

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**Witness Statement of**

[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is [REDACTED]. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1943.

Background

2. Although my first name is [REDACTED], all my family called me [REDACTED]. This was because my dad's name was [REDACTED] too.

3. I was born in [REDACTED] in Stirling. During the Second World War my mother was evacuated. She was sent there from Clydebank to have me. My father served in the war. He was a Colour Sergeant. He was one of the youngest sergeants in the Royal Scots.

4. I had an older half-brother called [REDACTED] who was five years older than me. I also had an older sister called [REDACTED]. She was eleven months older than me. I have a younger sister, [REDACTED], who is two years younger than me. Then there is my younger brother, [REDACTED], who is about five years younger than me. We are in contact with each other.

5. At the end of the war, my dad came out of the army and we returned to Clydebank. We stayed in [REDACTED], Clydebank. There was a bedroom, kitchen and an outside toilet. My grandad stayed in the next close at [REDACTED]. When I was coming up for five years old, we moved to [REDACTED], Whitecrook. It was a new housing scheme. I went to Our Holy Redeemer Primary School in Whitecrook.

6. My father got a job in [REDACTED]'s shipyard as a [REDACTED]. He then went to Stow College in Glasgow to learn welding. He passed the course and went into the yards as a shipyard welder. He became unwell. He had cancer and was put to work in the store at the yard. They paid him the same money. My father died of cancer when I was about thirty five years of age. I think my mother was affected by the war. My mother was a nervous woman. She lived until she was ninety. She died five or six years ago.

7. I was in St Ninian's School in Gartmore from the age of ten until I was twelve or thirteen. I went there in about 1953 or 1954. I had got into trouble. I had been on the railway where the coal trains were. I used to have a barrow and put the coal spillage in it. My father had a drink problem probably due to the stress and trauma of the war. I was trying to help my mother by collecting the coal spillage for the house. There was a shed at the railway. The door was broken and I went in to have a look. A man came down from the signal box and found me there. The police were involved. I was done for breaking into a lockfast place.

8. I was caught by the police at the railway another time. The police said to my family that I was a danger to myself. I was taken to the juvenile court at Dumbarton and then sent to Bellfield Remand Home in Dumbarton. It was next to the library. I spent two weeks there to await an approved school and borstal report. I then went back to court and was sent to St Ninian's. I remember the Sheriff was Sheriff McKay. I was in court a few times. My probation officer took me to St Ninian's. My parents didn't go with me.

St Ninian's School, Gartmore

9. I remember it was about [REDACTED] when I arrived at St Ninian's. I was about ten years of age at the time. It was the [REDACTED]. Two boys came to meet me. One was called [REDACTED] who was from Dundee. The other boy's surname was [REDACTED]. Brother ^{MJO}[REDACTED] also came. He was the discipline De La Salle Brother.

10. The two boys were sent to keep me company. The boy [REDACTED] was about one or two years older than me. [REDACTED] was about my age. I remember the day after I arrived, Brother [REDACTED] slapped me on the back of the head saying that I had caused him to come back early from his holiday. He bullied me after that.

11. I have been shown a photograph of Gartmore House [XXXX]. It shows the back of the home. The Headmaster's office was to the left in the picture and there was another office where Brother Anthony did the secretarial work. The other photograph shows the front.

12. On the rear of the building on the left of the photo was a balcony. There was a play area with a table tennis table and billiards. One part was the Chapel and one was the boot room. The dining room is to the right of the photograph. There was also a staff room.

13. On the first floor to the right was the senior class. Next to it was the intermediate class. To the front was the junior class. I was in the junior class at first and then moved to the intermediate class. I then went to the senior class. On the second and top floors were the dormitories. There was also a furnace and a fire escape.

14. St Ninian's was an all boys school. It used to be in Tranent and then moved to Gartmore House. I was the first boy in Gartmore House. The other boys came from Tranent.

15. There were four houses in St Ninian's. An older boy was put in charge of running each house. One house was called St Andrew's and another was St de La Salle. I think I was in St de La Salle. You were grouped together in houses according to height rather than age. There were about ninety boys altogether, ranging from about eight to fourteen years old.

Dormitories

16. I was shifted around the dormitories. I think where you were put depended on your age. Some dormitories held eight boys and some held four. There were a lot of rooms in the house. There was a big dormitory near Brother ^{MJO} [REDACTED]'s room.

17. When you went upstairs and turned left there was a toilet. There was the night watchman's room and then the fire escape room which held four beds. There were six beds in the next room and then four beds. There was an archway and then four beds. You went out the door and there would be another room on the left which held six beds, then another with eight beds. Then there were three sets of four beds. These were next to Brother ^{MJO} [REDACTED]'s room. You then went upstairs and the toilet was on the left. There was the fire escape room which held four beds and another room which looked out to Stirling and you could see the Wallace Monument and the Castle from it. There were also other rooms.

Mornings

18. We got up at 6 a.m. and had a wash. We went to Mass every morning, seven days a week. We went there from 6.30 to 7.15 a.m.

19. After that we had breakfast and finished about 7.45 a.m. Then we cleaned up the house, dormitories, landings and stairs. We would have drill and if your bed was not made correctly your blankets would be thrown on the floor. If there was a crease in the blankets, you would have to make it again and again and you would get a doing. After drill we would go to school at 9 a.m.

Evenings

20. School finished at 4 p.m. and we had dinner at 5 p.m. Lights went out at 9 p.m. In the dormitories at night, the night watchman just did his job.

Mealtimes

21. The food was not that good. If you didn't eat your meal then you'd starve. I remember that there were boys who came from Govan. They were at the school for care and protection. They were frail and would be sick. If they were sick at the table then Brother ^{MJO} would make them eat their vomit. I saw it happen. It didn't happen to me. It happened to them fairly often.

Staff

22. ^{SNR} of the school was Brother ^{GEC}. He didn't keep very well. The ^{SNR} was Brother ^{MCA} who was also a teacher. Brother ^{GEC} died when I was there and Brother ^{MCA} as ^{SNR}. Another Brother was brought in but I can't remember his name. Brother ^{MJO} was the discipline Brother. He was a big heavy man. I think he was English, but he did not have an English accent. Brother Michael was a teacher in the intermediate class. He was alright. Brother Anthony was older. He was a decent man. He looked after the office and was in charge of our boots. Brother Ambrose used to take the choir and was always singing. He was decent too. When we went berry picking in the summer another Brother used to come but I'm not sure where he came from. The Brothers wore black cassocks and a white collar with a split in the middle. They lived on the premises in the main house. There was also a priest called Father Connolly.

23. There were also lay staff. They lived in the building above the stables. The building was across the road from the school house. There was a teacher called ^{MCK}. He was the teacher of the junior class. He was a sadist. I think he was about twenty five years old. He had red hair and was not a big man. Mr Charles McKenna was the woodwork teacher. He was also a sadist. They both lived at the stables. At weekends, Mr Hutchison the gardener disciplined us. So did Mr McKenzie who was also a gardener. They came to the home on every sixth weekend.

24. There were kitchen staff who were mostly from the Outer Hebrides. They also lived over the stables and so did the priest. The maids and cooks stayed round the corner.

Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED]

25. Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED] was also in charge of the pipe band. I was a drummer and I was also learning to play the pipes and the chanter. If I missed notes, he would hit me on the hand with a drum stick. He did this on about four different occasions. My hand was swollen and painful and I couldn't write in the classroom.

26. I think Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED] had been in the army or a commando previously. He used to poke us in the stomach and it was sore. He would take ten boys into the woods and play commandos. You'd see him then next minute he would be behind your back. He'd touch you with a stick. It meant you were dead. It was a game.

27. Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED] had a golf ball. He would hit the boys on the head with it. This happened to me several times.

Brother ^{MJO} [REDACTED]

28. Brother ^{MJO} [REDACTED] was a sadist. Since the day I went in to the home he was on my case. He slapped me because I had caused him to come back early from his holidays. He would hit me with a wooden roller from a towel holder. He would hold me by the hair and hit me all over the body when I was in the boot room. I would be bruised all over.

29. He would physically abuse me all the time. He did not sexually abuse me nor did any of the other Brothers. Brother ^{MJO} [REDACTED] would take me to the boot room and he'd batter me all over with the wooden roller. I wouldn't have done anything wrong; he would be hitting me just because of my first day there. The beatings in the boot room took place at least every month.

30. He would stand at the door and tell me to wipe my face on a towel. I would then go out and get into line as it was time to go to bed. I would be in pain. I would be bruised on my legs and arms.

31. Brother ^{MJO} had a garden at the backdoor. It was his garden. It had lots of plants in it. He used to get all the boys to go on their knees and we had to weed it. Part of the garden was on a slope where the lawn mower could not reach so we were made to cut the grass by hand. Brother ^{MJO} would hit me with a stick from a tree, but he didn't hit the others.

32. We even had to do the grass near the ponies' field. Brother ^{MJO} would hit me with a cane and pick on me. I used to wonder: why me? It was because of my first day there when Brother ^{MJO} had to come back early from holiday to supervise me because he was the discipline Brother. He hit me throughout the period I was at the home. When he hit me in the boot room or in the garden, it was very painful.

33. Once I was ready to go home on a Friday when Brother ^{MJO} told me that I was not going anywhere. I was ready to get the bus. I asked him why. He said it was because I had been given a "D" in class. An "A", "B" or "C" was alright and you were allowed to go on home leave. He gave me the "D" for discipline. I really had to toe the line. This only happened once. I had been looking forward to going home.

34. Brother ^{MJO} also occasionally bullied other boys and took them into the boot room. He never hit us in public except when we were cutting the grass. Everyone was terrified of him. He was a big man. He was maybe thirty five to forty years of age.

35. Mr ^{MCK} and Brother ^{MJO} sometimes used to take us out at weekends. We would put our suits and boots on. They would make us walk for miles. This was down by the Rob Roy Hotel. We would turn left into Aberfoyle and then right to the Lake of Menteith. The walk was a good four or five miles. We would get five minutes rest and then it was about turn. Then we had to run back to the school. We were young children. We had to get back and changed. We were told that if we were late for tea, then we wouldn't get any. Some boys collapsed with exhaustion. I collapsed a couple of times. Brother ^{MJO} kicked me and told me to get up. Mr ^{MCK} told me to "fucking get up". I was lagging behind because I was exhausted. I think two other

boys collapsed. I was a good twenty minutes to half an hour late. I was hit by Brother MJO in the boot room. He hit me with the wooden roller. I did get my dinner that day but it was cold. This happened to me more than once. It maybe happened four times.

MCK

36. When I first went to the class room, Mr MCK was in charge of it. We addressed him as "Mr MCK". He had a blackboard which could be moved about. It was kept near the door. There were about twenty boys in the class. You had to write letters and numbers the way he taught you. We did that for six weeks. He said we had to write the MCK way" before we could join the class. This was when I first started at St Ninian's.

37. If you did not write properly, Mr MCK would hit you on the hand with a ruler and told you to "fucking write properly". He would also sometimes say: "do it the MCK way or don't fucking do it at all". There was another blackboard in the class which he would move so that no-one could see me behind it. He would sometimes lean on my back. His penis would be hard and he would rub it on me. That was the start of it. Mr MCK would then go out to the toilet and come back in again. Then he'd talk to the rest of the class.

38. He would give the class spelling books. We'd have to find the number of the page and the position of a particular word. Mr MCK was a cruel man. If I was wrong he would slap me and others who got it wrong.

39. Mr MCK was also in charge of the ponies at the school. He asked if I wanted to be a pony boy. I used to go to the farms at Cochno Road in Clydebank to ride horses so I said yes. The school had three male horses, three female horses and there were foals. The horses were wild. After the horses were broken in, reins could be put on them and they could be ridden properly by the boys at the school.

40. Mr MCK brought harnesses for the horses. He would get us to jump on the ponies' bare backs and hold on to their manes. This was to try and break the ponies

in. The ponies used to run under the trees to try and get us off. We would be scratched and bruised. We would fall off and get cuts on our arms and body. Mr MCK would try and make us get on the ponies again. I didn't want to and he would hit me with the reins and swear at me. I once told Brother MJO about being made to ride the ponies and that I was all cut. He said that he didn't want to see anything.

41. He would kick us and tell us that we were "no fucking good". At times, when I was on a horse and I wasn't riding it correctly, Mr MCK would hit me on the back with the reins and tell me I was a "fucking idiot" and "not worthy of being a pony boy". He would take me off being a pony boy for two weeks and then brought me back in again. When I was hit with the reins I would be bruised on the back, backside and thighs.

42. There were three or four other pony boys. One boy was named [REDACTED] who was from Govan. His sister's boyfriend had a motorbike and his sister and her boyfriend used to come and visit him at night. Another boy was called [REDACTED]. He was from Govan too. There were also two younger boys who used to clean out the troughs and fill them with water.

43. I remember once going on a horse called "Queenie". It was from a ranch near the school. It used to take me under the tree to get me off and I would get cuts and bruises on my arms, legs and body. Mr MCK wouldn't let us go to the nurse. I had to do this with the horses lots of times over the two years I was there.

44. After working with the horses we had to take a shower. There were three lots of six showers. There were no curtains. The showers were in a "U" shape. I had swimming trunks on. Mr MCK was in the shower too. He told me to remove my trunks and to wash between my legs and thighs. He used to open up my buttocks and take photographs of me. He used to touch my private parts and backside. He took out his penis and would rub himself against me. He would try to put his penis in me. It was very painful. I didn't like it. He would masturbate and ejaculate all over me and told me to wash it off. He said if I told anyone I would get sent to borstal on a big ship and would never see my family again. I believed him. The first time this happened I had only been in the home for a few months. It happened to me many

times when I was there. It also sometimes happened when I was out in the field with the horses.

45. There would sometimes be at least two other pony boys in the showers. Mr MCK used to tell the other boys to take their trunks off too and wash between their legs and backsides. Sometimes he used to rub the boys with a cloth. He never rubbed me with a cloth. He would tell me to turn around and face the wall. He said if I turned around then he would put me under the cold shower for ten minutes. I saw him with the cloth touching the boys' backsides. The boys accepted it. We never told anyone. I saw him take photos of other boys in the shower. Some boys were younger than me, about seven or eight years of age. Mr MCK knew what he was doing. He was a pervert.

46. When we were in the shower, Mr MCK wore dress trousers and wellies. He'd tell us to turn the shower off. The water would be off when he was abusing me or the others.

47. There was also a dog at the home. It was a mongrel. It was a gold colour. It looked part Labrador. It belonged to Mr Hutchison. Mr MCK would masturbate the dog and he would tell me to do things to the dog too. The dog would stand there. This happened many times. There were trees in the field. This took place behind the trees. Mr MCK would make me suck his private parts. It was terrible. Mr MCK would also penetrate me when we were outside too. He took my pants down and took photos of me. I was always thinking about my family. If I told them then I would be sent on the borstal ship and never see them again. It terrified me. The incidents in the showers and the field took place over the whole two years I was there.

48. Many times I wanted to run away but if you did you were sent to Joseph's Approved School in Tranent which was supposed to be a stricter regime. I was asked to run away with other boys. Some did run away but they were brought back. I never tried to run away. I was afraid of the consequences.

49. Some other terrible things happened to me. I am embarrassed about it. I have never told anyone. When we were in the fields with the ponies, Mr MCK told me to

touch the horse's penis. He took photos of me doing that. I felt that if I had a hammer I would hit him over the head. He was really a pervert. I haven't even told my wife about this. This happened several other times when I was there. The first time it happened I had been at the school for maybe six months. He made me do this to different horses. Mr. MCK was an awful man.

50. When Mr. MCK was in the classroom, he would tell us to take off our trousers and put on P. T. pants. We wore them over our underpants. When we were doing spelling work, Mr. MCK would move the blackboards so that no-one could see and put you over the table and spank you for nothing. I knew I had gotten the spelling correct but he would say the answer was wrong and he spanked me. He'd touch your backside when he was spanking you. Others were spanked too.

51. Mr. MCK also used to take me into the classroom to show me things. He would lock the door and move the blackboard so no-one could see us. This was in summer at night time and he would penetrate me.

52. Mr. MCK would also skelp me on the backside with a rule. He would feel me and skelp me. He always kept this rule in his pocket. This happened in the class room, in the shower or in the field with the ponies. He would hit me hard and it would be painful. It would leave red marks. He was a bully and a pervert.

53. Mr. MCK had a camera. It was like a square box and looked like it was made of cardboard. He also took photos of me and would take my pants down. He told me to open up my buttocks and he would take photos. He would also take photos of my private parts too. It was really terrible. He usually took photos of me before the abuse but he sometimes took them afterwards. This happened often. I never saw any of the photos and I don't know what happened to them.

Charles McKenna

54. Mr McKenna was a real pervert. He taught us woodwork class in the morning one week and the next week he taught us in the afternoon. He was also in charge of football. I played football. The first time he abused me he asked me to stay behind

after class. He said he wanted wood from the wood store. I don't know why Mr McKenna picked on me. I remember I was making a fish slice out of aluminium. We had to cut out three grooves and shaped it. A handle had to be put on with a rivet to go in the middle. He said: "Stay behind [REDACTED]. I want you to help me take some wood out of the store." I was known as [REDACTED] then.

55. He took me over to the wood store. This was very early on when I was at St Ninian's. The wood store was opposite the building where the staff lived. He locked the door and put a piece of wood up against it. If someone came in with a key he'd hear the piece of wood fall. That never happened. We were round the corner of the wood store. Mr McKenna told me to take my trousers down. There was a small bench and he told me to bend over it. He told me to open my buttocks and started penetrating me. It was terrible. I didn't know that this was going to happen me He told me it was our secret and that I was not to tell anyone or I'd go to borstal..

56. He used to have a rule. He would get me to part my buttocks and hit me on the side of them. He then penetrated me with his penis. It was very painful. He would masturbate. He would ejaculate over me and rub it on my chest. He'd have a damp cloth to wipe me and a dry cloth.

57. This abuse happened to me every other week for the whole time I was at St Ninian's. Mr McKenna abused other boys. He was convicted of it. I think he got two years in prison. I wasn't involved in that case. A De La Salle Brother at the home was also convicted of abuse. So was a night watchman. It was in the newspaper. The night watchman who was there when I was was ok. He had a wooden leg. He would check the dormitories at night.

58. Mr McKenna took photos of me in the store. He had a dark room next to the wood store. I was never in the dark room. I saw it one day when I came out of the wood store and door was open.

Medical care

59. I remember when I had been there about six months, I was feeding one of the foals. The mother horse bit me on the back. It was a Thursday. I told the school nurse, Miss Gallagher. She bathed the bite. On the Friday, I went home for the weekend and the bite was really sore. I told my mother and she took me to Yorkhill Hospital. They put in stitches and gave me a penicillin injection. I was allergic to penicillin and came out in a rash and my joints were very sore. I came back on the Sunday with a letter for the nurse. She was angry at me for going to the hospital. I was in a lot of pain. They put me in the sick bay for a week out of the way. I got a bit better. It was a nightmare in there. I never saw a doctor at the school.

Holidays

60. We got thirty day's holidays a year at St Ninian's. There were ten days at Easter and ten days at Christmas which I spent with my family. Over the summer we went berry picking in Blairgowrie for four to six weeks. I understand that the money for the berry picking was paid by the farmer to the school. When the berry picking was finished, we would return to school and get something to eat. Then the buses came and picked us up. The buses took us to Stirling, Glasgow and other places so we could go home.

61. We went berry picking in Blairgowrie for three summers. It was on Smedley's farm. We stayed in two big Nissen huts. They were tin huts with rows of beds on either side. There was a burn which had a pool. We used to brick up one side of the pool so that the water didn't flow out and we would wash there in the mornings.

62. The first year, Brother ^{MJO} [REDACTED], Brother ^{SNR} [REDACTED], Brother ^{GEC} [REDACTED], Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED], Mr ^{MCK} [REDACTED] and Mr McKenna went too. We were split into groups. Each member of staff had about ten boys in their group. There was also another Brother who came from a different De La Salle school to help out. His nickname was "Bounce" because he was heavily built. He was ok. Mr Hutchison also used to come for two weeks. The staff stayed at the farm house.

63. We picked berries all day. We put them into baskets and when they were full we would put them down and pick them up once we had finished that drill. Some boys stole berries. It happened to me a few times. I was lucky the first year as I was in Brother Bounce's group. He didn't mind us calling him that. He told me to mark my baskets or use a berry to mark the basket all the way round. It was hard work. We had to plod and could not miss a berry. Brother Bounce used to check that we had picked all the berries. He'd then tell us we had thirty minutes before we had to weigh the berries.

64. There was no abuse when I went berry picking. I was never in Mr ^{MCK} or Mr McKenna's group. I was thankful for that.

Visitors, Inspections and Reporting

65. There was a boy called [REDACTED]. He died last year. He was in St Ninian's too. He came from the [REDACTED] in Glasgow. Then he moved to [REDACTED]. He was a [REDACTED] in the shipyards when I was there as a [REDACTED].

66. When we were in the home I told him what was happening to me. I told him about the beatings. I told him when I came out of the boot room with Brother ^{MJO}. I also told him about Mr ^{MCK} and Mr McKenna. I think [REDACTED] was about eighteen months or two years older than me. I had to tell someone. I told him he couldn't say anything to anyone. He swore he'd never tell anyone. [REDACTED] was in charge of the [REDACTED] at St Ninian's. He used to [REDACTED] it. He never said that anything happened to him. I saw him in Drumchapel later on. I used to talk about St Ninian's and he would say: "don't go there".

67. Every six weeks we got home on leave from Friday to the Sunday. We got visitors once a month at the home. I remember my Auntie [REDACTED] used to visit me with my two sisters. My mother or Auntie [REDACTED] used to also visit with my two sisters and Auntie [REDACTED]'s two daughters. If they only knew what had been going on. I never told them. I was scared to tell them. My sister remembers that when she visited me she saw that I had cuts on my arm.

68. We used to be allowed to send one letter a week. It would be read by the Brothers before going out. I had a code with my mother. I would put seven kisses on the letter to say I was alright and six if I was not. A few times when I had put six kisses in my letter, my mother phoned St Ninian's. They'd ask me why my mother was phoning. I would speak to her in the office and the staff would listen in. She would ask how I was and I would say "so so". I never told her what happened.

69. I never told my family what was happening to me. I was safe in my bed at night at the school. I used to cry at night under the blankets. I was petrified at what these men were doing to me. I would think of my family at home. If I'd told my father about it he would have gone ballistic. He would probably have gone to the police. I wish I had told him then. It could have been sorted out back then.

70. I have never spoken to the police about my treatment at St Ninian's. I would want to go to the police about these people.

71. There were boys who were being physically and sexually abused. The Brothers did not abuse me sexually. They must have known what they were doing to us and that they could have been caught. They threatened us. They put up a front to allow them to do what they did to us.

72. No-one asked me how I was getting on at St Ninian's. I understand that once an inspector came to the school when I was there. We weren't told. I found out afterwards that he or she had been shown around. The inspector never spoke to us. That is the only time I know about and I never saw the person.

Schooling

73. My actual schooling at St Ninian's was good. Brother Michael taught in the middle school and then I moved to the senior school. When Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as ^{SNR} [REDACTED] he was there for about three days a week when I started in the senior class. Then another Brother was introduced to take over the seniors from Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED]. I cannot remember his name.

74. I was really glad when six of us were taken to ^{SNR} [REDACTED]'s office and told by Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED] that we were being licensed until we were eighteen years old. This meant I was going home. Brother ^{MCA} [REDACTED] told us that if we got married before we were eighteen we had to tell the school. We were told that a welfare officer would be calling to see us at our home every now and again. I can't remember the month that I left St Ninian's. I was in St Ninian's for over two years. I left when I was twelve years old. I have never been so glad in my whole life to leave St Ninian's and get back to normality and my own family.

After St Ninian's

75. Once I was back home, I attended the Holy Redeemer Secondary School in Clydebank. I left school just before my fifteenth birthday. I got a job and have been in steady employment most my life.

76. I was in one other institution after I left school. I was hanging around with the wrong crowd. There was a [REDACTED] house in Clydebank called the [REDACTED]. There were six or eight of us. Someone opened up the fire exit of the [REDACTED] house. There was a room for lost property and one of the boys set it on fire. It wasn't me. The picture house burned down. I was coming up for sixteen years old. I was the oldest and was charged with wilful fire raising. My father got Joe Beltrami to be my solicitor. I was found guilty and remanded. Mr Beltrami said that if I went to borstal I would be worse off so I was sent to St John's Boys Approved School in Carntyne. It was run by De La Salle Brothers. I was sent there for an indefinite period. [REDACTED] was also there at the fire. He was sent to St Ninian's.

77. By then I had been working in Blythswood Shipyard. I spoke to the ^{SNR} [REDACTED] Brother ^{PAM} [REDACTED], who asked me to check if my job was still there for me. He gave me £5 so I could go to the shipyard. I got to the shipyard and was told that I still had my job. Mr Haye, the manager, gave me a letter to that effect. When I got back to the school, I gave Brother ^{PAM} [REDACTED] his change back from the £5. He told me to keep it. He then helped me to get some working clothes. I was allowed to continue with my apprenticeship. I went every morning to my work from the school and back

again. I was paid £5 10 /- a week when I was there. That was good a good wage for a first year apprentice.

78. Brother ^{PAM} would let me go home at the weekend. I would say that I would get back on the Sunday but he said I could stay until the Monday and go straight to my work from home. I was there for six months. I spent more time at home than I did at the school. It was a helpful regime. The Brother asked me into his office. He said my behaviour at the school was very satisfactory and he knew that I had a job. He said if he needed me again he would send for me. He let me go home and that was it. I was not in any further trouble after this.

79. I worked in the Clydebank Cooperative department for six weeks after school. I then took a test in the Blythwood Shipyard, Scotstoun, Glasgow which is next to Yarrow Shipbuilding Company in South Street to serve an apprenticeship. I was told I could start the job after the Glasgow Fair in the office. I was to distribute the plans to the tradesmen who were marking off the plates for the ship. I learned that skill.

80. I then went to David Dale College in Bridgeton, Glasgow. I got a City and Guilds in shipbuilding and fabrication there. I was there for two years. After that I went back for another year and got a City and Guilds in shipbuilding and engineering. When my apprenticeship finished, I got £2 more than the other journeymen because I had my City and Guilds qualifications.

81. I was well thought of in the yard and well liked. I never missed a day's work. I was always there. Before my times out, I'd make tea for the foreman. I was shocked when they asked me if I wanted to become a . I said yes. I was a for about two years. The shipyard was closing down so I then went to work for Charles Connell and Company. They owned the Blue Line Shipbuilding Company. They took me on as a . I was over the moon.

82. I also worked in the John Brown Shipyard for a couple of years. I met my wife, and we got married when I was thirty one years old. My wife is eight years younger than me. She was working too. I had already worked in Norway and

Rendsburg in Germany. I saw a job in the newspaper looking for shipbuilders. The interview was at the Royal Stuart Hotel in Clyde Street. It is now a hostel for students. I showed them my drawings and my City and Guilds and they told me that I was the very man they wanted.

83. They said that in two weeks I was to go to the United States for a year. I fitted in with everybody. I became friends with an African American man in Brooklyn Naval Yard. He was the yard manager. There was a suggestion box and I used to give him suggestions and ideas from the Clydeside. If your idea was used you would get \$50. He said I was "some guy". He asked me to come to Manhattan on the Friday to meet some of his brothers and sisters. We went into a bar and he said I was his good friend from Scotland. When I left the yard a lot of people came to the airport to see me off. They were emotional when I left. I kept in touch with them.

84. I returned to Scotland to get married but I then applied for a job in Canada. My wife and I got married in Saint John, New Brunswick in Canada. I had a job in the shipyard from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a night job from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight. I was the gaffer of eight men in the engineering shop. We were there four or five months and then got married. This was in 1974.

85. I was an alcoholic in my early twenties before I was married. My wife curtailed my drinking. Having seen my father's gambling and alcohol abuse and what my mother went through as a result of it, I did not want that for my family.

86. I didn't drink as heavily as I used to before I was married. I never lost a day's work due to alcohol. I went to work with hangovers but I knew that it was self-inflicted. I stopped drinking twenty six years ago and don't touch alcohol at all now.

87. The flashbacks I get caused me to hit the drink. I went to Alcoholics' Anonymous and I was told I had threefold alcoholism. They said it affects another ten people mostly in your family. I heard some horrific stories. I never told anyone in AA what had happened to me. I felt no courage. I felt shame and guilt over what happened to me.

88. My wife and I have a daughter. She will be forty one this year. She has a partner and a daughter who is three years old. My daughter lives near me.

89. I was a community worker. I went to Strathclyde Law School to do courses on social security law. I was giving benefits advice. I won a few cases before the Social Security Appeal Tribunals.

Effects of St Ninian's

90. I get flashbacks. I can't sleep at night. I get up and have a cup of tea. I sometimes think: "if only". I couldn't get over the letter I got from Cameron Fyffe saying that Mr ^{MCK} was too old so no action was being taken against him. My understanding is that you are never too old. I don't know if Mr ^{MCK} is still alive. Mr McKenna and Mr ^{MCK} were living in Stirling at the time when Cameron Fyffe was involved. I don't think Mr ^{MCK} was ever prosecuted.

91. The flashbacks I have are back to what happened to me at St Ninian's. For example, back to the beatings by Brother ^{MJO} in the boot room when he was hitting me with the rolling pin or rule. I would be black and blue and in pain for days. I also get flashbacks to what happened in the showers and in the fields with the horses and dog. They upset me. I get emotional. I make myself tea and think that if it were today, it would have been different.

92. I am Catholic and am still religious. My treatment in St Ninian's has not affected my faith.

93. When I speak to women and men, I have a barricade up. I don't want to be too familiar with people. I think that this is a consequence of the abuse.

Support and other assistance

94. I met Mr Michaels through my friend [REDACTED]. Mr Michaels introduced me to INCAS. INCAS is a good help. I am a member of the group. I get support from Alan Draper, Helen Holland, Frank McCue and Frank Docherty. I also saw Chris Daly at some of the meetings. I told Chris Daly that I was at St Ninian's but didn't tell him anything more. Mr Michaels keeps me informed about INCAS. I like to be part of things. If I go to meetings, I take notes. For example, I used to be [REDACTED] at Drumchapel Community Council. I used to get law books out of John Smith's bookshop in St Vincent Street, Glasgow. I also went to the Mitchell Library. I would find out about matters such as casting votes and the responsibilities of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

95. I have been to Cameron Fyffe. I told him that I had been physically and sexually abused. It is hard for me to talk about it so I gave him little detail. Mr Fyffe said that the lawyers who were dealing with my case were not being paid. He sent me a final letter. I have been looking for the letter but can't find it. Its contents say that my abusers are very old and no action will be taken against them. I was asked to forward £100 towards costs as people had been doing the job for nothing. I never replied. No action was raised against my abusers.

96. I went to see my MSP Gil Paterson about a year ago and tried to get him to help me. He said he would help me all he can but he hasn't. When they were debating about the Inquiry in Parliament, Mr Paterson did not stay in to listen to the debate. I have written three letters to him recently and have had no reply. [Mr Paterson said he would keep me up-to-date about the Inquiry. I have had no help from him.] I also sent a copy to Nicola Sturgeon. I wrote to her constituency office and said I wanted a reply from her. I haven't had a reply. I also sent press cuttings to both Ms Sturgeon and Mr Paterson.

97. I am well supported at home. My wife knows only some of what happened to me in St Ninian's. Over a period of time, I have told her and my daughter about the physical abuse. I have never told them about the sexual abuse.

98. I have tried to get help for what happened to me for years and years from anyone who would help me. But I had a problem about sharing what happened to

me. I think it is a private matter and don't want it to get out. People might think I was a bad person and won't understand me. I have tried to seek help for my difficulties with the flashbacks I get. INCAS had counsellors but they were all female. I would maybe speak to a male counsellor now.

99. I was feeling depressed a few years ago. The abuse at St Ninian's caused my depression. I saw my G. P., Dr Alan McDevitt. He referred me to a psychiatrist. Her name is Dr Johnstone. She is based at the [REDACTED] in Clydebank. I told her that I had been physically and sexually abused but did not give details of the abuse. I told her about the flashbacks. I also gave her a copy of information that I had. Maybe it was from Cameron Fyfe. She recommended counselling but I didn't follow it through. I had a barricade up. I was paranoid at the time. If counsellors, social workers and secretaries were involved, I was worried that they would gossip about what happened to me. I have seen social workers gossip about cases before.

100. I still see Dr Johnstone now and again. A few years ago I was struggling to talk. I was stammering. This was because of the impact of the abuse. Dr Johnstone noticed it and that I would jump between topics when speaking. I have been going to a speech therapist at Gartnavel General Hospital over the past few weeks. My speech has vastly improved.

Records and other matters

101. I think my father may have once asked for my records for St Ninian's. He did not get them. He was told to write to the Secretary of State. I think it was Willie Ross at the time. My father wrote to him but got nothing. A number of years ago I wrote to Yorkhill Hospital to see if they had records of when I went there after being bitten by the horse. They said that they did not hold any records. I wrote again asking if my records were held on microfiche, but I was told they were not.

102. I want to remain anonymous. I would be prepared to give evidence at a public hearing on an anonymous basis.

103. I would like the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to see how people like me have been abused and bring to light what happened. I don't want this to ever happen to anyone else.

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

Signed... 

Dated... *29th June 2016.*