

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IGS

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is IGS. My date of birth is 1965. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was brought up in Paisley by my gran and her husband. I thought my mother, who lived elsewhere and visited me occasionally, was my sister. As a child I thought my name was IGS although most people called me IGS. It was only when I got into trouble at the age of ten and the police got involved did I find out that my real name was IGS and that the woman who I thought was my sister was my mum. This was when all the lies started for me.
3. My mum apparently fell pregnant with me to my father when she was sixteen when she was at Blackpool for a weekend. My father never had any contact with me and wasn't involved in bringing me up. I was one of six children to four different fathers. I have a number of step brothers and sisters too.
4. I slept in an alcove at my gran's house behind a curtain. It was only me, my gran and her husband who lived there. I was beaten at home, told I was useless and that I wasn't wanted. They instilled in me that I was nothing and wasn't going to amount to anything in life. I thought this was all just normal and didn't realise that it was toxic. My gran's son who was ten years older than me, unmercifully verbally and mentally, abused me. He was in the army but came back to visit. I remember my gran used to

bounce me on her knee as a wee boy and told me that my dad was one of the great train robbers.

5. I went to St James Primary school where I was teased by the other children who called me [redacted] because of the story of my dad being one of the great train robbers. I became the best fighter in the school because I retaliated. As a child there was never anyone from my family who came to see me on sports day or was there to give me any kind of support.
6. I was very close to my aunt, uncle and five cousins and grew up with them. They moved to Canada in 1974 when I was nine. I went to Prestwick airport with my gran and her husband to see them off and from the moment they left my life changed. It became terrible. The following year my gran and her husband went to Canada. My gran wouldn't let me go for some reason. I was left to stay with my gran's husband's daughter [redacted] who was a cruel, vicious, horrible woman. I was ten and she put me in the bath and scrubbed me with carbolic soap. Her own children were at the door looking in and were laughing at me.
7. After my gran and her husband went to Canada I ran away and I was on the run for six weeks, sleeping in cars and in doorways. I was breaking into houses to steal. I was caught and ended up in front of the children's panel. I remember there was one policeman who sometimes dealt with me, PC Reid. He was so soft and gentle with me because he could see what was going on at home. At the children's panel it was decided to send me to Cardross assessment centre for three weeks so that I could be assessed. I was still ten years old. By then I had a social worker Miss Ross.

Cardross Park assessment centre, Cardross

8. I was taken to Cardross by my social worker, Miss Ross. I was in a state of panic at the thought of going. As you go in the building there were games rooms on either side. Off the hallway was a cloakroom and then the dining hall. Upstairs there were about four dorms. My dorm would have had eight or ten beds in it which were all

occupied. All the boys were around my age. In total there would have been about twenty children in Cardross. I don't know what organisation ran Cardross and I don't remember the names of any of the staff.

9. I used to look out the big window wishing I could get out but all the doors were locked. There was a mynah bird and I used to shout ICS all the time because that is what people called me. The bird picked it up and started saying it back.

Routine at Cardross

First day

10. Miss Ross took me in and I was introduced to some of the staff. From the moment that I arrived my aim was to run away. I don't remember much else from my first day.

Mornings and bedtime

11. A member of staff shouted in the morning that it was time to get up so we would get dressed and go for breakfast. I wasn't there long enough to remember what the usual daily routine was and there are blank periods in my memory. I have no idea what time we went to our beds. There was no radio or anything like it in the dorm. It was straight to bed and lights out.

Mealtimes/Food

12. I can't remember what the food was like but I don't recall ever being hungry. There were no issues if there was food that you didn't like.

Clothing/uniform

13. I think I wore my own clothes in Cardross and the reason I say that is because my gran's husband brought me clothes. Every other day we had to stand in line and

show the staff our underwear. If your pants were soiled they would make you wash them by hand. It was demoralising and degrading to do that to a child.

Leisure time

14. We had free time after school before our evening meal. We played football in the Victorian garden outside if the weather was okay or we could play inside in the games rooms. After our meal we could go back and play or just watch the television.

Schooling

15. After breakfast we would go to classes but I can't remember where they were or what was involved. It wasn't like the education I was getting at St James' primary. After lunch we would go back into classes then after school we had free time.

Healthcare

16. At some point I had an abscess on my neck. The staff treated me although my gran's husband came in at some point.

Birthdays and Christmas

17. I can't remember if anyone's birthday was celebrated and I wasn't there over Christmas to know how it was celebrated.

Bed Wetting

18. Sometimes I heard kids crying saying they had wet the bed. I didn't see or hear how the staff dealt with it.

Visitors

19. My gran's husband was the only person who visited from my family. When he came he brought me some of my clothes from home. He was an ex-regimental sergeant major and was a bully. My social worker, Miss Ross, came and she explained to me that I would be going back to the children's panel. I think she was to do a report for the next time I was to appear.

Running away

20. I ran away twice from Cardross. The first time was when we were playing football outside in the Victorian garden. It was surrounded by high walls but there was a gate which I slipped through and ran off. My uncle caught me and the police took me back to Cardross. When I arrived, after the police left, I was stripped naked and put in a cloakroom which had doors at either end leading between the dining hall and the hallway. There were no windows and it was dark but not pitch dark. I am not sure how long I was in there but I was on my own and was terrified. I heard that they did the same thing to another girl, [REDACTED], who was a couple of years older than me. I didn't see this happen.
21. The second time I ran away I had stolen a knife at dinner time. Later at night, using the knife, I unscrewed the wooden blocks which stop the window from being opened more than a few inches. Everyone in the dorm came with me and we ran away. We went past the whisky bond where there were lots of noisy geese and then there were bats. I was on the run for two or three weeks sleeping here and there. I had to grow up quick. I ended up back in Paisley. I was caught by the police and was taken to Mill Street police station. As far as I know all the other boys were taken back at different times to Cardross.

Abuse at Cardross

22. Apart from being stripped naked and put in the cloakroom when I ran away I can't say that I was abused in any other way. This only happened once. I didn't see anyone else getting abused.

Leaving Cardross

23. When I was caught after I ran away for the second time I wasn't taken back to Cardross. I was taken to Mill Street police station. The next morning I was taken by Miss Ross, the social worker, to Bellfield remand centre.

Bellfield Remand centre, Dumbarton

24. I was taken to Bellfield remand centre and went into an office where there was a man. Miss Ross left and I was alone with him. After he asked me my name, the first things he asked me was if I masturbated. I was only ten and I was aware that my face went bright red and was so embarrassed. I was terrified and realised I was in trouble. The front door was open slightly so I just ran out and away. I was barely in Bellfield for five minutes. I don't know who this person was and I wasn't there long enough to get his name.
25. I made my way to Dumbarton and there was a big teepee in the park. It was summer and it was some sort of organised event for children. I just joined in and got involved even though I didn't have a clue who they were. It was being run by the parents so no one asked me any questions. I presume they must have thought I was visiting and allowed to be there. I ended up sleeping in the teepee with the other kids for a couple of nights. After that I went back to Paisley.
26. I am not sure how long I was on the run from Bellfield but I was caught by the police. I went back to a children's panel where Miss Ross and my gran were in attendance.

No one asked me why I had run away from Bellfield and I didn't tell them. I was told at the panel that I was being sent to St Ninian's for two years. For some unknown reason my gran wanted to know whether I would be given butter or margarine at St Ninian's.

St Ninian's, Gartmore

27. The building at St Ninian's was enormous and very imposing. The boys were split into four houses which were also the dorms we were in. Two dorms were on one level and the other two were above them. I was in a dorm on the top level. There might have been staff accommodation above my dorm. I can't remember the names of the four houses. As you go in the front door the snooker table was in to the left. There were eight or ten boys in my dorm. It was run by the De La Salle Catholic order.

Routine at St Ninian's

First day

28. I don't remember much about my first day there but it was full of fear. Because I had come from Glasgow I thought everyone there had funny accents.

Mornings and bedtime/ Mealtimes/Food/Washing

29. The staff came in and woke us up and we got dressed and went for breakfast then school. We had all our meals in the downstairs dining room. There were no issues with food. We showered every day in the communal showers. There were no cubicles.

Leisure time

30. We played snooker a lot because there was a snooker table. There was also a table tennis table and a gym hall where we played a lot of football.

Schooling

31. I got a good education at St Ninian's. I put my head down and worked hard in the wood-shop. The atmosphere in the classrooms was strict and I was always getting the belt from the teachers because I did something wrong or something not to their liking.

Healthcare

32. I went to the hospital in Stirling because I had a bad knee and I had an operation. Most things were just dealt with by the staff at St Ninian's. They took us to the dentist several times but not sure if it was just for check-ups.

Trips and holidays

33. The only trips out of St Ninian's that I remember were day trips when we went walking in the forests. We weren't taken on any kind of holiday.

Work/pocket-money

34. We had chores to do. We did things like cleaning, tidying and gardening. I enjoyed doing the gardening. That is about all we did. We didn't get any pocket money. I never had any money but there wasn't a tuck shop or anything like that where I could spend it. There were shops in the nearby village but we weren't allowed out the grounds.

Birthdays and Christmas

35. Birthdays weren't celebrated in any way. I went home for Christmas and I don't remember there being any celebrations on the lead up to it at St Ninian's. I don't remember there ever being any Christmas parties or anything like that.

Bed Wetting

36. There were some boys who wet their beds. One boy in my dorm called [REDACTED] did. I can't remember how the staff dealt with it.

Visitors/Home Leave

37. Miss Ross my social worker visited me only once in the two years I was there that I can remember. None of my family ever visited me because I was regularly getting home leave. I think I got home leave after being there for a couple of weeks. We got dropped off by the St Ninian's minibus at Buchanan Street bus station on Friday afternoon and they gave me money to get the train to Paisley. I was picked up on Sunday afternoon at Buchanan Street and taken back to St Ninian's. I got home for longer periods over the summer holidays and at Christmas, probably a couple of weeks for each.

External Inspections

38. I was never aware of anyone coming in and doing any sort of inspection at St Ninian's.

Discipline

39. There was discipline in the school classes and the belt was regularly administered and was always to the hand. I often got the belt because I was always doing something wrong or was cheeky.

Running away

40. I tried running away from St Ninian's a few times but I didn't know where I was going. It was in the middle of nowhere. When I was getting home leave I always went back when I was supposed to. I was frightened of what my grandmother would do to me if I didn't go back.

Abuse at St Ninian's

41. There were several Brothers at St Ninian's who made my life hell. Brother **MJO** and Brother **GZQ** were probably the worst. Brother **MJO** would hit the boys with a whip. He took us for walks and if you did something he didn't like you saw the anger in his face. Brother **GZQ** and Brother **MJO** were both bullies.
42. Brother **GZQ** was a school teacher. I will remember the date of one incident with him for the rest of my life. It was the day of the month in 1977. I had been there a couple of years by then and I was twelve. On this day he dragged me out of the classroom. I can't remember what I had done but I had probably done something that annoyed him. I was always doing something wrong because I couldn't do anything right in their eyes. He took me into the corridor and slammed me against the wall and he beat me about the head and body with his hands.
43. Brother **GZQ** regularly beat me. He was a lunatic. He would play football with the boys and he would just kick us up in the air because he could. One thing about him was I never heard him swear.
44. Mr **IGR** was a teacher and I remember he whacked me and I flew across the classroom. I had been cheeky to him, and I know I wasn't a good boy, but I didn't deserve that as a kid. When you were showering he would throw buckets of cold water on you and he thought it was hilarious.

45. In the dormitories the Brothers regularly crept in when we were sleeping and took boys out through the night. It was a regular thing and often they went straight for a boy called [REDACTED]. Sometimes it was one of the other boys but I can't remember his name. They wore black robes and Jesus sandals so I knew it was the Brothers but I don't know who it was. I saw one of the Brother's faces once but didn't recognise him as any of the Brothers that I knew. I used to lie under my blankets and I was terrified that one time they were going to come and take me out. When [REDACTED] came back I heard him crying. In the morning he was a broken boy and was obviously upset maybe even traumatised. There was often talk between the boys in the dining hall in the morning about who got woken up and taken out by the Brothers.
46. I knew that any of the boys who were in there who didn't have any family and were in there for care and protection were likely to get sexually abused. Myself and some of the boys from Glasgow, and I am ashamed that I did this, used to tease the boys that they weren't there for care and protection and that they were there for cock and prick. I know that was really cruel because of what they had gone through and I have always felt guilty for doing it. I wasn't the only one. It became obvious that they only picked the boys who didn't have any family. These boys didn't go home at the weekend because they didn't have a family to go to so I hate to think what happened to these boys at the weekend.
47. When I was fifteen I served nine months in Portland borstal in Dorset, England and it was apparently the toughest borstal in England at the time. It was easier in there than it was at St Ninian's. At St Ninian's it felt like you were constantly walking on eggshells.

Reporting of abuse at St Ninian's

48. When I was home for weekend leave I told my gran that I suspected something was going on with the Brothers taking the boys out through the night. She just told me that I was being stupid because they were Catholic Brothers and wouldn't do anything like that. I never told Miss Ross my social worker because I expected the

same reaction. I remember at some point I told Miss Ross about how I was getting treated at home by my gran and her husband. I never got any reaction from her.

Leaving St Ninian's

49. I think I was asked to go to the social work department in Paisley one Friday. It was not long after the beating I got from Brother **GZQ** on the **██████████** 1977. It was around the time that the **██████████** was starting and I was told I was getting released to go home.

50. After I was home I started at St Aelreds' secondary but got expelled from there so was moved to St Margaret's secondary school. I am not sure of the order and may have gone to St Margaret's first. I was twelve years old. I was fighting all the time with anybody and everybody. I was constantly angry. I got expelled from St Aelreds' then started getting involved with the wrong crowd and ended up getting arrested. I was taken to the children's panel and was sent to St Philips in Plains, Airdrie.

St Philips approved school, Plains, Airdrie.

51. I was at St Philip's for two years. The boys, who were aged between twelve and fifteen, were split up into four houses. It was a Catholic school but religion wasn't rammed down your throat and you weren't forced to go to church. It was a good place. The headmaster, whose name I can't remember, was a diamond of a guy. The staff who ran it were all good too. If you stepped out of line you got the belt on your hands but you deserved it. I was still fighting and had a lot of aggression in me when I was there but couldn't help it. There was lots of fighting between the boys but the staff would usually just separate them. The staff were as good as gold. There was nothing there that could be classed as cruelty or abuse.

52. I remember the headmaster showing us how his car worked. It was a big Peugeot estate. You wouldn't want to cross him at any time because he would put you in your place but he was never violent.
53. I had never been on a holiday before and when I was there I was taken to Mallaig and Arisaig. There was a big stone cottage with bunk beds. We were canoeing, fishing and did lots of other outdoor activities. It was fantastic and I probably had one of the best times of my life there.
54. I got weekend leave every week and the arrangements were the same as St Ninian's in that I got taken to Buchanan Street bus station on Friday afternoon and picked up on Sunday afternoon.
55. I was treated well at St Philip's. I got involved in a few fights and to be honest this is where I learned to fight properly. I was wild.
56. I would have still been fourteen when I got released from St Philips. I went back to live with my gran and started back at school.

Life back at home

57. When I was fifteen, life at home wasn't good and was quite brutal. I stole a car and drove down to England. I wanted to find my dad. I ended up getting caught in Torquay and ended up in Exeter prison. If they had let me walk straight through that prison hall and out the other side I would never have got in trouble ever again in my life. It was frightening. I was in there for two weeks. After two weeks a social worker came and got me and took me back to Glasgow to my grans. As soon as I got there I said I was going to the toilet and ran away and headed straight back to England. I was caught in Bristol and ended up in Portland borstal, Dorset for nine months. I was fifteen when I went in but sixteen when I was released.

58. I went to Reading where I got a half-way house but within six weeks I was back in borstal for another four months. At the age of sixteen I went home to Paisley and tried to join the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders but wasn't allowed because of my criminal record. I got a job on YTS with a bed factory where I got £25 a week but my gran took £20 of it. The abuse at home with gran and her husband continued until one morning I decided I had had enough and went down to Bournemouth. I got into more trouble and ended up in young offenders prison in Dover but managed to escape.

HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow

59. When I was around seventeen or eighteen, still on the run from prison, I was caught in Paisley and was sent to HMP Barlinnie. I was given clothing with yellow patches which makes me stand out as an escaped convict.

HMP Edinburgh, Edinburgh

60. After a week I went to HMP Saughton and I was put in a cell with another prisoner. I couldn't sleep because of the red light in the cell so I removed the bulb. The next thing was five prison officers burst in and the other boy in the cell told them it was me. I was given a beating like I had never had before. My shoulder was dislocated, nose was broken and had cracked ribs. Very quickly after that I was put on the National Express to go back to HMP Chelmsford. I went to HMP Durham first then HMP Wandsworth then to Chelmsford all in the same day.

Reporting of abuse at HMP Edinburgh

61. The next day I went in front of the deputy governor at HMP Chelmsford and she asked what had happened to me. I told her about getting beaten up by the prison officers. She immediately picked up the telephone and spoke to the governor at HMP

Saughton. I don't know what happened after that or if anything happened to the prison officers that beat me.

Life after care

62. After that I was in and out of prison mostly for dishonesty. In 1983, when I was eighteen, drugs came on the scene and I got caught up in that. That time of my life was just a blur.

63. I was in and out of prisons in England and was fighting with everyone in the prisons. I escaped from HMP Rochester again and was on the run for a year before I was caught at the age of 22. I managed to escape from three different prisons. At some point a big Scottish prison officer in HMP Wandsworth told me when I was in solitary confinement that I had to toe the line otherwise I was going to end up in HMP Broadmoor. I spoke to another long term prisoner who said the same thing and this gave me a shake. After that the serious violence stopped. I started sewing mail bags and kept myself to myself. I was then given a job in the library which I did for 22 months. I was then sent to the Isle of Wight prison then got out in 1990. I was 25.

64. Twenty years ago I was at my son's rugby match. I started speaking to a fellow dad who happened to be a police officer. I chatted to him about my dad and I told him what I knew about him. He later came back to me with a possible address for my dad in Plymouth. I travelled to Plymouth and I met my half sister and then my dad. It was very emotional because he said he had desperately been trying to find me. Unfortunately he died a year later.

65. About eight years ago one of my best mates slept with my kids mother. I went back to Paisley after being away for 35 years. I went on an internet dating site and started dating a woman who I now know to be a narcissist. I had a horrible time with her as she was violent and abusive. We married and there were 45 guests from all over the world on my side and none on her side. I knew then that I was in trouble. My own family saw that I was being badly abused by her but couldn't do anything about it.

This lasted for seven years and in the end I had to go to the police. When I was at the police station she called me on my phone. The policeman heard her verbally abusing me. She left my life a year ago. By that time I was very overweight and covered with scabs and this was all through anxiety.

Impact

66. When I left St Ninian's I went to St Aelreds' secondary school in Paisley and I was always fighting. It was just a general reaction to everything that was going on in my life both in care and at home.
67. In 1983 I started taking drugs probably just to mask what I had been through in care and to erase some of the memories. My life in that period was just a blur, and my violence continued. I have accumulated a list of 126 previous convictions mostly for dishonesty and violence. This all stopped 20 years ago.
68. In 1991 I met a woman and had a relationship with her. I took on her two children as my own and then we had our own child. I borrowed money when I was 27 and opened a café and for a while business was good. I was even approached by businessmen who wanted me to start a business in Paris. Unfortunately I destroyed it all because of my addiction to alcohol and drugs and I lost it all. I wasn't a nice person. I also split up with my partner. I went downhill fast because of my involvement in drugs and crime.
69. I was a chronic people pleaser. I went out my way for other people and ignored myself. My friend [REDACTED] and I used to take drugs together and spent a lot of time in each other's company. We decided to get clean and we started rehab and drug treatment together but it didn't last for me. [REDACTED] stuck with it and has now been clean for 24 years. I went out once to get pepper and bought a bottle of whisky instead and that was me for a while. I am now going through recovery again because I know I have a lot to offer and can help a lot of people.

70. Because of my time in care I have always had great difficulty in forming relationships with people. I find it very difficult to trust anyone. I am very protective over my children. Because of the way I was treated I do everything I can for them and for my grandchildren. I always go the extra step to make sure they are happy. I have always been in their lives and I give them all the love I can because that was something I never had as a child.
71. I did a lot for my children when they were growing up. I helped them with homework and watched them play sport. I loved going to see my son play rugby because no one from my family ever came to watch me play sport or came to the school sports day.
72. I lost contact with my step dad because I went into care and he moved away. I missed out on a normal father-son relationship. I have now met up with him and we have a brilliant relationship and he is my best friend.
73. I still think about my time in care a lot and remember how unhappy I was. It can be the smallest thing that triggers it.
74. The week before I met the Inquiry my heart was broken and I was really upset. I knew it wouldn't be easy talking about things that I experienced but it was important to tell people what was happening in these places. I have been trying to justify what happened to me in care but I can't. I was supposed to be in there for care and protection and it just didn't happen. I was abused by those who were looking after me and they let me down.
75. I wrote two manuscripts which I was hoping would get published. One was called 'Ride the prison tiger' which related to my time in prison. The concept behind it is that the tiger would take you deeper into the jungle but if you got off the tiger it would eat you. The other was '██████ Street Hate' which related to my upbringing in Paisley. I ripped both of these up and threw them away because I couldn't go through with it.

76. Eight months ago my granddaughter was born and it broke my heart and I realised I had to deal with my issues. I was smoking and drinking and running away from what happened to me when I was in care. It was only very recently I realised that almost everyone involved in bringing me up were toxic. I wondered how I got through it all and survived.
77. I tried to get into Canada 28 years ago to see my family but when I got there they found that I had convictions which I hadn't declared. I was turned round and sent back. I still hope to be able to go to Canada at some point in the future.
78. A few weeks ago I went to watch a game of football with a good friend of mine who knows my background. He has a ten year old son and at one point he pointed at his son and commented on how he was growing. He then said that I was abused and badly treated when I was that size and in care. It really struck home with me and hit me like a tonne of bricks.

Treatment/support

79. I started a recovery programme 24 years which was supposed to be over twelve steps. I fell off after four steps. I take it so far then all of a sudden it becomes too painful for me and I have to stop. My friend [REDACTED] who I started the programme with continued and he is now clean. He is still a great support for me.
80. What has saved me over the years is Narcotics Anonymous. That was the only place I found some love apart from with some of my uncles. My issue was that I couldn't stay there long enough to get completely clean because I couldn't get through the pain. I now help out when I can at Narcotics Anonymous because I consider myself to be a good cook so I help out at functions. I feel I need and want to give something back to them.
81. I have recently been through eight weeks of therapy and have thirty more sessions planned. My therapist is fantastic and I have felt a lot of benefit from my sessions

with her. I am able to speak freely to her. I am now determined to keep clean and I have good support around me to help me.

Reporting of Abuse

82. In 2003 I gave a statement to the police at Gorbals police station. The policeman was completely disinterested and the way he treated me was shocking. He humiliated me. He suggested I was only doing it for the money. I was furious and all I wanted to do was jump over the desk and hit him. It took me back to my time in care and reminded me of the 'them and us' scenario.

Records

83. I was in contact with Ross Harper solicitors twenty years ago because I was trying to claim compensation through them from my time at St Ninian's but apparently I was time barred. I have never tried to get my social work or medical records. About three years ago my solicitors, Thompsons, asked me to sign a form to authorise them to obtain my medical records. Thompsons are helping me with compensation through the redress scheme. They came back recently and asked me to sign the same form again. I am not sure why. I have been in touch with Future Pathways to help me get my social work records but I am on a waiting list.

Lessons to be learned/Hopes for the Inquiry

84. My aim in coming forward is to help other people. I hope that by telling the Inquiry my experiences it will not only help children in the future but will help me in my recovery. I want to help children who are on the edge and close to ending up in prison. I want to help them come away from the edge and to achieve something in life and reach their ambitions.

85. St Philips approved school in Plains, Airdrie is what an approved school should be like. This is how all approved schools should be run. I was treated far better in there, more like a human being. I had a good rapport with the staff. There was no aggression from them and they dealt with bad behaviour so much better, not with violence. I also think I got a much better education there. It was one of the best run schools that I had ever been in. St Philips should be a blueprint for all other similar establishments filled with caring, loving staff. They wanted the best for all the boys and gave us positive constructive things to do.

Other information

86. Jimmy McInstry was the gardener at St Ninian's. He was a diamond. He looked after the boys really well, took us for walks and gave us cigarettes. When I was at St Ninian's I used to meet him often on a Saturday afternoon when I was home for weekend leave and he took me to watch Celtic both when they played at home and at their away matches. Even when I went to borstal in England at the age of fifteen he used to send me the Sunday Post and the Sunday Mail. Sometimes he sent me money. There was no one else at St Ninians who treated me like he did. I don't have any contact with him now.
87. It broke my heart twenty years ago when I heard that he had been convicted of sexually abusing two boys. I would stake my life on it that those two boys colluded together just to get some money. He was good to all the boys and everyone loved him. I considered him to be one of the boys. I would have been able to tell if he was dodgy. None of the other staff were as good as he was.
88. About eight years ago I was at my cousins in Stevenston and after we visited Stirling castle we went to the site of St Ninian's. By then it was a conference centre and I talked to some of the staff. I was allowed into the building and I went to my old dormitory. It really freaked me being there and I felt quite emotional. I also learned a bit about the history of the building.

89. For the two weeks before I was due to give my statement to the Inquiry I was waking up at two or three in the morning crying. I could quite easily have backed out but with encouragement from my friends I knew had to do it.

90. 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... IGS [Redacted Signature]

Dated... 17/4/23