

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HGL
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is ^{HGL} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1949. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I have been married three times and divorced three times. I have four children, two boys and two girls. I also have 23 grandchildren. My parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They have both passed away. I had three brothers and two sisters, who were all older than me. They are all dead apart from my oldest brother, who is 86 years old.

Life before going into care

3. I was brought up in [REDACTED], Kirkton, Dundee. I was the youngest of six children and I was spoiled rotten. I got away with murder because I was the youngest. I was at St Columba's RC Primary School.
4. For some unknown reason, the next thing I remember was being in this office in the city with my mum. I was eleven or twelve. I just remember the big set of stairs going up. It was the social work office. I didn't know why I was there. After ten minutes I was put in another room and I remember my mum started crying. The next thing I was being taken away in a car, over the Forth Road Bridge and to a place in Tranent. I still didn't know what was going on.

5. The social work took me. I think it was two men. I didn't have a clue why. The only thing I picked up on was that I wasn't going to school regularly. I think it was still primary school. I can't remember if I'd started St John's school.
6. I can't remember any involvement with the social work before this. Obviously they'd spoken to my parents when I wasn't there. I knew I was getting into trouble for not going to school. But I didn't know why the social work were involved.
7. Years later I found out that I was out of parental control. It could've been that the social work had spoken to my parents. There were no children's hearings, nothing. My dad was a bit of an alcoholic. He'd have done anything for a bit of peace and quiet. If it was put to them to put me in to this List D residential school, they'd have been a bit naïve about that too. I was never in trouble with the police or anything like that.

St Joseph's School, Tranent

8. I can remember my first day like it was yesterday. I remember travelling there and we stopped at a big, green gate with barbed wire on it. That gave me a bad feeling right away. I was put in this corridor to wait, then this guy with a big cassock on came out and told me I had to behave myself while I was there. I was taken into the office and saw the headmaster who gave me all the rules and regulations. I remember the social workers left within five minutes. I remember seeing the car driving away and thinking "Am I getting left here?".
9. The place was like an old castle. When I had finished with the headmaster this other brother came in and took me to get some pyjamas, a suit, which was brownish grey, and boots which were about four sizes too big for me. The suit was far too big for me too. I got a pink and white striped shirt too. I was taken to a dormitory and given sheets to make the bed up. I was then taken to the dining hall, where I met everybody else who stayed in the place. There were a few boys I recognised from where I lived. I remember seeing [REDACTED] and another couple of guys I knew from school. They whispered to me that you weren't allowed to speak, so I waited

until I had had my dinner and then went to the playground. I was made aware that I was staying there.

Routine at St Joseph's

10. I didn't know that I was going to be between at St Joseph's and at St John's for five years, supposedly for not going to school. The Marist Brothers or De La Salle Brothers were the order that ran the school. They were associated with the Catholic Church and funded by them. The Government was paying them.
11. There were over 100 kids there, all boys. There were kids there younger than me, maybe nine or ten. I must have been in St Joseph's for two and a bit years.
12. When you got to a certain age in St Joseph's some were transferred to St John's Boys' Approved School in Springboig, Glasgow. When I went to St Joseph's I'd never been in trouble with the police, neither had any of my family, ever. My brothers and sisters were all hard working people.
13. You got weekend home leave after six weeks of being there.
14. We wore the suit every day. We had our own clothes but they were locked up until you went home at the weekend. The laundry was done by the staff.
15. We were locked in. It was like a concentration camp. The windows and doors were locked all the time. There was a small visiting door, which could only be opened from the outside and not the inside. Your visitors would come in, or health inspectors. There was a big, metal, wire fence right round the school. I'm not sure if St Joseph's is still there. You're going back 57 or 58 years.

Mornings and bedtime

16. They would put the lights on about 6.30 to 7.00 in the morning. We got up, washed, done our teeth, clothes on and down to breakfast. They made you go to mass every

morning. There was a little chapel there, so this was every morning after breakfast. You had to queue up to go to communion. Then you'd go out to the yard and they would whistle. They had whistles and you'd line up to go to your classes and that was you there until lunch time. You queued up to go to the dining room. You weren't allowed to speak.

17. Lights were out at nine o'clock. You couldn't speak after that or you got what was coming to you. Jimmy Boyle, who slept above me, wet the bed. When you did this, you had to hand your sheets into the laundry in the morning and stand your mattress up and get clean sheets at night. There were two or three of them that did it. You couldn't say anything to Jimmy Boyle, he would set about you. The brothers would kick you or slap you if you wet the bed. They would say it was just laziness. They wouldn't go near Jimmy Boyle though, he was a hardened criminal, even then. They weren't easy to break down. They wouldn't go near Boyle and TC Campbell. They'd stay away from them.

Food

18. You'd go to dinner and you had about six to eight minutes to eat then you had to sit up, whether you were finished or not and the guys in the kitchen would take your plate away. You then went back into the yard and then you went back to school. It was a massive dining room. We sat at long tables, six on each side, about twelve to a table. The food was okay. You didn't get a choice and if you didn't eat it, you didn't eat.

School

19. There were just three classrooms for schoolwork, for all those kids. Some of the brothers done a bit of teaching. There were at least six brothers and about six civilian teachers. There was a paint store, woodwork shop and metal shop. It was the civilians that were in these classes. The brothers were there to supervise the kids at meal times, in the playground and during classes. They were there to keep an eye on us.

20. Whether the headmaster or the civilian teachers knew what was going on, I don't know. I can't remember the headmaster's name. He was part of the order. A couple of the civilian teachers were okay and would ask you how you were getting on. They had a bit of patience with you.
21. There were some classes at night like painting. I went to a tailoring class, learning to sew and stuff like that. Two women took the class, two or three nights a week. I can't remember their names. It certainly wasn't every night.
22. There was an academic side to school as well, but most of the kids weren't interested. I certainly wasn't interested in an education. These people weren't proper teachers in our eyes. There were different classrooms. It was a mixed group. Youngest and oldest in the same classes. Woodwork, paint shop, tailors class, laundry, kitchens. Some of the boys would work in the kitchens. I didn't. We had a gym teacher too, he was a civilian.
23. There was this great, big guy, I can't remember his name, but Stewart rings a bell. He worked in the paint shop and would ask if you were okay. The civilians were alright. They went home at night. The brothers lived in the place.

Religion

24. You got catechism every day in your class, for about half an hour. It was very religious. You went to chapel on Sunday too. They made you say your prayers in class. You had to pray before meals. A brother stood in the middle of the dining room to make sure you did it.

Leisure Time

25. You got about an hour and a half of leisure time. They had a small snooker table and a table tennis table. You had to wait your turn for everything. It used to cause a lot of trouble. You put your name on a board to get a shot. The Glasgow boys were always

first. There was always only one brother watching; standing in the corner watching all the fighting. He would nip outside and blow his whistle when this happened.

26. I think there was a TV in the recreation room. They probably had a library but I never used it. I wasn't sporty but I think there was a football park behind the workshops. There was a big, bare concrete yard with a few benches scattered around.
27. You got a shower once a week, I think on a Thursday. It wasn't the weekend. You weren't allowed to smoke there but most guys smoked. We got no pocket money in St Joseph's. There were never trips or holidays. You were lucky to get your tea.
28. In all the time I was there they took us to the pictures only once or twice. We went to Tranent to see "The Sound of Music". There was a hundred of us, all walking up the road to the cinema.
29. We didn't all have to work. Some of the boys had to work in the kitchen or the laundry. Most of the food came in cooked. The older boys would clean, sweep classroom floors, dust windows, buff the corridors. No manual work. The guys that done the cleaning would go to get the cleaning stuff. Everybody else went to classes and they joined us about half an hour later. Most guys done it. I did a bit of dusting and sweeping.

Birthdays and Christmas

30. I can't remember Christmases or birthdays there. I think they just passed. I can't remember anything like that. Nothing rings a bell about Christmas or birthdays.

Visits/Inspections

31. I think you got a visit every week at the weekend. I had my brothers and sisters who would come sometimes and my mum came a few times. My dad didn't. He was a bit of an alcoholic. He would be in the pub on a Saturday.

32. Visiting was for a couple of hours. They couldn't take you away. I remember sitting on the grass with my family, so I don't know if we got out the door on to the grass bit. They brought me fruit and bars of chocolate, but you shared it out with your friends because not everybody got visits.
33. I didn't see anybody from the social work in all my time in these places. I cannot remember any.
34. You got a weekend home visit once every couple of months. They gave you a bus pass to get home and back. You got dropped off at the bus station by minibus. I went home two or three times but sometimes I stayed at TC Campbell's parents' house in Glasgow.
35. My dad was an alcoholic and he wasn't interested. He had already thrown my two sisters and older brother out. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were left and he was getting worse on the drink. By this time I knew, without doubt, my dad instigated putting me in the home. Either he got in touch with them or they spoke to him. He wasn't interested. My father was never a father to me.

Healthcare

36. There was a nurse that came in for guys that had lice. Lice were rife in there. They would put this stuff in your hair because it was stinking. You knew who had it. Some guys got their heads shaved. The nurse was there quite regularly. When I got the tartan pants beating from the headmaster I went to see her.

Glasgow boys

37. There were these wee Glasgow gangs at St Josephs. There was about eight to twelve boys in the bunch. They used to try to bully people but they couldn't bully us. Jimmy Boyle, later Scotland's most notorious criminal and public enemy number one, slept above me. That's the kind of people I met in there. [REDACTED], later a triple murderer, and TC Campbell of the Glasgow "ice-cream wars". They were kids

at the time but look at what they grew up to be. I met them all in there. These guys bullied everybody. I didn't know who Jimmy Boyle was until I was in my late teens, until I met them all again. I was very friendly with TC Campbell and he was one of the leaders. I wasn't frightened of anyone there. I was from Kirkton.

38. When I was thirteen or fourteen, just before I got transferred to St John's, some of the Glasgow boys decided to tie the brother up and escape through a window. They smacked him over the head with snooker balls in a sock and knocked him out and tied him up. They then put a bench through the window and escaped. Me and another guy untied him. I never seen the three of them again at St Joseph's. One of the three was a [REDACTED]. He was a man compared to us. He was huge, big hairy arms, muscly, towered above us. These guys were wild.

Running away

39. There were always boys running away. I ran away three times. Usually the furthest I got was Edinburgh Road. They had this set up with the police where there were fields on one side and a road in front of you. We would head for the road and the police were waiting there. I got to Edinburgh once and got caught in the bus station. But you'd get the "tartan pants" from the headmaster when you returned, or the brothers would kick you.

Abuse at St Joseph's School, Tranent

40. St Joseph's was by far the most abusive of the two schools. I never cottoned on to this until a month of being there. There was a reception in the middle of the four dormitories and two brothers on night shift were in the middle and all they would do was walk in and out of the dorms on the ground floor. There were four corridors with a dormitory at the end of each. About 25 to 30 to each dorm. They were all bunk beds and it was mixed age groups.
41. The first experience I had was with a wee guy who slept across from me. I woke up and this guy was next to my bed. He pulled the covers back. It was a guy called

Brother ^{GWM} [REDACTED]. I lashed out. At the time I didn't realise what he was up to. I'd been in about three weeks. He walked away. I tried to get back to sleep.

42. I woke up about ten minutes later and I heard a noise from the other corner and I saw this Brother ^{GWM} [REDACTED] picking up this little guy out of a top bunk and taking him away. [REDACTED] said to me, "Look at that". I just heard this wee guy crying and screaming. I asked [REDACTED] what was happening and he told me he was sexually abusing him.
43. They picked on the wee kids who didn't have a family, who didn't get visits. I don't know where he took him but I could hear the boy screaming and crying. I saw him at breakfast the next day. I asked the wee kid what happened, and he said he'd tampered with him and raped him and that he was sore. I told him to go to the nurse and get cream on it. I asked [REDACTED], "What's this?" and he told me it happened all the time.
44. It happened three or four times - the same boy with the same Brother ^{GWM} [REDACTED]. They never went willingly, he had to grab them. He tried it with me, but I lashed out and started shouting. He tried it with me a couple of times but [REDACTED] shouted, "Hey you!", and the brother took off. [REDACTED] was a year older and bigger, a bit of a rebel. It happened on a regular basis. He took two or three lads out of my dormitory. You could hear the screams from all angles. That first wee guy he took left pretty quick. I don't know where he went. There were rumours that there were bodies there, just hearsay.
45. I would suggest that they dig up the grounds at St Joseph's. There was rumours that the children who went missing were buried there.
46. I didn't ask the other boys what happened to them. I knew by then. The ones they picked on had no family, no visits, no letters, no pocket money sent in. They were targeted. I saw this happening dozens of times over the two and a half years I was there. There was Brother ^{GWM} [REDACTED] and Brother ^{GYZ} [REDACTED]. I saw Brother ^{GYZ} [REDACTED] doing

it once or twice as well. Whether there were other brothers involved and where they took them I don't know.

47. Brother ^{GYZ} [REDACTED] approached [REDACTED] one night and [REDACTED] head-butted him. He was on the bottom bunk and he took off. They never bothered us again, my group of four or five boys from Kirkton. But it never stopped with other boys. They were two big men.
48. I don't know what happened in other dormitories. We spoke to other boys but they wouldn't admit it. One or two were taken to hospital, hopefully they'd have it in the hospital records, to get stitched because of the penetration. They told me they had been to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
49. The showers was another favourite place. They were just cubicles, no doors. There were the four dormitories, a shower block, a gym and the classrooms. The brothers wore big cassocks with pockets. When going to the showers you all went downstairs in your underpants with a towel. When you took your underpants off, turned your shower on, you'd hear, "Fuck off you". ^{GWM} [REDACTED] was a regular at the showers. His hands were in his pockets and he was playing with himself. He'd try to grab your hand and put it in his pocket. He wasn't the only one to do that.
50. Brother ^{GYZ} [REDACTED] used to walk the showers. He used to make boys turn around and he touched their private parts from behind.
51. Brother ^{LUU} [REDACTED] done it too. He was six foot six inches and built like a brick shithouse. He had boys masturbating him. I saw him do it two or three times. He tried it with me half a dozen times but I screamed in his face to fuck off. He used to pick you up by your sideburns, right off the ground. It was excruciatingly painful. Brother ^{GYZ} [REDACTED] came in the showers too. You only got one shower a week. There were twenty cubicles so there'd be twenty of us in there. A lot of kids wouldn't talk about it. They were too embarrassed. You could see the brothers were erect under their cassocks. They would try to come into the showers. I smacked Brother ^{GYZ} [REDACTED] with a bar of

soap. Some of the kids masturbated them or gave them oral sex. We were from Kirkton, we had to fight in our area, we were wilder.

52. We started getting letters and visits and home visits. I got visits from my brothers and sisters and because of this they left me alone. It was the kids who had no-one. I didn't realise that until later on. Every week in the showers something happened. Every single week.
53. The brothers used to tie boys hands together and make them stand on a milk crate in the yard. It didn't matter what the weather was like. If you spoke in the dining room that's the kind of thing they did to you. [REDACTED] had to stand on the milk crate sometimes. All the brothers did it, whoever was on duty. They'd have to do this until dinner was finished. I didn't have to stand on the milk crate.
54. If you spoke in the dining hall Brother [REDACTED] LUU, who was a big man and had huge hands, hit you on top of the head with his knuckles. You'd see stars. It happened to me a few times. There wasn't a clock in this place. You never knew what time of day it was. They'd also rap your knuckles with a big spoon if you spoke in the dining hall. Very, very strict.
55. It took me a couple of months to realise what was happening to me, personally. Two or three times I'd be sleeping and I woke up with Brother [REDACTED] GWM or Brother [REDACTED] GYZ with their hands under my sheets trying to masturbate me. I only remember the three names because they were the main culprits. This happened about half a dozen times, but I'd lash out with my feet. They got away with it a couple of times. But if they didn't, they would move on to one of the boys who had no-one. They know what's going on. They read that wee lads file, knew he had no-one.
56. They would smack your hands with metal spoons if you got caught doing something wrong. If you got caught twice you got sent to the headmaster and you got what was called the "tartan pants". I only got it the once. I had thrown a bit of wood at a guy. He threw it at me first but didn't get caught, but I did.

57. You had to take your shoes, socks, trousers and underpants off and put on a little tight pair of tartan underpants. Then the headmaster beat you with a leather strap. Your wrists were held by another brother. I screamed like a banshee. It was really excruciating. I didn't know why you wore the pants until I got back to the dorm. The beating left the imprint of the tartan pants on your backside. You couldn't sit down for a week. It happened to loads of kids.
58. Over the two and a half years it was a regular thing to abuse the kids in there. Mental, physical and sexual abuse, a regular occurrence. The mental abuse was that they bullied you every day. You would walk past them and they'd boot you up the arse for nothing, or smack you on the back of the head. Brother ^{LUU} hit you with his knuckles, not just in the dining room, everywhere. I think he's dead now anyway.
59. They all had their own way of dealing with you. They would maybe slap you about or drag you along the floor by your hair. There was a wee room at the end of a corridor. I think there was a desk there and maybe a chair. It was a room we didn't want to go in. I think it was the room where the younger boys were abused. If you got out of hand they would give you a right "doing". I had black eyes having had a doing from the brothers. Some guys had burst lips. The brothers were never shy in lifting their hands. You never saw much of the headmaster. You only saw him when he was dishing out punishments. I can't remember his name.
60. The brothers had their cassocks on all the time. They carried these keys, and some of the brothers would hit you over the head with them. They were wicked, cruel people.
61. It's still in my head to this day, hearing those kids screaming. I sometimes still lie and think about them. One or two disappeared and people always wondered where they had went. Maybe transferred to another home.
62. I get angry with these people for sending me there in the first place for supposedly not going to school. My life was ruined from then on.

Leaving St Joseph's School, Tranent

63. When one of our home weekends was coming up TC Campbell said I could stay with him in Shettleston. I stayed with him. It wasn't the first weekend. It was the second or third I'd stayed there. It was just a bus ride from there to the approved school. On the Saturday afternoon we got caught shoplifting in Glasgow city centre.
64. So we got transferred to St John's. It was sweets that we stole, just nonsense. We were taken back to St Joseph's but two days later we were moved to St John's Approved School, and I done nearly two years there.
65. There were four or five of us taken through on the same day. I think we were getting too much for them at St Joseph's. I can't remember if it was a brother or a civilian that took us. We were told by the headmaster in the dining room that we were going to St John's. We weren't told why, but we knew. The age limit in these places was sixteen. If they didn't place you before you were sixteen you'd go to borstal. These places were either junior, senior or borstal. That's the way they run these places.

St John's Boys' Approved School, Springboig, Glasgow

66. I went to St John's School when I was fourteen or fifteen. St John's is a senior approved school. I got out of there three months before my sixteenth birthday.

Routine at St John's

67. St John's was a lot easier than St Joseph's. It was run by the Marist Brothers. This is the same group as the De La Salle Brothers. They were stringent with religion but not as bad as St Joseph's. You still said prayers in the morning and went to mass on a Sunday. It was in Springburn, Springboig, Glasgow. It was a newer building, more like a school, but it was secure. There was a remand home to the right of it. I can't remember what it was called.

68. There were three corridors in St John's that led to three dormitories. There were twenty five to thirty boys in each dorm. We were in bunk beds again. There was never an empty bed.
69. For the life of me I can't remember any of the brothers names at St John's. It was more like a regular school that you slept in at night. It was more lenient than St Joseph's.
70. Bed-wetting was dealt with the same way as St Joseph's and you got a shower once a week too, but the showers had half doors on them. You were getting older.
71. The uniform was similar to St Joseph's, I think it was grey. Your own clothes were locked away until you were needing them.
72. I started getting a bit of a name for myself then. We got our weekends home there as well. TC Campbell only stayed about ten minutes from St John's. He was a wild boy. I wasn't a wild boy. People will say to me that Jimmy Boyle is a "nut job", and he is, but he was a good guy. TC is a gentleman, a great guy, but a "nut job" too. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was a great guy, but a psychopath. If you were in with these guys they were great, but you didn't want to fall out with them.
73. There were about a hundred boys in St John's too. Fourteen to sixteen years old. It was similar to St Joseph's. I learned from the Glasgow guys. They were streets ahead of the brothers. There were things that were okay. There were decent workshops, painting, metal. I went in the kitchen. That's where I learnt to cook. I learned a lot. I learnt to keep my nose clean. I knew that TC Campbell and Jimmy Boyle were going to borstal, but I wasn't as wild.

Mornings/Bedtime

74. The morning routine was similar to St Joseph's. I can't remember if we had to go to mass at St John's. There was always prayers every morning, whether it was in the

classroom or the dining room, and mass on a Sunday. It was a bigger chapel there. Meal times were similar to St Joseph's.

School

75. In St John's there were about eight to ten brothers. One or two would be in the classroom now and again, maybe more than that. I can't remember the civilians in the class. I started to learn things at St John's. I learnt to cook and sew. I liked cooking. I carried that on in my life. I did a bit of painting.
76. We done arithmetic, spelling and stuff like that at school. There were workshops. I was in the kitchen every day. There were half a dozen of us. I done the salads and the vegetables. I used to do all the preparing in the morning and went to classes in the afternoon. I learned something in St John's but I didn't in St Joseph's, because I wasn't interested.
77. I was in the kitchen, but I don't know about other work. I was also in the tailors, sewing. Besides that, I can't remember doing anything else.

Evenings/Leisure Time

78. Leisure time was one and a half to two hours, similar to St Joseph's. You did the same sort of things. You weren't allowed to smoke but a lot of it went on because the guys were older then. There was a television room. I don't know if there was a library. I wasn't into books. I am now, but not then. There was football and cricket but I wasn't sporty. I've never been any good at football or rugby.
79. There was a recreation room with snooker, table tennis and darts. I remember the dart board. I can't remember getting any pocket money, so I don't think we got any. I think I would have remembered that. There were no holidays.

Visits/Inspections

80. I think I went home at Christmas. I saw my brothers and sisters when I was in St John's but not regularly. I can't recall how much but not monthly. I think they were okay with their visits.
81. I didn't see a social worker and can't recall any inspections. How they got us sent to these places, I don't know. Somebody didn't do their homework. I didn't see anybody inspecting them or checking up on them. I had no visits asking me how I was doing.

Healthcare

82. There was a nurse at St John's. I don't know if she was full time. I doubt it. I never went to see her.

Abuse at St John's

83. There was a lot of mental abuse. They had the "tartan pants" in there too, but they were dark coloured pants there. In St Joseph's you got three or four of the lashes but in St John's you got six to eight. I got it about three times for fighting. It was done the same way. A brother would hold your wrists while another belted you. The belt was an inch and a half thick, with a split in it. You got it in the headmasters office. It was a thick, leather belt.
84. There was a swimming pool there. It wasn't big. There were eighteen to twenty guys swimming together. You'd see the brothers eyeing up the wee guys. Grooming them, then you'd hear that a brother was away for two hours with a certain boy. I never saw that, it was just spoken of. By this time we were fifteen, so boys wouldn't tell you about it. They'd get a bad name. I thought they were grooming these boys.
85. There were a lot of wee guys in there as well, who had nobody. The brothers would give them a bar of chocolate or a bar of toffee. They'd take them away for an hour or

so and did what they wanted to them, but the boys wouldn't say what happened to them. It was definitely going on.

86. They would say things to you just to demean you. "Your mum and dad don't want you" or "You're going to come to nothing". They'd slap you, kick your arse, punch you. They never tried anything with us, they never tried to sexually abuse us because Jimmy Boyle or TC would take their throat out. I wouldn't, I'm not violent. They would have a go at us. It was a very physical place.
87. There were bullies in there but I didn't get bullied. One guy tried it. [REDACTED], I met him again, in St John's. He used to steal everybody's chips. He stole my chips and I stuck my fork right through his hand and the fork stuck in the table. I ran, this was a big lad, screaming like a banshee. He got taken to the hospital and came back three days later. There was no repercussions for me. I was close to Jimmy Boyle and TC Campbell. There was a lot of bullying going on between the boys. When I first went to St Joseph's I wouldn't say boo to a goose, but three and a half years later I was sticking forks in people's hands. That's the way it gets to you.
88. There were big gates and a barbed wire fence around it and round the roof and the pipes. It was secure all round, in and out.
89. I ran away from St John's once, the second week I was there. I went to TC's house in Shettleston. I got caught the next day by the police going to get rolls. They were watching TC's house. When I went back I got put in the segregation box. It was like a wee shed. There were three of them next to the gym. They were like the sentry boxes outside Buckingham Palace. You couldn't lie down in them. We were put in there after we ran away. We were in there from eleven o'clock in the morning until the next morning. It was locked. They called them dog boxes. They gave you a potty when you were in there.
90. If you were fighting in the dining hall both of you would be put in the dog boxes for a couple of hours until you calmed down. There was no light in the place. It only happened to me the once. I swore it wouldn't happen again.

91. These kids were older and there were a lot of them, so at times they were hard to control. It had to be easier going. People like TC Campbell and Jimmy Boyle ran the place. The brothers wouldn't get involved in sorting that out. These brothers weren't capable of handling violence by boys at that age. They couldn't handle them if they ran riot.
92. I looked after myself. If you couldn't handle yourself you got bullied. It happens in prison today. Prison officers can't stop it happening. I was a young kid from Kirkton and got sent away for not going to school and it ruined my whole life.

Leaving St John's Boys' Approved School, Springboig, Glasgow

93. I left St John's three months before I was sixteen. St John's was trying to get you ready for when you were sixteen. That's what happened to me. Thrown out and given a bus ticket to get back to Dundee.
94. After the night in the dog box, I decided to do the best I could. I kept away from TC Campbell and the likes and got a couple of good reports at St John's. I got called in to the office one day and was told I was getting released and they asked me to write to my family to tell them. I didn't, so they didn't know I was coming home.
95. I should have told them because when I got home, my mum and dad's house door was always left open, but I tried it and it was locked. I looked in the window, and this couple and a kid were there. The guy came to the door and told me they'd moved. He told me they moved to [REDACTED] and told me where this was.
96. I went there, and my mum said she thought she'd wrote to me and told me. My dad was sitting there, half drunk. He asked me what I was doing there. I said, "I'm not here long, when I'm sixteen, I'm away". He was a bad man. He'd thrown everybody out. He used to throw pokers at all my brothers and sisters, so they all bailed out.

97. I stayed at my parents' house for about a year, until I got married, three days before my seventeenth birthday. I got my own flat in [REDACTED] when I got married. It was my older brother's flat and I moved in when he went to [REDACTED] to open up a factory. He returned three years later because of the Tutsi rising.

Reporting abuse

98. The first time I told anyone about my abuse was to tell Cameron Fyfe, Solicitor. This was about twenty years ago. He had a case going through court on a Mr McEwan about sexual abuse in St Joseph's. I read about it and called him and told him I was an ex-St Joseph's boy.
99. He contacted Dundee police and asked for someone to come and interview me. These two female CID officers came to my door. They asked me to give a statement about it, but I couldn't tell those two young girls about what happened to me. I told them a minimum of what I should have told them. The statement went in, I got a court date, went to court and got knocked back.
100. According to the prosecutor, there was no record of me being in these places. Bell Street police station in Dundee was where the officers were that wrote my statement. I have heard nothing about the statement I gave to the police.
101. The records in the schools will be under the name of [REDACTED]^{HGL} I dropped [REDACTED]^{HGL} when I was nineteen or twenty years old. As far as the Crown Office are concerned there's no record of Mr [REDACTED]^{HGL}'s involvement in these establishments, but my name at the time was [REDACTED]^{HGL}.

Life after Care

102. I think it ruined my whole life. I don't know in what way, but according to my brothers and sisters I was supposed to be a nice wee lad. But because I didn't go to school for a few days here and there they sent me to St Joseph's. That's how my life

changed. I met these guys I've mentioned earlier. I went from there to St John's. I had a couple of years grace then ended up in HMP Barlinnie when I was eighteen.

103. By this time I was into criminality because I had been mixed up with these people for years at such an early age. It wasn't just a fortnight or a month, it was years, with the Boyles and the rest of them. The wrong type of people.
104. I met the same people in Barlinnie again. I started breaking into pubs, clubs and post offices with criminals in Dundee that I'd met in there. The first time I was in Barlinnie, I'd done four months for breaking and entering. Two weeks out - and by this time I was married - and I was back in for the same offence. While I was in Barlinnie I got a divorce. My wife divorced me. I had a daughter, [REDACTED].
105. I done another four months in prison, went home to my brothers flat and it was empty. There was nothing there except my clothes lying in the middle of the floor, and the windows were all smashed. I went to my mum's. I was about nineteen. I ended up in Barlinnie again. So within that year I'd done three sentences in Barlinnie.
106. I was 21 and met my second wife and I got married again. Six months later I was lying in Perth prison. I kept getting caught, because I was never into criminality, but I got into it somehow. I had my first son, then six months later I was back in Perth prison. I couldn't get a job because of my record, didn't have a trade and had no means of feeding my family. I couldn't go anywhere.
107. I was 26 and back in Perth prison. My wife was pregnant again and I was doing six months for a cheque fraud. I put this down to the social work department in Dundee sending me to that place in the first place without checking it out. I wanted to sue Dundee Council but was put off it by a top lawyer here in Dundee. There were hundreds of kids like me. Too many like me.
108. When I went to HMP Barlinnie, I met them all again. When I went to Perth prison I met them all again. It's a cycle you go through. The next time I saw Jimmy Boyle, I

was on the reception in Perth prison and he came in. That was the last time I saw him. I saw [REDACTED] in Perth, [REDACTED] and TC Campbell.

109. I came out of HMP Perth in 1977 or 1978 and I went to Aberdeen. I got a job on the oil rigs. I blagged my way through the interview and before I knew it I was standing on an oil rig in the North Sea. The money was unbelievable. I had done a bit of painting when I was in these places, so I knew a bit about painting. But this job consisted of going into the tanks on the rig and shot-blasting them and we went in and cleaned them out.
110. I was shot-blasting tanks, spray painting inside them. I was working with two Geordies and told them I had blagged this job, I was married, had kids and needed the job. They helped me. They said "Grab the brush and start sweeping. We'll show you how to spray".
111. That was me for ten and a half years. That's what got me out of the criminal life, or I could have been doing ten years. I've been married three times and I think it's had a big effect on my personal life. I couldn't settle.
112. It was the best ten and a half years of my life because I didn't have to face up to responsibilities. At that time I'd been married for twenty years. The kids were older and growing up. Me and my wife went our own ways. I got married again, divorced again. I put it all down to this.

Impact

113. It done something to my mental stability. My second marriage was over after twenty years. I've been on my own for a while now. I'm happier on my own. I get better on my own. When in Barlinnie I wanted a single cell. I had to be on my own. When I was with my wives it was like there was a ball and chain around my neck. I was never happier than when my kids grew up and left the house, getting married and getting their own houses. That's when I got out my last marriage. I sat in my house

24/7 and I have done this for the last year and a half, and I don't know why. I never left the house. I was never like that before.

114. My son [REDACTED] committed suicide six or seven months ago. He was [REDACTED]. His death nearly put me off coming here, but I'm not letting these things stop me from getting justice. I think my past has had an impact on how I brought up my own kids.
115. My other son [REDACTED] has been in prison as well. My daughter has been in prison. My youngest daughter is 38. Three have been in prison. My other daughter hasn't been in prison, and I don't know where it's come from. I don't know if it's the marriage break-ups that's affected them mentally. He's on drugs, she's on drugs. It's been a total nightmare, the past 24 or 25 years.
116. I've not been the healthiest. I have a stent in, I've had a heart attack, I'm diabetic and I suffer from stress. I'm the youngest of six and the only one with diabetes. So they put it down to stress over the years. I think my mental health is okay now. It wasn't a few years ago. I used to call myself a "nut job".
117. I've never been a violent person. The fork in [REDACTED]'s hand is the most violent thing I've done in my life. I've never been charged with assault, breach of the peace, and never had a traffic ticket. I've been driving nearly fifty years, totally clean licence. But over the years I think I'm not right. There's something going on upstairs. I remember the five years in those homes. You don't remember everything but you remember some things.
118. HMP Barlinnie, that was draconian. There were cockroaches covering your cell. When you were in trouble they'd put you in a dog box made of solid concrete, no light, no mattress, nothing.
119. My five brothers and sisters were all stand up citizens. They had responsible jobs. One of my brothers was a justice of the peace, the other one had his own heating

- engineering company. None of them were ever involved with a policeman, all their lives. Just me, and I put it down to them putting me in those places in the first place.
120. I don't know what Jimmy Boyle and TC Campbell saw in me. They just took to me, and I got on great with them. I think I showed a bit of heart. They took to me and we were friends for years. The day I walked out that jail when I was 26 or 27, 40 years ago, I swore I wouldn't go to jail again, ever.
121. On 20 November, 2005, I got a small criminal injuries claim of £3,600. The incident date and what they're paying me for is between 1962 and 1966 but there was a time-bar put on for 1964.
122. Cameron Fyfe, Solicitor, raised an action for me but it kept getting knocked back. The criminal case was thrown out sometime around 2008. The civil action against the church was thrown out because of the time-bar. Lord Stott put the time-bar on these thousands of people.
123. There's a guy across the road from me, [REDACTED]. He went through exactly the same thing - St Joseph's, St John's, borstal - and he got exactly the same answer. I got £3600 compensation, he got £1500 compensation. So that compensation order is, as far as we are concerned, is a guilty plea. They know something was going on in these places. They know there were crimes being committed. That's why they paid criminal compensation.
124. I have never went for support or counselling. I've done it on my own. I'm strong enough to do it on my own. I was thrown into that situation at a very young age and struggled with it until I was 27 years old. But I got out of it. I haven't broken the law in forty years. My kids turned to drugs twenty years ago. I've never taken drugs in my life. There's no drink in my house. I don't know where they got it from. But their mum's a bit unstable. She has been for years.
125. Before they send kids to these places they should check them out thoroughly. Check that there's no history of sexual abuse or any kind of abuse so that the same things

don't happen to them as happened to me. This is why I am quite hard on my grandsons, and I have been for a long time. I say to them, "You cannot get into trouble, you must behave because if you don't they'll put you into a home, and you don't want to go into a home, believe you me".

126. I have sixteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and none of them have been in trouble. My own kids yes, but none of my grandchildren. I kept it away from them because there's no reason for them to know anything.

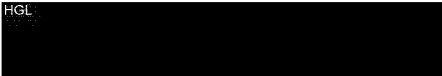
127. I have managed to live with it but I've had my ups and downs. I've been a loner for the last twenty years.

Records

128. I have requested my records for these places but I haven't received them. I think they have destroyed the records deliberately. I think that's why we didn't get anywhere, because they know there's no evidence now.

Other Information

129. 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... *7/7/2017*