I am sure I went up on my tiptoes and grabbed onto his wrists. I just screamed because it was excruciatingly painful. He didn't say anything, he just had a stupid grin on his face.
56. There was another time when I was in the quadrangle, and he came up to me and kicked me so hard on the backside. My bowel cramped up and I screamed. It was absolutely agonising. Again he didn't say a word, he just laughed.
57. [REDACTED] band and said I was going to be in it. If he said you were in it then you couldn't say no. His way of curing me from playing bad notes was to smash me across the mouth with an open hand. It's a bit hard to play a trumpet or a recorder with a split lip.
58. <sup>BAC</sup> [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] the games and he never let me play the games. I don't know why.



59. He even came on holidays with us when we went to Aberfoyle for summer camp. One boy told him that I jumped on the back of a pony that I had seen in the field. [REDACTED] told me that he was going to come into the dormitory every night for three weeks and beat me with a cane, which he did. I think there was maybe one night when he didn't beat me.
60. I am firmly of the belief that because of [REDACTED]'s role as an enforcer for the nuns, that he was guilty of at least one, if not two murders there. I read in a report that [REDACTED] had beaten up a boy and the boy died about a month later. There was probably no inquest or investigation in to the cause of death.
61. I was in the choir and I used it as a release and an outlet. In Catholic churches, the choir is at the back so you can bounce your voice off the stain glass windows. I remember a nun saying to me after choir one time, that I was ruining it for everybody because they could hear me over everyone else.

#### *Sexual encounters*

62. I had two sexual encounters. One occasion was when I was about seven or eight years old, and another boy who was about the same age in my dormitory told me to lie down on the floor. When I did, he started masturbating me with both hands. I didn't know what it was at the time. It must have been visceral because I said he needed to wet his hands, so he spat on his hands to wet them.
63. The other incident involved a girl whose name I don't remember. She dragged me off into the bushes and made me engage in a sexual activity. She was about the same age as me.
64. It was only years and years later, as an adult, that I wondered if something had happened to those two kids in the home. It occurred to me that these acts were quite precocious for children aged about seven or eight. The boy had used both his hands

when he masturbated me, and I thought that there would likely be something quite large there for him to use two hands, and that certainly wasn't me at aged seven.

### **Death in the home**

65. I remember a kid getting killed in the home. The story I got was that he had been hit in the head by a golf ball. I don't know what year it was.
66. There used to be stupid game where some kids would be on one side of the playing field with golf clubs and balls. The aim of the game was for them to hit the golf ball over to the other side, and the children on the other side would get the ball and bring it back, and then they got to have a shot. I wasn't allowed to play any of the games because <sup>BAC</sup> [REDACTED] never let me. He would have been the one who [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### **Leaving Smyllum**

67. In August of 1962, when I was eleven years old, a complaint was made by Smyllum saying that my brother and I were unmanageable. In reality, it should have been my brother and I who complained about the nuns.
68. The decision to shift me from Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1963 was worked out between Glasgow Corporation and the nuns. Nobody spoke to me about it. They just came to me and told me I was leaving. I was sent to St Ninians in Fife shortly after my twelfth birthday.

### **St Ninians, Falkland**

69. There are vaults and arches on the lower ground floor at St Ninian's, where they had the store rooms. I was down there one time and I ran into a guy. I looked at him and

said: "you're [REDACTED] aren't you?" He said that he was and I told him I was MKO [REDACTED] and said bye, and walked away. [REDACTED] must have been at St Ninian's before I got there.

70. The routine was quite similar to the routine at Smyllum. The only thing that was peculiar was that we went to classes in the morning, games in the afternoon and then classes in the evening. That was because it gets dark early in Scotland.
71. I don't remember details about the routines like what the washing facilities and haircuts were like. Details like that are lost on me and they are also unimportant. What I do remember is the nuns telling me white was black and black was white.
- 72.
73. I got a prize for singing in St Ninians, so that was a bit different from my singing experience in Smyllum. I also got a prize for art.
74. St Ninians was ok, except for one unwanted sexual encounter.

*Sexual encounter*

75. I had an unwanted sexual encounter in St Ninians. I was out in the garden one time and a boy was masturbating. He told me to rub it for him. I had just turned twelve years old, and the boy was older and bigger so I rubbed it and some white stuff came out.
76. I was sufficiently disturbed so I went to a Brother and told him. The Brother later came back to me and said that the boy had said I instigated it, not him. The Brother then started talking about how it was something I should share with my wife. I had no idea what he was talking about.
77. I was only in St Ninians for about six months. Then one day a car showed up and a lady took [REDACTED] and I to a train station. We got on the train and I remember asking the lady where we were going but she wouldn't tell us.

78. We arrived in Oban and then got on a boat, and we were taken to the Isle of [REDACTED]. I don't think we had even been told us that we were being fostered.

**Foster Care – Mrs <sup>MKP</sup> [REDACTED] Isle of [REDACTED]**

79. [REDACTED] and I went to live with a foster carer on the Isle of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 1963, when I was twelve years old. Instead of a nice mum and dad figure, which I would have expected from fostering, we stayed with this old bat and her son, <sup>MKQ</sup> [REDACTED] who was in his late twenties or early thirties. They were a Catholic family.
80. The woman was a widow and she had a croft on the island. There was a cow and a couple of sheep dogs and some chickens. It was like going back to the stone age. There were peat fires, tilly lamps, and no electricity.
81. [REDACTED] and I shared a double bed upstairs in one of the rooms. We had to go to the toilet outside in the byre, and used the well to get water.
82. It was the summer holidays when we arrived so we were straight in the fields to work. Everything on the croft was done by hand. <sup>MKQ</sup> [REDACTED] mowed the grass and cut the crops and peat. [REDACTED] and I would rake the hay, then turn it to dry it. We would gather up the corn and the peat, and stack it. That carried on for some time.
83. When school started, we worked at the weekends and during harvesting. It never occurred to me to interact with anyone and make friends. We just went to school and back to the croft. Then we just worked during weekends and holidays so we didn't have an opportunity to make friends.
84. There was a lot of un-filleted, boiled cod on the menu so I would always have a mouth full of bones. Nobody taught me to eat off a fish. I wasn't keen on it and didn't eat much of it.

*School*

85. I went to secondary school in [REDACTED]. When I got to the school, the first thing they asked me was if I had taken the eleven plus exam. I didn't know that I had but I assumed I must have so I just said that I had and that I had passed.
86. I was put into the academic set. A couple of weeks later they fished me out of that class and put me in the shit-head education system. I wasn't given much chance to try and cope with it.

*Medical treatment*

87. The house was built into a hollow by the side of a hill. There was a path at the side, past the house and a field at the top. We were working in the field one day and the tractor started to roll down the hill. Mrs MKP and MKQ told me to jump on the tractor and stop it. I did but I had no idea how to stop it so MKQ jumped on it. The tractor hit a boulder and threw me off. The wheel dragged me under and the tractor went over me before toppling over.
88. I tried to get up but couldn't because I had fractured my pelvis. I was taken to the Sacred Heart Hospital in South Uist by boat. I can't remember how long I was there for. It would have been quite a while.
89. I remember getting a letter from Mrs MKP telling me the tractor was fine, before asking how I was. They did send me a package with biscuits and things in it, but they never came to visit me once. I didn't mind because I couldn't stand them.

*Pocket money*

90. There was one really hot day while we were there. [REDACTED] and I were working in the field and sweating like pigs. The ice cream van came round so Mrs MKP bought us an ice cream.

91. This would have been on a Saturday and we used to get our pocket money on a Saturday, after tea. Then we would walk a couple of miles up to the church hall and watch a movie or get a bottle of soda and candy with our money.
92. On this Saturday, I asked Mrs MKP for our pocket money. She said that we had already had it because she bought us an ice cream in the field earlier that day. I got really shirty with her and said that we had worked hard in the hot field and we had deserved that ice cream. I told her I wanted my pocket money. She looked scared and afraid, and actually gave it to me.

### **Abuse in foster care**

93. There must have been a financial arrangement between Mrs MKP and the Glasgow Corporation for her looking after us. I told her one day that she was getting paid for having us, and she said that she didn't get paid for me when I was in hospital.
94. We were ill fed, ill dressed and used as slave labour. Looking back, she and her son just wanted a couple of boys as unpaid labour, which is what we were. I only found out later that my brother and I being in the field all day was the talk of the community. There were other kids on the island, the [REDACTED] brothers who seemed happy with their lot.
95. MKQ was on the tractor one day, and I was interested. He told me to hold on to this lead, which I did. It was a high tension lead and I got a huge shock off it, which he thought was funny.
96. They discovered a cut on the tractor tyre, which could have been caused by barbed wire. They said that my brother and I had taken a chisel and made the cut. We wouldn't have dreamt of doing anything like that. We were sent to bed.
97. Then Mrs MKP came upstairs with MKQ and her other son, [REDACTED]. They all had walking sticks and they beat the crap out of us.

**Leaving foster care**

98. I got depressed while I was there. I was talking to the neighbours and they said that they heard that I had been messing about with the tractor, and that's how I got injured. I was very indignant and appalled because it hadn't been my fault. I was almost crying and kept repeating that I wanted to leave the island.
99. The parish priest came to see me and I kept repeating the same thing, that I wanted to leave. I don't think he got much out of me. I was on such a psychological one way trip, I just kept saying I wanted to leave.
100. Before I left, I told Mrs MKP that I needed new shoes because mine had holes in them. She told me not to worry about that and that the next place I was going to would give me a new pair.
101. I had been on the island for a year before I eventually left. I know from [REDACTED]'s records that I was moved in [REDACTED] 1964. I left on my own and [REDACTED] stayed on the croft. I wanted to go but I had no choice in where I went from there. I was put on a plane and taken to Glasgow. I threw up on the plane half a dozen times.

**Gryffe Children's Home, Bridge of Weir**

102. When I got to Glasgow, two social workers picked me up. They looked like they were from the mafia with their belted trench coats. They took me to Gryffe Children's Home. I was thirteen years old at the time.

103. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 

104.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

105.

106.

107.

108.

109.

110.



Secondary Institutions - to be published later

111.

112.

113.

114.

115.

116.

117.

118.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

119.

120.

121.

122.

123.

124.

125.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

126.

127.

128.

129.

130.

131.

132.

133.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

134.

135.

136.

137.

138.

139.

140. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

141.

142.

143.

144.

145.

146.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

147.

148.

149.

150.

### Leaving Gryffe Children's Home

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

151.

152.

153. I was sent to a place called Lochaber boy's hostel.

**Lochaber Boy's Hostel, Glasgow**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

154.	
155.	
156.	
157.	
158.	
159.	
160.	

161. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

**Ardoch Hostel, Glasgow**

162. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

163.

164.

165.

166.

167.



**Life after being in care**

168. I went back to Lochaber for a while and then I went out to digs. I was on my own from 1966, just before I was sixteen years old. then moved into bedsits.
169. I was getting about seven pounds and fifty pence a week. I was paying five pound rent and was left with two pounds fifty for the week. I was essentially starving to death. I didn't know about getting benefits or I would have gotten a top up.
170. It was just a case of survival from then on. At seventeen, I had a bedsit and a job moving pianos. I had to work to pay my rent.
171. I stayed in Glasgow until about 1969. My brother, [REDACTED] invited me to stay with him, his wife and four children in London. I couldn't adjust to the family setting and I had a difference of opinions with my brother, so I didn't stay long there.
172. In the early 1970s, I was contacted by a Mrs Kathleen Murray who worked for Glasgow University's department for extension, whom I had previously met through the Douglas Inch Psychiatric Clinic. She told me that she was making a film to educate people who were sitting on children's panels. In order to move a child in care from one hoen to another, they were going to have to bring children in front of the panel and ask they child what they wanted. I was involved in the making of this film. He main reason that she asked me was that I was intelligent and articulate and had been in many institutional placements.
173. I can remember Kathleen Murray being a little disappointed when I turned up for the final filming session in an expensive suit. She asked me why I was wearing a suit and I questioned in my mind why she wanted me to look like a scragamuffin.
174. My main conclusion to the project was that it didn't matter how many people these children went before, they were going to be far too frightened to voice their preference with regards to being moved, because the super-intendant would have the ultimate power over them. They had the child in total isolation both physically and psychology

at the institution, and could make life very difficult for them should the child go against their coercion.

175. The first time that Kathleen Murray showed the film to a group that she was training, a Scottish schoolteacher insisted that the whole thing was a fake. He stated that no institutionalised child could speak standard sophisticated English, and could never have gone to evening classes and gotten O Levels. Kathleen Murray didn't let me know what she thought about it, but I would have felt extremely concerned for any child that ever came before that person on a children's panel.
176. After that, I was on my own. I was depressed and going from job to job. Then I met an American student in 1977 whilst working in a camera shop in London. We started dating and got engaged after a week. She then went back to America and I followed her in [REDACTED] 1978. We got married and I lived in America.
177. I lived in Wisconsin with my wife. I felt trapped after getting married and it ended after five years.
178. I was a truck driver in America for the University of Minnesota. I was in a relationship with a woman called [REDACTED] who helped me get through these algebra and geometry courses, which I needed to get into university.
179. I started a degree in sociology and economics at the University of Minnesota. I was doing that for twenty or thirty hours a week plus working forty hours a week as a truck driver. I did three years of a four year degree, but it didn't work out. I started to feel so tired after lunch that I almost had to put my head down. That was the beginning of a sleep disorder and I wasn't able to finish my degree.
180. My relationship with [REDACTED] ended. I developed a sleep disorder and had to leave my job. I came back to the UK for economic reason. That was in 1993 when I was 42 years old. I moved to Oxford and have been in Oxford since.

181. I went to the University of Cambridge in 1998 and studied social and political science. One of my lecturers from Wisconsin University had written a reference for me saying that I was capable of doing a PHD.
182. I was at Cambridge University for three years. I had a breakdown in the first year. I was registered disabled and had no support, so the university let me repeat my first year. In that second year, I was robbed and assaulted and almost beaten to death. That meant I had to take a term off, but I still passed my exams.
183. In my third year, which was the second year of the degree, I wasn't functioning too well. One of my lecturers filed a complaint that the work I was handing on might not be my own. I had never handed in any finished work to this person and she never gave any reasons to back up her claim. I think it was because I had told a supervisor that I was getting help from the disabled students department to help me in the library. I had a break down over this incident and dropped out of Cambridge.
184. I have been in a relationship with my current girlfriend for 23 years.

### **Impact**

185. When I went shopping as an adult, I used to go and buy a specific number of shirts underpants and jeans. It was like what I got in Smyllum.
186. I have suffered from depression and anxiety the whole of my adult life. That is probably attributable to my time in care as a child.
187. I got married in America to trap myself in a relationship. I thought that if I was trapped in a situation, I would reconcile myself to intimacy and closeness, but it made me unhappy instead. I started to drink pathologically heavily and wasn't very nice to my wife. I was drinking because of acute anxiety and depression.

188. I had a lot of relationships. I feel that's part of the malaise of being abused. I was looking for connections.
189. I was drinking heavily one night and I imagined that I could see the nuns. I imagined them metamorphosing into vultures. They were saying that they had me as a child and now they were going to kill me. I thought, I'm not going to let you get me.
190. According to my girlfriend of 23 years, my life would have been much different if I had gone to university at eighteen years old.

*Medical treatment*

191. I saw one therapist in America. I told him about the child abuse in Scotland, and he told me to consider if I had brought the abuse on myself because negative attention was better than no attention. He didn't last long.
192. I have had a sleep disorder for over twenty years. I was wired up for a few days, and it was established that I sleep better during the afternoon. I don't sleep through the night, and then manage to sleep a few hours in the morning. I then get so tired after lunch that I can't function, and I need to sleep in the afternoon.
193. I have received hostile medical treatment from what I call the Nazi Health Service in Britain. They have told me I am a social, psychological and moral degenerate, and that I am inappropriately seeking medical attention, as if having a sleep disorder was a conscious, moral decision on my part, and not a result of depression and anxiety.
194. Whenever I have suggested that my health problems are linked to my childhood, medical professionals have told me that I can't prove that. I have had British medics snarl at me and say that I can't prove that. This is just so that British authorities don't have to acknowledge that they have played any part in what has happened to you.
195. I remember going to the Warneford Hospital in Oxford for an assessment by an psychologist. I was almost comatose with depression. A German man saw me and

wrote on the report that there was nothing wrong with me. I called him and said it was all wrong. I think he was going to see me again but I wasn't able to go.

196. I was put into cognitive analytical therapy. Part of it was writing and I was getting anxious about writing. The doctor thought I was being assertive, and I should have been ranting and raving and screaming. I don't behave like that because where I came from, if you ranted and raved, you got murdered.
197. I used to go to a day centre in Oxford. One of the counsellors there thought I'd be an ideal candidate for cognitive behaviour therapy. I got a referral from my GP to see a psychiatrist called Chaplain. I told him that cognitive behaviour therapy had been suggested, and he said that was reserved for people with serious conditions like schizophrenia. I also told him about my sleep disorder, and he said there were no facilities to treat that in Oxford. These statements were lies.
198. The psychiatrist then sent my GP a report saying I had abnormal illness behaviour, which means I am inappropriately seeking services and nothing is wrong with me. He also wrote that no further contact with the department recommended. Apparently he did that with people he didn't want to treat, I didn't see that report but my GP did.
199. I found out later that there were two facilities for sleep disorders in Oxford. One was for sleep apnoea and one for neurological problems. It was established that I don't have sleep apnoea so I went down the neurological route.
200. I ended up going to a private hospital and paying for an appointment. He wrote in my report that I needed to get motivation and get a job.
201. I have given up on seeking any kind of psychological services. I did go back to the GP for help with my sleep disorder and when I said I had had it for over twenty years, he said there was no point doing anything about it now. It absolutely floored me.
202. I didn't go back to the GP until I was half dead with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, with a blood oxygen level of 70 percent, which is enough to kill most people.

### Reporting of abuse

203. It says in my brother's records that we both complained, and the social worker writes that he doesn't know what to believe because I was much practised in complaining. The only place I would have complained about was Smyllum, but the social worker chose not to believe me. I think his name was Nolan.
204. ██████████ and I complained about child abuse on the foster placement in the Isle of ██████████.
205. I complained about the abuse from ██████████<sup>BAC</sup> some years ago. A police woman in Lanarkshire checked it out. She told me that the nuns said they never employed anybody called ██████████<sup>BAC</sup> and he wasn't on their payroll. The guy was on the premises 24 hours a day. Apparently, his brother ██████████ at Smyllum and the nuns gave them a house when Smyllum closed in the 1980s. If he wasn't on the payroll, then why were the nuns giving him a house?

### Records

206. I started trying to get my records about seven or eight years ago. They didn't have any judicial responsibility then to make records available. Apparently they had dumped all the records at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow and I was told to get in touch with them. The Mitchell Library said they had ██████████ and ██████████'s records but not mine.
207. Glasgow Council then said it may have been a family file, which isn't true. I spent months trying to get my brother and sister's records. They kept saying they had sent them somewhere and hadn't gotten them back.
208. There was a re-organisation of local councils in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. At that time, the children's home were put into different region areas. Gryffe was put into Renfrewshire and Dunclutha was put into Argyll and Bute, so Glasgow Council told me to contact them directly.

209. Glasgow City Council told me to contact them directly, but I don't think this was appropriate. Although the homes had been dispersed to new authorities, the actual responsibility of my records had been Glasgow Corporation's when I was a child.
210. I kept being told to contact other regional councils, who would say they didn't have them either. I was just being sent from pillar to post. I have it all in writing. I eventually got [REDACTED] records, but they were minimal. Apparently [REDACTED] records are lost.
211. I got one page from Smyllum Park which said what date I arrived, that my mother was dead and my father was in London. That was all they had on me.
212. I found out from Glasgow City Council that records for a [REDACTED] MKO had been sent out in the 1960s and that perhaps two [REDACTED] MKO records had gone out but they couldn't say for sure.
213. One of the agencies who help find records, contacted the Western Isles to find my records [REDACTED] I was told that the shutters came down and the walls went up when trying to get information.

### Other information

214. They put eighty percent of the kids in Scotland in the shit-head education system. Children were seen as vermin by the local authorities. They weren't interested in our education and just wanted to get us off their hands as soon as we turned fifteen years old and get us into work.
215. I did not get any medical help in my entire institutional career.
216. There is a lot of information on Smyllum, but hardly anything on Gryffe, [REDACTED] Secondary Ins

[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

217. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
218.  
219.  
220.

221. 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. MKO [Redacted Signature]

Dated. 17/4/2019