

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HCI [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is HCI [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1953. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. I have been to multiple places during my time in care. However, the institution that I wish to focus on in terms of my evidence to the Inquiry is really only St Ninian's in Gartmore.

### Life before going into care

2. My father's name was [REDACTED]. He was a bus driver and did that for most of his life. My mother's name was [REDACTED]. She stayed at home and looked after the kids. I had one sister and two brothers. [REDACTED] is one year younger than me, [REDACTED] is two years younger than me and [REDACTED] is three years younger than me. As kids I got on well with my sister and brothers.
3. We were a Catholic family who all spent the early part of our lives in Townhead in Glasgow. We lived in the old style of tenements. In those days in Townhead everybody was happy and knew one another. You could leave your doors and windows open. It was a strong community. We were always well fed and clothed. Clothes were passed down but that was just the way things were back then. People nowadays laugh at that sort of thing but that was just life when I was a kid.
4. I went to St Mungo's Primary School. The school was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from my house. I did well at school. I always got on well at all the schools that I went to when I wasn't getting into trouble. The problems were all really

at home. My father was a bad man who was violent. My mother never really got much of a chance in life because of him. He used to beat her. One of the worst things about growing up around my father was that you could hear my mother screaming next door when he beat her. At our age we just couldn't do anything about it. I hated my father for what he was doing to us.

5. I started going out stealing when I was younger to get my mother some money. I was really only doing that so we could survive. What money I earned from stealing wasn't spent on myself. I had to do that because my father wasn't giving my mother any money. It was all minor things. My first conviction when I was young was for stealing empty bottles off of the back of a ginger lorry. My mother kept that from my father. She used to hide things from him. He eventually found out that I had been convicted because when it all came out in court he was fined a pound. Both my mother and I ended up getting a beating from him.
6. My father was having an affair with a bus conductress called [REDACTED]. I saw him picking her up at the bus station. I saw all of that happening. I remember my father coming into the house for his dinner and smashing plates against the wall. That gave him an excuse to go out and meet her.

### **Langbank Residential School, Langbank, Renfrewshire**

7. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] I think I was there when I was either eight or nine. That would mean that I was either there in 1971 or 1972. I was maybe there for only a month. I think it was for about three or four weeks. It was definitely during the time I was still at St Mungo's. I think that it was all arranged through my primary school.

8. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]

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### **Life between Langbank and St Ninian's**

14. When I was about ten I ended up getting into trouble again. I can't remember what I had done exactly but it was something like stealing sweets out of a shop or something like that. It was something really minor. At the age I was it was more just childish pranks than anything else.
15. I ended up having to go to a court hearing. I think that was held in Govan Sheriff Court. It was certainly a court within Glasgow. It was definitely a court rather than a social work office. I don't recall there being any social work involvement. I think there was something like a children's panel there. I didn't have any representation during the hearing. It was just myself, my mother and my father who were there in front of the panel.
16. I don't remember anyone asking me during the hearing, or before the hearing on other occasions previously, what was going on or offering to help me in response to my offending being discovered. What I do remember is my father saying "your honour my son is getting unruly and I can't control him." That was a lie because we never saw much of him. He was out working all of the time, out drinking with his pals or out with his fancy woman. Looking back, I think he said what he said because he knew that I knew what was going on with his fancy woman.
17. After my father said that I was pretty much sent straight away to St Ninian's. There's something makes me think that I might have been told that I was getting put there for my own protection. However, nobody really explained to me where I was going or what was happening. I think somebody from the court took me to St Ninian's. It was

just myself and this other person in the car. I don't remember much about the journey. All I remember is that my head was down most of the time.

### **St Ninian's, Gartmore, Stirlingshire**

18. St Ninian's was an approved school run by the Da La Salle Brothers. I know that De La Salle also used to run St Mary's, which is an institution I ended up later on, and also another institution called St John's. I was there between 1973 and 1974. I would have been there between the ages of approximately ten and eleven. I think I went there in the [REDACTED] time and left around about [REDACTED] time. I was there over a year. I could have been there as long as eighteen months. I don't think it was any longer than that.

#### *Layout of St Ninian's*

19. There were four driveways that led up to the main house. I think there were five gatehouses. The land surrounding the main house was massive. They had an orchard, fields and a pond within the grounds. It was a beautiful place.
20. The main building was called Gartmore House. To someone the age I was when I was there the house looked massive. It looked like a big palace with turrets and battlements all along the top of it. It was located just past the orchard. To the left of the building was a work area and a gymnasium. On the other side was a path which took you to the back of the building to the kitchen.
21. There were four levels to the main house. It had a basement. There was a library. The TV room was just as you entered the main house at the back. There was a table tennis table in there. It was used as a chapel on a Sunday. The dining hall was to the left hand side of the main house if you were facing towards it. It was next to the kitchen. There was a serving area where you would go up and get your food.

22. Opposite the dining hall were the showers. They were quite far away from the dormitories. The only way you could access the showers was by walking along the floor above then coming down a set of spiral stairs from above. I remember that the showers were located just below where some of the Brothers slept. The Brothers all had different types of rooms where they stayed. I remember it being really dark in that part of the building. The only reason that you may be going into that part was if you were going to see the Headmaster.
  
23. The main dorms were all on the first and second floor of the main house. Some of the main dorms were smaller than others but broadly they were all pretty much the same. There were smaller dormitories at the far end of the building. They were located above Mr MCK classroom.

#### *Houses*

24. There were five Houses in St Ninian's. They were a means of dividing up the children that were there rather than physical houses. There was St Patrick's, St Andrew's, St George's, and De La Salle. I think the Houses were divided up by age groups. I remember that it was older boys in St George's. Each House had a different dormitory. I was put into Da La Salle. Different Brothers were in charge of each of the Houses. Your House dictated what colour socks that you wore. I remember that Da la Salle was yellow, St Andrew's was blue, St George's was red and St Patrick's was green

#### *Staff structure*

25. It was the Brothers who ran the place. There was one Brother in charge and another one who was his deputy. Below them there were the other Brothers. I think there were about eight Brothers in total who worked in St Ninian's. Some of the Brothers were teachers in the school but not all of them. The Brothers mostly wore the monk uniform but occasionally they did wear their "civvies." They only really wore civvies when they were taking you somewhere out of St Ninian's. They all had rooms in the main building.

26. Other than the Brothers there were civilian staff who worked in the school. There were quite a few civilian workers in the school. Some of them were teachers and some of them weren't. Most of the teachers who were civilian were involved in the vocational side of the classes, such as woodwork. They were largely all good people.
27. There were staff members who had been former residents of St Ninian's. They had stayed on at the place after they had been due to leave. Some of them were in their middle twenties. They still lived in the dormitories with the younger children. Some of them worked in the farm and the orchard owned by the school.

### *Staff*

28. Brother MCA was SNR of St Ninian's. He was SNR of the place. He was a small man with glasses. He was always hunched up. He didn't teach. Being SNR was his only role.
29. Brother MBU was the Brother who seemed to be the Brother who was in charge of me. I think he was something like SNR. I think he was also in charge of De La Salle House. He was a teacher in the school but I was never in one of his classes. He ran the football team. I remember that he kind of took me under his wing because I liked my football. I got very close to him around about the time that my mother was dying. He was a good man. I met Brother MBU in adult life. I was in my twenties and I bumped into him on Edinburgh Road in Glasgow. I recall that he had gone on to become SNR of a place called St John's. I think that place has been pulled down now.
30. I can't remember the name of the Brother who was in charge of the class I was in at the school. He was quite tall and had grey hair. He was a good man.
31. Brother Benedict was in charge of the tuck shop and the canteen. I don't think he had any other role. He seemed to just float around the place. I would say that he

was either in his late thirties or forties when I was there. He was a big man. He wore glasses and had curly hair. He was always walking around the place with a smile on his face.

32. Brother **HED** was one of the Brothers who used to drive the bus. I don't think he was a teacher. He was quite short and stocky. He was quite a happy man.
33. Brother Anthony was one of the oldest Brothers who stayed at St Ninian's. He was the gardener. He didn't have any other role. I remember him just being an old man who walked around the place humming all of the time. He was a nice old man.
34. Mr **MCK** was a teacher in the school. He had his own class. I think his class was for the younger boys who were at the school. He was also in charge of the horses and the ponies.
35. Mr McKenna was in charge of the woodwork classes. He stayed in a room above where the woodwork classroom was. There was a PTI. He wasn't a Brother. I can't remember his name but he was a good guy. There was also a farmer. His name was Mr Hutchinson. He stayed in one of the gatehouses. I think he still lives there to this day.
36. Miss Berry was the housekeeper. She ran the kitchen, did all of the laundry and was also the nurse. She did some amount of work in there. She was a nice woman who was always helpful. I always got on well with her. I once met her later on in adult life. She still stayed where she stayed in Gartmore when I was at St Ninian's.

*The children at St Ninian's*

37. It was all boys at St Ninian's. I'd say that there were over a hundred boys in St Ninian's altogether. There were kids in there as young as seven or eight. There were people in there who stayed on after they were sixteen and became staff members. I would say they were in their middle twenties. Looking back, I think I was one of the boys who was there for the shortest length of time. I remember boys



who had been there most of their lives. I don't know whether their parents had died and that was just where they ended up.

38. I don't know what the general background of the children who were there was. Whilst I was there I thought they were just the same as myself. I assumed they had got into trouble then got put in there. I'm not sure where most of the children came from but I do remember boys who had come from Dundee, Aberdeen and places like that. You could tell that there were boys from all over Scotland by their accents.
39. I always remember one wee boy in there. His surname was [REDACTED]. He was always getting beat up by the other boys because he never stopped laughing. He'd laugh even when he was receiving the belt from one of the Brothers. Looking back, I don't know whether something had happened to him that resulted in that smile being permanently there. Other boys I remember from my time at St Ninian's are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

### **Routine at St Ninian's**

#### *First day*

40. My first impression of the place was that it was frightening. I had been taken away from an environment I knew then thrown into a place where I didn't know anybody. I'd never really been out of Glasgow for any length of time up until that point. It was really only until after I arrived that I discovered what was going on.
41. I think Brother <sup>MCA</sup> [REDACTED] met me when I arrived. He spoke to me and told me what the rules were. The rules were really just to do what you were told, do the cleaning right and keep yourself clean and tidy. I was then given a House and told what dormitory I was in.
42. After meeting Brother <sup>MCA</sup> [REDACTED] I was taken downstairs to see Miss Berry to get a set of clothes. After getting my clothes from Miss Berry I was shown my dormitory

before being taken to my class. I remember that I was introduced to my class by the Brother who was running that class. I got to know the other boys soon enough during the breaks and when we were playing football. I kind of made pals quick that way. I think being good at football helped me settle in quickly. I just got into the run of things.

#### *Daily routine*

43. A staff member would come around in the mornings to wake you up. They came around with a bell. I think that was either at 6:00 am or 7:00 am. It was early. You would get up, get your breakfast then do some chores. After chores you would go to class. After class you had your lunch in the dining hall. You then got to go out and play for a while before having to do some more chores. After that you were back in for more classes. After classes you got a bit of free time. You would have to be back in for dinner time. Dinner was held in the dining hall. You got a bit of television in the evenings before you went to bed. You either did that, play table tennis inside, football outside or you went to see the ponies. After that you were in for a certain time for bedtime. At the back of 9:00 pm the staff member would come into the dorms and tell everyone that it was lights out.
44. The only difference at the weekends was that we didn't have classes. We would go and play sport instead. Sometimes, when it was the season, we would be taken to pick potatoes. Other than that the routine was much the same.

#### *Sleeping arrangements*

45. The only time that you were in the dorms was when you were there to sleep. The rest of the time you were either at school, out working or out playing. The dorms were named after the Houses. The first dorm I was in was called St George's. I think St George's was the biggest dorm because that was the biggest House. It possibly had between sixteen and twenty beds.

46. I remember that it was always individual beds in all the dorms. They were lined up down either side of the dorm. Some of the dormitories had another line of beds down the middle but that wasn't the case with the dorm I was first in. The beds were metal frame beds with a mattress. They were just like hospital beds. We were provided with blankets and things and were warm enough during winter.
47. I got moved out of St George's dorm around the time that my mother died. I'm not sure whether that was before or after she passed away. The next dormitory I was placed in was up the stairs away from the main area of the school. It only had two beds in it. I didn't even know that the dorm I was placed into existed until I was put there. I don't know what those rooms were generally used for.
48. There was a staff member who would be on night shift. The person who did that changed all the time. They would come around the dorms just before lights out. That would maybe be about the last time during the night that you would see whoever was on duty come into your dorm. They only really came in after that if there was "carrying on" in the dorms amongst the boys.

*Washing / bathing*

49. It was always drummed into us by the Brothers that we needed to be well dressed and clean. You had a shower at least twice a day. You usually had one when you got up. Whether you had one in the evening as well depended on what colour you were after your work or sport. After your showered you went to the locker room, which was next to the showers on the same floor, got changed then went straight back to your dormitory.
50. They were communal showers but they were sectioned off into cubicles. There wasn't any doors on the front of each of the cubicles. There must have been about twenty cubicles with showers. Adults would supervise shower times. The staff member supervising would vary depending on who was on duty. I remember, in particular, Mr MCK and the PTI teacher supervising shower times.

*Mealtimes / food*

51. The dining hall was massive and full of tables. There must have been over a hundred boys eating in there at any one time. Each table was numbered. I think it was one to twenty or something like that. You couldn't pick where you sat. You were allocated where you sat when you started at the school and then that was it. You didn't change seats until you were told to change. There were four boys at each table.
52. I remember getting things like sausage and eggs for breakfast. I remember at other mealtimes you would get stew, ham, meat and things like that. There were always vegetables served with the meals. Generally the food was ok. It must have been because we all got by with it. Like most institutions you quite often didn't get enough to keep you going. However, if you were hungry you could go down to the orchard or the gardens and help yourself to fruit or you would go out and pick blackberries or things that nature would provide. It was ok that way.
53. You were sometimes made to eat things that you didn't like. I always remember that the margarine didn't taste right. They used to make it there. It had a kind of sour taste to it. I don't know how they made it but it was rotten. I also didn't like the marmalade they had there.
54. If you complained the staff would say that you weren't getting anything else then sit and watch you until you did eat whatever it was. If you continued to refuse to eat something then you were made to go up and see Brother MCA. That never happened to me but I saw boys being sent to see him for that. I, like most of the other boys, would force whatever it was down. I remember being made to drink milk that was off. Ever since that happened I can't stand sour milk.

*Work / chores*

55. When you weren't in classes at school you either did chores or general work. They had a range of jobs that you could do during the day. They had their own gardens at

St Ninian's. Brother Anthony was in charge of the gardens. He was the one who kind of got me into gardening. I remember they had a big glasshouse where we would grow on plants before planting them on all around the place. They also had an area which made up "bumpers." Bumpers were those things that you used to polish floors back then. I remember we all used to make those ourselves. I remember melting down lead and using the molten lead to attach the cloth to the bits of wood.

56. The chores we did were at different times during the day. The Brothers would tell you what you had to do. I remember being out in the orchard pruning trees. If you weren't doing that you were doing mostly cleaning work. It was just the way that it was. There boys there polishing and shining all the floors all of the time. The floors were like glass in there. I also remember different boys being picked to clear away and do the dishes after mealtimes.

*Clothing / uniform*

57. You didn't wear your own clothes. St Ninian's provided you with your clothes. When you arrived you were taken out of what you were wearing and handed two pairs of socks, underpants, corduroy shorts, a vest and a shirt. Up until that point I had never worn short trousers. The only differences between the uniforms we wore were the colours of our socks. They changed depending on the House you were in. We wore the same clothes throughout the week. Other than your day to day uniform, St Ninian's provided you with football boots and your kit. Some boys had boots that were better than the ones that the school provided that had been handed in by their parents.
58. I think we got changed every Thursday into a clean set of clothes that were kept in your locker. That was always there. The dirty set would go to the laundry. There were boys who would come to collect them and take them to Miss Berry. I think there were wee tags on your clothes with your name and your number. My number was [REDACTED]. If you grew out of anything they provided you with something that was larger.

*Possessions / pocket money*

59. Your main locker was located in the locker room next to the canteen in the main house. That was where you kept your clothes. You also had a small locker next to your bed for your own personal things. They didn't lock. I didn't have anything there that was mine. I didn't have anything like pictures of my family or anything like that. The only things I had in my small locker were those things that had been provided by the school. I put things like toothpaste and soap in there.
60. Your parents could send you in money. You also got pocket money from doing certain chores. You got a certain amount of money for doing certain things. As long as you did your chores you were paid at the end of the week. It was only about threepence, sixpence or something like that. It wasn't a lot of money. Every Friday night there was a tuck shop set up in the dining hall. That was run by Brother Benedict. You spent the money that you had been paid there.

*School*

61. There were four classes in the school. I would say that there were between twenty and thirty children in each class. The classes were split into age groups. You didn't move around classes or anything like that. You didn't move around between subjects like you would in a normal school. You stayed in your class and that was it. They taught the usual things in the school. I remember that I was good at spelling and arithmetic.
62. There was a different staff member in charge of each class. The one staff member who was in charge of your class taught you everything that you needed to know. I don't remember the name of the Brother who was in charge of my class. The teacher would come up to you when you were doing your work, check what you were doing and help you out if you needed it. We didn't get given any homework because we didn't have anywhere where we could do our homework. Looking back, the teaching was good at St Ninian's. I think the education was pretty similar to what I had been getting at the other schools I went to.

*Leisure time*

63. I would never have been involved in a lot of things if I had remained in Glasgow. I would never have had the opportunity to go hill walking, mountaineering or canoeing. You could go out into the forests in your free time. I loved climbing and remember being a bit of a daredevil when I was younger. I remember loving climbing trees. I was always the one at the very top of a tree when nobody else could get to it.
64. I remember that there was a putting green at the front we used. There were canoes out on the pond there. As long as you got permission you could use them. There was no supervision from staff when you went canoeing but there was always older boys there. The pond wasn't very deep anyway so it would be hard to get in any trouble. St Ninian's had its own horses and ponies. I think there were about ten horses and ponies of all different sizes. My favourite one was called Gypsy. We could ride the horses and ponies after school and at weekends.
65. I think the table tennis table was down in the canteen. If there was a movie on in the television room then the whole school would be sitting in there watching it. You would maybe only get a movie once a week. That was usually at the weekends.
66. There were lots of organised sports there. We had sports days and things like that. Every Wednesday they took you out in a bus and made you do a three mile run. We would be driven out to Aberfoyle, dropped off and made to run through Queen Elizabeth Forest. We'd do that at all times of the year. I remember being freezing cold because all we were wearing was shorts and a vest.
67. There were two football teams at St Ninian's. There was a younger and an older team. The team I was in was run by Brother MBU. I was a right winger. I was very small for my size but I was very fast. The team was part of a central highland league. We played on Saturdays. We used to play a team at Dunblane Hydro quite a lot. I think the team that we played came from an orphanage for children whose parents were soldiers and sailors. I remember that team coming to ours to play us

too. I remember us playing another massive school on the way out to Perth. I also remember us going out to Stirling. I remember us winning the league so we couldn't have been that bad.

68. St Ninian's had their own school bus. We were taken in that from St Ninian's to swimming baths in either Whiteinch in Glasgow or at an orphanage for children of sailors and soldiers located in Dunblane. That happened two or three times a week. Different Brothers took us out swimming. Most of the time it was either Brother MBU or Brother HED who took us. Occasionally it was someone else who took us. I remember that when we went to the swimming baths in Dunblane the lessons were mixed in with both boys and girls who went to that orphanage. I have never been a great swimmer. We were all basically thrown in at the deep end and had to teach ourselves to swim.
69. Boys weren't allowed to be involved in any activities organised outside of St Ninian's. I don't remember anyone being part of the cubs or the scouts or anything like that. Looking back at my time at St Ninian's in some ways it kind of opened up my life. I got to do things that I never would have done if I hadn't been there. I learnt a lot about outside life. I enjoyed that part of being in St Ninian's. I've always enjoyed sport and the outdoors since doing that there.

#### *Religious instruction*

70. It was all Roman Catholic in there. They taught religious studies during class time as well as all the usual topics. You always had to go to chapel on a Sunday. That was held in the TV room. A priest would come in and give the service. I don't remember who the priest was but he was someone who came in from outside of St Ninian's. He also took confession. You might have prayers given to you following confession but praying wasn't normally part of the routine of the day.



### *Trips / holidays*

71. We never went away overnight but we did leave St Ninian's in order to do certain activities. Sometimes that was during the week and sometimes that was at weekends. You had different things to do at different times. It all depended on what you did. If you were in a sports team, for example, you would be doing things like training when boys that weren't on the team did other things.

### *Leave home*

72. I think that once you were in for a certain length of time you got home leave. Brother MBU and Brother HED were the ones who would drive boys home for their leave. They would also pick us up.
73. The first time I went home Brother MBU drove me. I remember being taken home for the day and being collected by him at the end of the day. I think that was so that I could visit my mother who was unwell. I was already aware of that because one of the Brothers had told me my mother was unwell before the trip home. They let me know that my mother was in hospital and that she was in a bad way. I remember that after I was dropped off at my house my father took me up to the hospital to see my mother. I remember that during that visit my mother asked for my granny to look after me.
74. The next time I was taken out I was again taken to visit my father at home. It was only a matter of weeks after the first trip home. I think that was just before that year. It was during that trip home that my father told me that my mother had died. I remember him saying "right HCl your mother's away." That was it. That's all he said. Later that day I was taken back to St Ninian's.

### *Pastoral care*

75. My mother had cancer in her arm and it spread to her brain. She was only thirty one. Her death made things kind of hard for me. After she passed away it was quite hard

for me to not show my emotions. I was crying quite a lot in the dormitory. I remember Brother <sup>MBU</sup> asking me whether I was ok and whether he could help me out in any way. He was quite supportive. There was no agenda there, he was genuine. Ultimately, Brother <sup>MBU</sup> moved me out of the dorm that I was in to a smaller one. I don't know whether that was maybe because I was crying so much.

#### *Birthdays / Christmas*

76. I don't really remember what happened on my birthday. I think I got a couple of cards from my family and that was about it. I don't remember anything else. I don't remember the school doing anything.
77. I was at St Ninian's over Christmas time. The older boys who had worked there after the age of sixteen went home for Christmas but I don't think anyone else got to do that. I can remember there was a tree and decorations put up and everyone got a present from the school. I think we got a bit more food at dinner time. I can't remember anything further than that.

#### *Visits / Inspections*

78. There wasn't anything like a visiting day. People could come up to see you whenever they liked. Visits were mostly at weekends. I think they were ok about it as long as your visitor called the school in advance and it didn't interfere with the day to day things in terms of your education.
79. I didn't see my brothers or sister during my time there but my father did used to bring my granny or my maternal aunt to see me. My father had a car at the time so they would come up to St Ninian's, collect me and take me out. We'd go out for the day in the Trossachs and places like that.
80. I had no visits from anyone else other than my family. There were no official visits from people like social workers. I don't remember there being anything like inspections during my time there.

### *Review of Detention*

81. There was nothing like a one to one or meetings during my time there. The only meeting I had with staff there was with Brother MCA at the start where he told me to abide by the rules.

### *Letters*

82. The only contact I had with family outside of visits was through letters. You could write a letter and one of the Brothers would post it. You could write a letter any time you wanted. There was an area in the canteen where you could buy stationary to do that. I didn't really do that a lot because I was never much of a writer.

### *Healthcare*

83. Miss Berry would do check-ups on all the boys. She would check your heart rate and all of that. She was also the one who boys would go to if they felt unwell or had an injury. If you felt poorly during the night you would tell whoever was on duty that you were ill. That person would then call for Miss Berry to come from her house in Gartmore to see you. She was kind of on call throughout the night. I think there was a doctor who used to come in from Gartmore if you were unwell and they were needed. That never happened with me.
84. Miss Berry was the one who would take you to hospital if you needed to go. I used to have a problem with my finger. It used to swell up occasionally. It still does that to this day. At one point Miss Berry was taking me out to a hospital in Stirling two or three times a week. They never got to the bottom of what was making my finger do that.
85. Miss Berry would check your teeth if you had a toothache or anything like that. She would take boys to the dentist if they needed to go.

### *Running away*

86. There were a couple of occasions when I wanted to run away from St Ninian's. I think I didn't because it was too dark. I remember that it was pitch black darkness at night around the place. You couldn't even see five foot in front of you if you were outside. It was a "black black." That was frightening to a kid of my age back then.
87. There were a lot of kids who did run away. A lot of the time they ran away during times when we were on trips away from St Ninian's such as going swimming. They always got caught and were brought back. They had nowhere to go. They would wind up going back to their parents' house. There would be people just sitting there waiting for them.
88. I remember two boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were always running away from the place. They were always caught and brought back. I remember that sometimes they made it as far as Glasgow. They were usually brought back by the police or one of the Brothers went to collect them. It was usually Brother <sup>HED</sup>[REDACTED] or Brother <sup>MBU</sup>[REDACTED] who collected them. When the boys came back they were punished by the Brothers. They were given the belt and then watched.

### *Bed-wetting*

89. I think there was a toilet on each landing that you could use throughout the night. I don't think I ever wet the bed. There were a few boys who wet their beds though. Looking back, it was just nerves. It was a frightening place if you had never been in a place like that. The boys would just get up and change their beds. The staff and the Brothers dealt with it all. Sometimes certain boys would let all the other boys in the dorm know that certain boys had wet their bed. There would follow name calling and so on.

## **Discipline and punishment**

90. If you weren't doing what you were told to do you were given homework, detention or extra chores to do. Sometimes you didn't get given pocket money if you didn't behave. That would mean you couldn't go to the tuck shop on a Friday. You just ended up borrowing money off of other boys to get around that. Once you were into a routine you just knew what you had to do so discipline and punishment wasn't really an issue for me.
91. I had never experienced corporal punishment at school prior to going to St Ninian's. Boys were sent to Brother MCA for the belt. That never happened to me but I do remember that happening with other boys. That happened if boys were caught after running away or swearing. Swearing seemed to be a big thing back then there.

## **Bullying at St Ninian's**

92. You always get bullying amongst boys everywhere. There was nothing that serious that went on whilst I was at St Ninian's. I never had a problem with that during my time there. I think that was because I was involved with the football and part of the team. That meant that I made friends and was always together with them. I was kind of part of a clique.
93. I do remember that the Brothers strongly discouraged bullying and dealt with it when they discovered it happening. They'd get whatever boy who was thought to be bullying and deal with it. They would keep an eye on any of those boys who they thought were bullies. I think some Brothers took that more serious than others. I remember Brother MBU taking it more seriously.

## **Abuse at St Ninian's**

94. Most of the Brothers and staff in there were good people. I don't have any complaints about most of the staff that were there. When I first went in there I got on alright. I settled in well. It was only later on that things started to happen.

### *Mr McKenna*

95. Mr McKenna's favourite thing was to hit you over your head with a metal whistle that he had. He'd clunk it over your head during class. He'd do that if you hadn't done something right or were speaking back. If you did something wrong you just knew you were going to get that. It would be sore when he did that. I remember the pain lasting for about an hour. He never broke my skin when he did that but it did hurt. It was a pain similar to hitting your shin. Looking back, it was cruel that he did that but back then you just accepted these things.

### *Brother MCA*

96. Brother MCA was really quite a bad man. If you were caught swearing by him you were made to stand in a corner by his room in the corridor. You would be outside his door for four or five hours with a bar of soap in your mouth. It was half a bar of soap. The brand was White Windsor. You couldn't move or take the bar of soap out of your mouth. That happened to me three times. I remember having the taste of soap in my stomach for days on end after each time that happened.
97. All the Brothers had belts but Brother MCA had a belt that used to stick up like a stick. It was never hidden. He always made sure that it was always on show. I remember him always using that. He'd just do that in front of everybody. Anything could prompt him to do that. It could be just because he was in a bad mood. I remember him taking swipes at boys around the school if they were caught running or anything like that. That happened quite regularly. It was usually just one hit but if he caught someone he would hit them repeatedly.

98. I remember him hitting me with his belt. His favourite place to hit you was on the back of your legs and your backside. We all wore short trousers that weren't very thick so they didn't offer much protection. I remember having welts on the back of my legs and my backside after he hit me. They were there for months. It wasn't like they were there for days. They would hang around a long time.

*Brother Benedict*

99. At times Brother Benedict was ok but at other times he was cruel. You just knew that you had to keep on his good side. It all depended on what mood Brother Benedict was in when you were getting your food from the tuck shop. If he was in a bad mood he would come out and chase you. He'd either jump out of the hatch or come out of the door. He would then beat you up and take your sweeties and juice off of you. I remember him drinking whole bottles of juice in front of me then giving me back the empty bottle. He'd just laugh about it and walk away. It seemed to be someone different he went for each and every Friday night. If it wasn't you it might be the next person. Sometimes it depended on what sweets or juice you bought.
100. It only happened to me once and that was when I bought a bottle of orange. He threw me to the ground, knelt on my chest, took my juice off of me, drank it then gave me the empty bottle back. He was a big man so it was something to have him kneeling on your chest. You couldn't do anything about it. You just had to accept it.

Mr MCK

101. It was when I started to get into the horses and the ponies that he started the abuse. That was about five or six months after I started at St Ninian's. He started off doing what he did when he helped me up onto whatever horse I was riding. He would touch me where he shouldn't have been when he was doing that. He'd touch me over my clothes but also put his hand up the leg of my shorts and touch me under my clothes.

102. We used to ride the horses through the surrounding forests. I remember that he would kind of make your horse hold back. He'd then use that opportunity to sexually abuse me. He'd touch you but he also make you do things to him. He'd make you touch his penis with your hand and your mouth.
103. Mr MCK was one of the teachers who was involved in orchestrating the runs on Wednesdays. I remember him standing at certain bits along the way waiting for boys to come along. When we got back to St Ninian's he was always standing there waiting in the showers. He would stand there telling us what we needed to do. We all were that cold that we would run straight into the showers. He'd always make one boy stay back at the end to clear up the mess. That would boy would have to pick up the kit that all the other boys had thrown down onto the ground.
104. When I was kept back he would use it as an opportunity to abuse me. That happened with me at least on four occasions. I remember him telling me to clean the area up before helping me with picking up the laundry. Whilst he was doing that he would be touching me where he shouldn't be touching me both over my clothing and under my clothing. His hand would slide up my shorts and he would touch me. He'd then make me touch him. I didn't know whether I was doing right or wrong. I was just doing what I was told. I was frightened to say anything. I don't know whether he did the same to the other boys who were kept behind but looking back he was probably doing the same things to them too.
105. Over time things escalated from the touching to full on sexual abuse. Ultimately, he ended up raping me on multiple occasions. He must have raped me on at least eight occasions throughout my time at St Ninian's. The first time was in a classroom. That was some time before my mother passed away. Another boy had said that I needed to go to the classroom to see Mr MCK for some reason or another. His classroom was on the first floor in one of the turrets of the building. When I walked into the room there was no one else there but him. He told me that I had done something wrong with the horses. He told me that because of that he was going to give me the belt. He then made me bend over a table before hitting me over my backside with a belt. He then pulled my trousers down and raped me. I remember



him pushing my face into a cushion that he usually kept on a chair in his class. He told me not to make any noise.

106. After it happened he said something like "you don't tell anybody about this. If you tell anyone about this I'll make sure you will stay here and you won't get to go home." He then said something like "if you want to go home to see your mum again then don't mention this to anybody." He knew at that time that my mother was dying in hospital. He knew what he was doing. He then just told me to go back to my dormitory.
107. I had blood coming out of my backside after the first time he raped me. I noticed that when I woke up in the morning. There was blood all over my trousers and on my bed. I got up and got on with my day. When I came back my bed clothes had been changed. I don't know who changed my bed but I don't think it was Miss Berry because she would have said something if she had seen something like that.
108. The second time I was raped was when I had been moved into a different dormitory following my mother dying. I had been moved from the main dormitory to a smaller one which only had two beds. During the night I woke up to find Mr MCK in bed with me. He then raped me again.
109. He later on raped me up in the field where the horses and ponies were kept. You just knew what was going to happen when he sent you up there to feed the horses and he was behind you. He raped me two times in the field and on a further three occasions in the woods when we were out riding the horses. He would send the older boys ahead and hold me back. The abuse continued until I left St Ninian's. When you are the age that I was you just didn't understand what was going on. At that age you hadn't been told or heard about anything like the things that happened to me.
110. Mr MCK's hands were always on other kids. He did that to everyone. I think that was why you didn't think much of it when it first happened. None of the other boys talked to me about being assaulted by him. I don't know whether he was doing the

same thing to other kids in there but I do know that he held other boys back in the showers. I can only guess that he used those opportunities in the same way.

### **Reporting of abuse whilst at St Ninian's**

111. I didn't want anybody to know what was happening when I was at St Ninian's. Mr MCK had threatened me that I would be in St Ninian's for a long time if I did tell anybody. I remember one of his favourite phrases was "nobody would believe you anyway." I couldn't speak to my mother or father about what was happening to me. I couldn't speak to my granny because I didn't want her to know about what was going on. In the end I didn't report what had happened to anybody. I was just petrified at that age. I didn't know what was going on or what was happening to me. I knew what was happening was wrong but, at the same time, I just wanted to get home to see my family again. I think I just viewed it in some way as if it was a punishment.
112. There wasn't really anyone formally in place who I could have opened up to at St Ninian's itself. I do wonder if I had opened up to someone like Brother MBU then something might have happened. I don't think the Brothers knew what was going on. Brother MBU knew what was happening with my mother dying but he never knew about the abuse I was suffering.
113. Thinking about it now, even if I had told anybody what was happening who would have believed me back then? I've heard time and again of people at all sorts of institutions who tried to report things back then and were just told that they were lying and making things up.

### **Leaving St Ninian's**

114. I think it was because of my mother's death that I got released from St Ninian's. About four weeks after my mother died Brother HED told me that I would be going

home. He just told me that I needed to go and pack my stuff and that was it. I left for home that same day. Either Brother <sup>MBU</sup> or Brother <sup>HED</sup> took me home. After I was taken home there was no follow up from anyone. I was just taken to my father's and left.

### **Life after leaving St Ninian's and before going to St Mary's**

115. After my mother died it was decided that my Auntie [REDACTED] would take [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], my Auntie [REDACTED] was going to take [REDACTED] and I was going to go to my granny's. That all kind of changed after my father got married to [REDACTED]. We all ended up staying with our father instead. I hated [REDACTED] because I knew she had been having an affair with my father before my mother passed away. As far as I was concerned, she took my mother's place. [REDACTED] was the only one who ever seemed to take to her.
116. As soon as I got home I knew that I didn't want to stay at my father's. I ultimately ran away because I couldn't stand staying there. I ended up staying with my maternal granny. Her name was [REDACTED]. She stayed in Blackhill in Glasgow. I'd actually been born in her house. I ended up going to the secondary school part of St Mungo's before going to another secondary school called St Rocks. I remember we used to nickname it "Alcatraz" because of what it was called. I never had any problem at school.
117. Unfortunately, I then got into some trouble again. I fell in with folk who were getting into bother. My grandmother always used to say that it was because I was always going around with "bad boys." I'm sure that those boys' mothers probably said the same thing about me. There was a wee team of us from school who did everything together. Anything bad that happened in Townhead would come back to us. It was just that kind of thing.
118. I loved cars and was charged with an offence connected to that. I was then taken to a court hearing. I think the court was Glasgow Sheriff Court. I don't remember

anything about the hearing but I think I had representation. I can't remember whether there was a social worker involved. I remember that I was taken to St Mary's straight from court. I think it was a social worker who collected me from the court and took me to St Mary's.

### **Kenmure St Mary's Boys' School, Bishopbriggs**

119. I went to St Mary's when I was either twelve, thirteen or fourteen. That would mean that I first went there at some point between 1975 and 1977. I think I was there in total between eighteen months and two years. It was all boys. It wasn't a secure place. You could walk out if you wanted to. I don't think it was Brothers who ran the place in St Mary's. It could have been run by the local authority by the time I was there.

#### *Staff*

120. All the staff were good at St Mary's. They were all civilian. Donald Forbes was the Headmaster. I always remember his car. He used to drive a big Humber.

121. Mr McDonagh was the baking teacher. He was a big man. I remember that he could hold two big bags of flour under his arms and walk along quite happily with them. If I tried to put just one of those bags on my back I would be crushed. There was a woodwork teacher. I don't remember his name. There was an engineer who worked there. I don't remember his name. He was a wee guy.

122. There were people there working who were in their twenties who had never left from the time that they first went there. I just don't know how those sort of people put up with that sort of thing. They lived in quarters within St Mary's itself.

*The children at St Mary's*

123. St Mary's was for boys who were older. There were none of the very young boys there like we had in St Ninian's. I think it was for boys from the age of thirteen or fourteen upwards. The only boy whose name I remember from my time at St Mary's was a boy called [REDACTED].

**Routine at St Mary's**

124. You had normal classes as well as more vocational stuff. There wasn't as much by way of academic stuff but it was still there. I think that was because you were older and St Mary's were more concerned with getting you ready for leaving school. Their thing in there was to get you outside of school into the world of work. I remember doing classes in woodwork and baking.
125. There was a lot to do at St Mary's. There were all sorts of past times that you could turn your hands to. For me though it was the same as it had been with St Ninian's and I became involved with the football. The team I was in was in a league. We played all different teams in and around Glasgow.
126. Most of the time I went around with another boy called [REDACTED]. He was the [REDACTED] at high diving. I think it was Mr Forbes who asked me to go to competitions and training with him purely to keep him company. [REDACTED] used to train in Wishaw. I used to do that about three times a week.
127. Once you proved that you were able to do work and might be able to get a job outside of St Mary's you started to get home days. If you came back from those trips home you were trusted. That then meant they could think about letting you out. It was much the same thing as I experienced in prisons later on.

### **Abuse at St Mary's**

128. I had no problems with St Mary's. There was nothing in terms of sexual abuse. I was much older when I was there. I could handle things better by that stage. There's nothing even in hindsight looking back that I would consider abuse.

#### *Unnamed "engineer"*

129. You saw a lot of fights in St Mary's but there really wasn't a problem with bullying. The fights were mostly between staff and the boys. There was a staff member who was the engineer in St Mary's. A lot of guys, for whatever reason, seemed to want to pick fights with this guy. I remember that he could handle himself. The fights used to happen around the back of the main building at St Mary's. All the boys would stand around watching the fights take place. It was just the same thing as a school fight. Looking back, if you got beat you got beat. We handled it amongst ourselves. Once it was finished those that were fighting would shake hands and that was it. It never happened with me but I did see the engineer fighting with the boys there.

### **Reporting of abuse whilst at St Mary's**

130. There wasn't really anyone I could go and talk to if I had any problems. I didn't speak to anyone about the engineer. I don't think I viewed that as anything back then. It was just a part of the things that went on there. It wasn't a thing.

### **Leaving St Mary's**

131. Once you got a job outside of St Mary's and prove to the staff there that you could keep it you were let out at weekends. That was gradually extended until you were given a letter to say that you didn't need to go back. I ultimately left when I was between fifteen and seventeen years old. I remember that on the day I left I walked down Kenmure Road and got a bus into Glasgow. St Mary's wasn't a bad place but I

was glad to get out of there. I just wanted home. No matter where I was put I still wanted to go home. I was glad to get out and get my freedom back.

### **Life after leaving care**

132. I went to go and stay with my grandmother. That was when I started working for the first time. I mostly did labouring work. I still got into bother but that was mostly because I was drinking. That pattern continued throughout most of my young life. When I was eighteen or nineteen I ended up in YOI Glenochil. I found Glenochil harsh. I think it was a sharp short shock kind of place to try and shock those who go into not getting into any more trouble. It didn't do me any good because shortly after leaving YOI Glenochil I ended up being placed in YOI Polmont.
133. I did my detention before I ended up doing my borstal. Looking back, that is strange because it is usually the other way round. I was only in Polmont for about three months. Polmont felt like a walk in the park to me compared to Glenochil. Polmont was more of a keep fit routine. It was all work or doing exercise in the gym.
134. In my twenties I briefly returned back to my father's. I think that was not long after my granny died. Whilst I was there I was accused of stealing money from [REDACTED]'s purse. I just had enough. I had it out with my father over the way he treated me. I told him that he had never once told me that he had loved me or anything like that. He never did that even when we were getting closer before he died. They say time is a healer but that wasn't the way with my father. He didn't change right up until he died about four years ago.
135. I then packed my bags and left my father's house. I ended up sleeping rough in cars and closes for years. I just hit rock bottom. I hit the drink and ended up in prison again. Looking back, ending up in prison was a godsend to me. It got me out of the situation I was in.

136. I have been in trouble most of my life. Most of it has been for silly things. My daughter says to me "it's not that you're a bad person you're just stupid" and she's right. The longest stretch in prison came in 1996 when I was sentenced to twelve years. I just switched off when I was there. I behaved myself, did what I was told to do and kept myself tidy. I just got on with it and made sure that I didn't do a day extra. I left prison in 2002 after that sentence with four years parole. I've only got into trouble once since then. I only ended up being in prison for three weeks on that occasion.
137. All I do now is work, eat and sleep. I don't go out. I don't drink. All I live for now is really my grandkids, my son and my daughter. That's my life now. I get out of bed, go to work, come back home, have my tea then go to bed. I do that day in day out. I've worked solidly. I have my own house and I have got my mortgage paid off. I've tried to be a good law abiding citizen.

### **Impact**

138. What happened in St Ninian's ruined my life. I tried for years to pretend what happened didn't happen to me. I don't know whether what happened to me in St Ninian's set me on the path that I chose but it did have an effect. I think the abuse has had more impact on me than I have perhaps realised in the past.
139. When I was younger I wanted to forget these things. I tried not to think about it. I pushed what happened out of my mind. I drank a lot. I would definitely connect that with coping with what happened in St Ninian's. I don't really drink nowadays. It's not that I have given it up it's just that I don't want to nowadays. I used to get flashbacks about what happened during my time in care. I don't get that so much now because I think I am talking about things and it's all a bit more fresh in my mind.
140. I connect my later time getting involved with crime and getting in trouble with my time in St Ninian's. My experiences there left me, in a strange way, against society. It's not that I don't care about authority it's just that it all left me with "a don't care



attitude.” I had that attitude all the while when I was younger. Prison didn’t become a thing for me. It just felt as if it was like going to school. I think that was partly because it was all the same people who were there that I had been with when I was in care or getting into trouble outside of care.

141. I no longer feel anti authority. I think that is in a large part due to my daughter being married to someone who has relatives in the police. I wouldn’t want her to be shown up in any way by something I might do. I just don’t want to waste my daughter’s life. She doesn’t need me getting into bother and giving her a red face.
142. Ever since my time in care I have not really had much trust in people. I can’t hold down a relationship. I’ve not been in a relationship for seven years. The last person I went out with was my daughter’s best friend’s mother. We got on great but it I just wasn’t ready for it.
143. I think my time in care did affect my ability to form relationships with my siblings. I don’t know whether what happened with me going into St Ninian’s brought that on or whether it was because my father remarried. It could be purely because I didn’t get to see them all that much. It was only much later in life after my father remarried again that we were able to all come back together again. [REDACTED] and I used to be very close but over the years we’ve drifted away from one another. We don’t see much of one another now. I get a card from my sister once a year at Christmas and that is about it. I don’t really see much of her but we do exchange cards.
144. I found it quite hard to relate to my son and daughter because I was in and out of prison quite a lot during the time when they were growing up. I asked my ex-wife to make sure that they kept in contact but that didn’t happen over the years. I was in contact with [REDACTED] more than [REDACTED]. I am now back in contact with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I am getting on great with my son and my daughter.
145. A few years ago I used to have parties all of the time. Ever since I stopped those none of the people I hung around with want anything to do with me. They were

people who were supposed to be friends and loving me and all of that. None of them want to know me. That's hard to take.

146. Seeing what you see in the papers and the news every day concerning abuse brings it back. It's been fifty seven years since what happened to me at St Ninian's and it's all still there. It's really vivid. It feels as if it happened only yesterday. It does bear on my mind. There are times when I don't get a wink of sleep. It just all drains you. It feels as if there is a constant pressure and stress there. In recent times I have lost a lot of weight because of it. I think I have dropped down four notches on my belt. I think that is just the stress of it all coming back. It is still hard to talk about what happened but it is getting a little bit easier. It feels all a bit lighter on my shoulders.

### **Treatment and support**

147. I started talking about what happened with a social worker about three or four years ago. She was seeing me for another matter. For some reason I just opened up to her. She was really good and helped me to open up. It was the social worker who said that I should do something about what happened and the way I was feeling. The social worker then tried to get me an appointment with a psychologist. Unfortunately, every time they offered me an appointment I just couldn't get away from my work. My employers at that time were strict with allowing people time off. In the end I never did attend an appointment.
148. As part of my claim against St Ninian's a psychiatric counsellor by the name of Dr Mary Ross was instructed to write a report on the impact of what had happened to me. I have met with her in the last few months and she has produced a report. Dr Ross's report has gone into things in a lot of detail. She says that a lot of what has happened in my life is because of the abuse I suffered in care. Dr Ross says that I need at least thirty sessions of therapy because what happened has affected me so much. I do worry whether, even if I do get the help that Dr Ross suggests, it might be too late. Having said that I know that as soon as I start talking about what happens it feels like a relief.

## Reporting of abuse after leaving care

149. I've just had this all going around my head for all this time. The first time when I thought about doing something about reporting what happened to me was when I saw Jack McConnell MSP say something along the lines that he didn't believe that abuse had been going on in institutions in the news. I don't remember what year that all was. It could have been about seven or eight years ago. Hearing that made me angry because I knew what had been going on.
150. I then went to see a lawyer to do something about it. I told him about what had happened to me and asked him whether there was anything that could be done. At that stage he told me that, because so much time had passed, I couldn't do anything about it. I was told that I was time-barred. I was told that because the abuse I suffered was in 1973 I was too late to make a claim. I didn't think that was right at all. It felt bad hearing that my claim was time-barred. I just felt that the man who had abused me had done what he had done and there wasn't anything I could do about it.
151. Some time later I got into some trouble again and ended up speaking to my lawyer again. During the course of his conversation with me I again mentioned the abuse I had suffered at St Ninian's. He then advised me of the changes in the law surrounding time-bar. Since I met with him he has been in contact with the De La Salle Brothers. That has gone on over the course of the last two years. They've not made any response or done anything. At the time of signing this statement my case is currently being reviewed by an Advocate. It was after seeing my lawyer that I decided to get in contact with the Inquiry to see if I could help with my evidence.
152. The only people in my family who know about what happened are my son, [REDACTED], and my son's mother. He was shocked when I told him about what I had experienced but he's been really good about it and supportive. My daughter, [REDACTED], doesn't know anything about this nor do I want her to. I don't want to poison her mind with what happened to me. She knows that I was at St Ninian's but she doesn't know anything further. If it ever ended up in court I might feel differently but

right now I just don't want her to know. It's really hard because my daughter knows what I'm like. I have to keep from her that I'm trying to do things about what I experienced. I just have to put a brave face on it all.

153. I've never spoken to the police to report what happened. I want to see what happens with the Inquiry before I go down that route.

### **Records**

154. I did have a photograph taken by Brother MBU that he took during a time when I was visited by my father at St Ninian's. I have never been able to find that photograph. I haven't got any records from my time in care. I would like to recover my records but I wouldn't know where to start.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

155. Once you were out of the places I was in that was it. There was no one available for you to talk to afterwards. There were no follow ups. Nowadays, if you are on parole there is support available for you. That didn't happen back then. I don't know whether that would have helped if that had been in place back then. Even it was in place I don't think I would have been believed. People just didn't believe that these things happened back then.
156. It's not just me who blamed authority for what happened in all of these places. I know that other people who were put in these places felt and feel the same way. It was never the kid's fault that they ended up in these places. Even if you view it as their fault, what happened to me should never have happened.
157. I don't think the sort of abuse I suffered in care happens now. A lot of blocks have been put in to stop that kind of thing from happening. I just feel sorry for all those children who have experienced abuse who have not been able to speak up for

themselves because they haven't been able to, because they haven't been believed or they are not here anymore. Life can be hard enough without these sort of things happening to you.

### **Hopes for the Inquiry**

158. I've been out to visit St Ninian's in adult life a few times. It's now a hotel. I would be in the area with my children. I would just pass nearby. Bad things happened to me in St Ninian's. However, if you took that aspect of it away the place was good for me. Most of the things I got in trouble for when I was younger were paltry things but it did get me away from all those things.
159. Abuse must have been going on in St Ninian's a long time. I don't believe that the things that happened to me only happened to me. There's no way that Mr MCK just decided instantly to target me and me only. I didn't witness him doing these things to other boys there but having seen the way he acted I can only surmise that he did.
160. I blame authority for what happened to kids in care. When you hear somebody saying that it didn't happen it makes me angry. These things did happen. You look at what happened in Smyllum where all those kids were buried. You'll never know what happened to those kids before they were buried. We need to know. Abuse hasn't just happened in St Ninian's. I think the sort of things that happened to me happened in every approved school.
161. It's all coming out now and it's not just in Scotland. These things were happening all over the country. You'll never know what went on in some of these places. Some people are shocked when they hear what went on in some of these places. There was definitely a thing in the past that people just didn't believe these things happened or perhaps just didn't want to believe that these things happened.

162. I just hope that through the Inquiry other people do come forward to talk about what happened. I don't know whether Mr MCK is dead or alive. However, I would love to face him in a court.
163. I'm not really worried about compensation. All I want out of this is some sort of closure. My lawyers have been trying to get a response from De La Salle and they have just been blanking it. I don't know whether they knew what happened or they are just ignoring me. I want acknowledgement that what happened did happen to me and an acceptance that abuse could have influenced why I have turned out the way I am. If I were to be believed then a lot of the way I feel might be lifted.
164. Ever since the Inquiry started the floodgates have opened. It's being revealed that child after child after child has been abused. I'm glad that I've had the opportunity to speak to the Inquiry. If I can help other victims then I will be happy. I hope that in speaking to the Inquiry it may help other people to come forward.
165. 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..... HCI [Redacted Signature] .....

Dated..... 12/11/20 .....