

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IAM

Support person present: No

1. My name is IAM. My date of birth is 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My mum and dad are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I have one older brother and one younger brother. [REDACTED] is nearly three years older than me and [REDACTED] is five years younger. We moved around a bit and I went to a few different primary schools. We lived in tenements and weren't any different to all the other families at the time. I started 'dogging' school from around the age of seven or eight and then got involved in a bit of shoplifting. My dad was fined a few times in court because I wasn't going to school. When I was about ten my mum and dad split up. I stayed with my mum for a while with her new partner but we didn't get on so I moved in with my dad and sometimes stayed with my grandmother.
3. It ended up I was taken to the juvenile court which is next to Glasgow Sheriff court in Ingram Street because of the shoplifting and dogging school. I would have been eleven by then. I was told I had to start going to school and was put on probation and had a probation officer but I can't remember his name. I continued to dog school so I was sent back to the juvenile court and I was sent to Larchgrove for two weeks on remand. I can't remember how I got to Larchgrove but I went straight from court. I think the probation officer must have taken me.

## **Larchgrove Remand home, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow**

4. The staff were all men but I can't remember their names or anything else about them.

### **Routine at Larchgrove**

5. I was only eleven and just a wee boy when I arrived at Larchgrove. I was terrified and didn't know what was happening. There were lots of older boys there who were as old as sixteen and some were younger than me too. The staff were terrible and they just slapped me about. I was crying my eyes out for the first while.
6. On the first day, I got kitted out with clothes, most of which were second hand. The brown corduroy shorts I was issued had someone else's name on them. Afterwards I was shown to the dormitory. There were between eight and ten boys in this dorm and they were of all ages. Outside there was a big outdoor yard surrounded by a massive wall.
7. The food was horrible. The porridge in the morning would stay in the plate if you turned it upside down. The food tasted plastic. If you didn't want to eat anything they would make you. They would tell you that you would get a slap if you didn't eat what was on your plate. There were showers but they were communal with no cubicles or curtains. I was embarrassed because I was in there with all the older boys. I hadn't experienced anything like this before. Staff were in the shower area watching us but I don't know why. The older boys would say things to wind the younger boys up and the staff just stood there laughing at us.
8. Through the day we did some classes and spent some of the time in the big yard playing. At night-time there was always someone on duty keeping an eye on us and I saw them often walking past checking on us.
9. I never saw a social worker when I was in there. The only person who visited me was my father who came once or twice. I think my older brother [REDACTED] may have been

in St Mary's children's home in Bishopbriggs by this time. He had been put in care for the same reason I was, dogging school and shoplifting.

### **Abuse at Larchgrove**

10. All I remember about the staff at Larchgrove was that they used to slap me. They would hit me with an open hand and slap me on the back of my head or on my ear. I probably got slapped twice almost every day. The staff were just bullies. I saw them doing this to all the other boys too.

### **Reporting of abuse at Larchgrove**

11. I was too frightened to tell anyone about what was going on at Larchgrove. I was just a wee boy and didn't know any better. I thought that was just the way it was in there.

### **Leaving Larchgrove**

12. I knew when I went to Larchgrove that I was only going to be there for two weeks and would then go back to appear at the juvenile court. Even though I knew it was only for two weeks it was all a big shock to me. I am sure it was the same probation officer that took me back to the juvenile court and this was for them to decide what was to happen to me. My dad was at the court too but I didn't have a solicitor. I vaguely recall being told I was being sent to St Ninian's for between one and three years. I was shattered and felt awful and I was greeting my eyes out. I was then taken away and the probation officer took me to St Ninian's in Gartmore.

### **St Ninian's List D, Gartmore.**

13. St Ninian's, Gartmore was near Aberfoyle and about 25 miles from Glasgow. It was a massive house. There were around ninety boys altogether and we were split into four houses, De La Salle, St Patricks, St George's and St Andrew's. I was in St Patrick's. It was run by the De La Salle order of catholic monks. I can't remember who <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] was when I arrived [REDACTED] Brother <sup>MJJ</sup> [REDACTED] at some point. <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] Brother <sup>HFT</sup> [REDACTED]
14. Next to the headmaster's office were classrooms which were in one building and there were other buildings beside it. All the dorms had different names. I was in the 'Green Lady' dorm, so called because it was supposed to be haunted by a ghost. The boys in my dorm were between a year older and a couple of years younger than me.
15. The general atmosphere at St Ninian's was horrible. There was a constant fear of getting hit for no reason. Violence was the norm.

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

#### *First day*

16. My heart just dropped when we arrived at St Ninian's and I saw the house. I was taken into the headmaster's office then I was put into the big house. It would have been on that first day that I met Brother Benedict. I cried my eyes out that first night and no one tried to comfort me or help me settle in.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

17. We were made to get up early, maybe seven thirty or eight o'clock, and would get washed then go down to the boot-room where we would sit about before going into the dining room. After breakfast we went into the classrooms. Bedtime was usually about nine o'clock.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

18. Everyone ate in the dining room at the same time. The food was horrible. The porridge and custard were like plastic. There was one meal which consisted of two small ice cream sized scoops of potatoes with cheese. That was all we got. There were cooks and they were generally quite nice and were okay with us. They could only give us what they had to work with. If there was any food that you didn't like I think you could just leave it.

### *Washing/bathing*

19. We had showers every couple of nights. I don't think we had a shower every day. The showers were communal and there were always two Brothers watching us. I am not sure why they were there. I don't think there was a need. They seemed to rotate it between them as to who was there. The Brothers in the showers watching us were Brother **GZQ**, Brother **MBZ**, Brother Benedict and Brother **IAT**. They always wore their monks robes and quite often you could see them obviously masturbating below their robes.

### *Clothing/uniform*

20. When I arrived Brother Benedict kitted me out with all of the clothes and boots that I needed. All the boys had the same kit which was a uniform. It consisted of green shirt, green shorts, long trousers, jumper, vest, pants, socks, boots and a pair of sand shoes. Some of the clothes were second hand but they all had my number on them, even my boots had my number punched into them. I was number **■** and was usually just called **IAM ■**. The dirty clothes all went to a central laundry and we got them back when they had been washed.

### *Schooling*

21. We had classes for English, maths, history, geography and then there was woodwork and the gym. The classes were taken by staff at St Ninian's. The English teacher was

Mr MCK Brother MBZ taught us maths. I thought the level of education was okay. When I later left St Ninian's and went to St Gerard's secondary school I had already done all of the work for the class that I was put into. We went back to the big house for our lunch then back for more classes in the afternoon.

#### *Leisure time*

22. After school we were allowed to go to the back of the big house where we played for a while before we went in for our dinner. After dinner we had various activities which were supervised. There were things like arts and crafts and Brother Benedict's electronics. After activities we would go back to the boot-room where we would get a cup of tea or cocoa. There were house rooms where we could sit and watch the television.
23. At the weekend we played football against other schools. One was QVS school at Dunblane. I remember this clearly because after the match we were given a meal. The food was brilliant compared to the slops we were getting at St Ninian's. I always looked forward to going there to play football.

#### *Healthcare*

24. If anyone was unwell there was a matron who would look after us. I went to see her once with a sore throat and was given a couple of throat tablets. When we needed a dentist we were taken to Stirling.

#### *Religious instruction/ Trips and holidays*

25. On Sundays we were dragged to the chapel. We didn't have a choice. We were sometimes taken to Stirling to go to the cinema or swimming in Balfron.

### *Work*

26. After breakfast and before our classes we had cleaning chores to do. This was things like sweeping out and mopping the boot-room and in the main house we had to polish the landings. We were given a big duster thing on the end of a pole. It was called a 'decky' or something like that. We did this on every school day.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

27. Just before Christmas I was fighting with another boy outside the boot-room. We were mucking about, rolling about on the floor. Mr <sup>AV</sup> came out and grabbed me by the hair and dragged me away and gave me a good slap. The next thing I knew was we were both up in front of the headmaster and he said we weren't getting any leave so wouldn't be home for Christmas. This was really harsh because we were just mucking about. We were stuck in there and spent Christmas at St Ninian's.
28. There were only a couple of other boys like me spending Christmas at St Ninian's. We had a nice meal on Christmas day and that was it. We didn't get any presents. Birthdays weren't recognised or celebrated in any way.

### *Personal possessions*

29. Parcels were sometimes sent in for me from my family but the Brothers kept them. If it was sweets they were doled out occasionally so I did get what was sent in but only when they thought it was appropriate.

### *Visitors*

30. After I had run away my leave was cancelled and I wasn't allowed to get any visitors either. I wasn't allowed visits for months and months, probably about seven or eight months in total.

*Review of care / detention*

31. I was treated like I was a bad boy when I was at St Ninian's. I was just an innocent wee boy who didn't know what was going on. No one ever asked me if I had any issues or problems and I was never kept up to date to let me know what was happening to me when I was in there.

*Sibling Contact*

32. One time when we were at St Ninian's they took us to play football against St Mary's in Bishopbriggs and my brother [REDACTED] was there. St Mary's was run by the De La Salle order as well. I got the chance to see [REDACTED] outside the gym where we were playing five a side football and we had a good chat. Nobody was supervising us when we met. It felt good to see my brother because I hadn't seen him for a while.

*Discipline*

33. The only discipline they had at St Ninian's was slapping and hitting, or <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] would belt you over the bare backside. When I gave evidence at the High Court I was cross examined at the end. It was put to me that there were ninety boys at St Ninian's, so wouldn't I agree that they needed to have a bit discipline. I replied and agreed there should be discipline but the staff were heavy handed and I was battered which is more than discipline. He quickly sat down and didn't ask any more questions. They were far too heavy handed for wee boys like me.

*Home Leave/Running away*

34. After I had been there a while, maybe a month, I was allowed to get home leave every second or third weekend. It was regular. They took us by bus to Buchanan Street bus station on Friday afternoons. I would then get the subway home. I usually stayed with my mother but sometimes it was with my granny. I got picked up at the bus station on Sunday evening by the bus to take me back. I was always desperate to get home on the Friday and hated the idea of going back on Sundays.



35. The first time I ran away was when they found out I had been staying with my dad when I was on weekend leave. I would still have been eleven. I don't know how they found out. I was called in to the headmaster's office and he said I wasn't getting out on weekend leave because my father wasn't fit to look after me and I was sent back to my woodwork class. This broke my heart. On the way back I went to the toilet, crying my eyes out, and decided to climb out the window and ran away. I was still wearing the uniform green shorts and shirt.
36. I got to the main road and a lorry stopped. I put on a limp and told the driver I was doing a sponsored walk so he told me to jump in. He gave me a lift back to Glasgow. I was away from St Ninian's for about a month. I can't really remember how I was caught but it must have been the police and I got taken back to St Ninian's.
37. I ran away from St Ninian's a couple of times. Both times I made it back to Glasgow. One time it was more that I didn't go back rather than I ran away. When I was returned I was taken to SNR and I was belted on my bare backside. I think I got six of the best. I can't remember if it was Mr MJJ or if it was SNR. One of the times Brother HFT belted me.
38. After I had run away I was made to wear massive red shorts held up with a bit string tied at the waist for about six weeks. This was just to humiliate and embarrass me. For a long time after I had run away I didn't get weekend leave until they thought I could be trusted.

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

#### *Brother Benedict*

39. Brother Benedict was the worst abuser for me and he made my life hell. He was a dirty animal. He didn't just slap like the other staff, he punched and when he did, it hurt. He punched me on the side of my head or around my kidneys or all over really. He was a bully and he hit me and the other boys regularly.

40. One Friday, just before I was going home on weekend leave, we were in the dining room and Brother Benedict clapped his hands. This meant that talking had to stop. Someone at my table must have spoken and I presume Brother Benedict thought it was me. He picked up a chair with a metal frame and hit me across the back with it. I was knocked to the floor and I remember I was greeting. I was still eleven maybe twelve when this happened.
41. Another time I was in the boot-room which was in the basement and we were probably carrying on. Brother Benedict came running in with his fists held out in front of him and hit whoever was in front of him. He hit me in the face with full force.
42. Brother Benedict had a whole lot of boot laces that were intertwined. They were about a metre long. He would use this to whip the boys on their bare legs below their shorts. It was very sore. It didn't leave me with any injuries but it stung.
43. Brother Benedict used to take activities in one of the sheds outside. I sometimes went to his group which he called electronic activities. There were usually four or five boys in the shed. One of the things he would do was rig up some wires and I think a car battery was involved. He would then make the boys hold the two handles, one in each hand. He wound the handle of the dynamo thing then he gave you an electric shock. He was laughing all the time he was doing this. You couldn't let go because of the electricity and your hands and body were shaking. It was sore through your body. He did this to me a couple of times. He told you to hold onto the handle and if he said so there wasn't an option to refuse. After he had given me the electric shock I felt terrible. I heard that he once attached the wires to a boy's testicles.
44. When we got back from weekend leave on the Sunday evening we would be in the boot-room in the basement where we would get changed and leave our dirty washing in a big basket. Some of the boys had little accidents in their pants. All our clothes had our numbers on them, including our pants, so he knew who had made a mess of their pants. He would then tell me or someone else to go up to one of the house rooms with all the soiled pants hanging along the handle of a sweeping brush. I was told to shout out the boys numbers and this was just to embarrass the boys who had done it.

Brother **MBZ**

45. Brother **MBZ** often hit me and the other boys on the top of the head with the knuckles on his hand or with a metal whistle he would be holding between his fingers. Sometimes he would just slap or punch the boys. Brother **MBZ** slept in his room which was next to my dorm. Sometimes I heard voices through the night which may have come from his room so he may have had boys in there but I can't be sure.

Brother **HFT**

46. Brother **HFT** **SNR** slapped me about. He would slap you for silly things, for example if you weren't standing up straight. Sometimes there was no reason, he would just slap you as you walked past.

Brother **IAT**

47. Brother **IAT** once took a group of us to Kirkoswald in Ayrshire. We stayed in a building which could have been a scout hall. One day we were down on the beach and he put his hands down the back of my swimming trunks. I was about twelve at the time. I pushed him away then ran away from him.

Brother **GZQ**

48. Brother **GZQ** was another one who liked to slap the boys about around the back of the head and the ears.

Brother **IGO**

49. There were two young guys at St Ninian's who I believe were training to become Brothers. One was Brother **GYV** who was okay. The other was Brother **IGO** who was **\_\_\_\_\_**. He was quite small and liked hitting the boys on the top of their heads with his knuckles. Some of the boys were taller than him so he had to jump up to do it.

*General Abuse by Brothers*

50. Almost all of the Brothers slapped me across the head and I saw them doing it to the other boys too.

**Abuse by Civilian staff at St Ninian's**

GJN

51. GJN was the night watchman. If he heard anyone talking through the night he would come into the dorm and drag all the boys out of their beds and make them stand on the landing, facing the wall with bare feet, in the freezing cold for two or three hours. He was often reeking of drink at the weekends. One time when we were standing there he came behind me and touched my bum. I just pushed him away.
52. GJN came into the dorm through the night and woke up the known bedwetters to get them to go to the toilet. He was so loud he usually woke up the whole dorm. If GJN found out that any of the younger boys had wet their beds he would wake the whole dorm up and drag everyone out to stand on the landing. He would shout and bawl at the bedwetters and rub the wet sheets in their faces. Some of these boys were as young as seven. He would then make them wash their sheets in the middle of the night.

*Mr McKenna*

53. Mr McKenna, the woodwork teacher, often threw bits of wood at the boys. He touched me up once. I was in his class standing at a workbench and he came behind me and touched my backside. I just moved away from him and that was the end of it. He didn't do it again.

Mr MCK

54. Mr MCK was the English teacher and he sometimes walked up behind me and slapped me on the back of the head in the classroom. He did it to all the boys in the class. He used to stand about in the classroom with his hands in his pocket and it was obvious that he was playing with himself. He did this in full view of the whole class.

*Other civilian staff*

55. Some of the civilian staff were okay but some carried bunches of keys which they threw at the boys if they were carrying on. They would shout or blow a whistle but if the carrying on continued they would throw the keys. Mr GZM, the gym teacher and Mr IAV would throw keys. Mr IAU was another civilian member of staff who used to slap me and the other boys about.

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

56. Brother Benedict hit me with the chair on the day I got home leave for the weekend. When I was home my mother realised I had a sore back and saw the marks where I had been hit. She asked and I told her what had happened. She wrote a letter to the school and it just made matters worse and in fact made my life hell. Brother Benedict must have been pulled up and spoken to about it. He started calling me a 'grass' and a 'snake' and he got the other boys to do the same. The slapping and hitting by Brother Benedict continued.
57. People have asked me before why I never reported any of the abuse at St Ninian's but I was just a wee boy and I was scared. There was no one in St Ninian's that I thought I could trust to tell especially after what had happened when my mum wrote to complain about Brother Benedict.
58. Some of the civilian staff were quite decent to me and were okay but there is no doubt they would have seen some of the stuff that was going on and they turned a blind eye

to it. I am sure they would have seen the boys getting hit especially by Brother Benedict. On the occasions that I ran away from St Ninian's no one ever asked me why I had run away.

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

59. I was at St Ninian's for around two years and think I was thirteen when I left. I hadn't had weekend leave for a long time then eventually I was allowed home on day leave. This was a day through the week and it was so I could see my family. I was on home leave this day and was supposed to go back that night. Every year the boys would get taken to the Kelvin Hall for the circus and the shows and it was organised for the night after I had home leave. I decided to stay at home and go back to St Ninian's with the boys the next day. I met them the next day and went back as I planned. I think it was because of this that the Brothers trusted me and within a couple of months I was given a leaving date. This would have been around [REDACTED] 1971 and I would have been thirteen.
60. It felt brilliant when I was given this leaving date. It was a great feeling when I left. I think it was a Friday and I left with the other boys on the bus who were going home for weekend leave.

### **Life back home with mum**

61. When I left St Ninian's I went back home to live with my mother. Things didn't go well living with her. I started at St Gerard's high school but didn't stay very long. I started shoplifting and ended up back in front of a children's panel. At the panel it was decided to send me to St John's in Edinburgh Road. I would have been about fifteen by then.

## St John's, Springboig

62. St John's in Edinburgh Road, Glasgow was an approved List D school. It was completely different to St Ninian's. There isn't much I want to say about it because it was far better than St Ninian's. It had previously been run by the De La Salle order of monks but they had gone by the time I got there and it was run by civilian staff. I think they worked for Glasgow corporation. There was a house room with a television and there was a snooker table.
63. Mr <sup>HGC</sup> [REDACTED] was <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] at St John's. It was all boys at St John's and the age range was from fourteen up to seventeen. There were academic classes and there were also workshops. There was bricklaying, joinery painting and others. My choice was to go to the bricklaying. They tried hard to give the boys a trade to use when they left. Some of the older boys were working on the outside and they gave their wages to the staff. The boys would be given some of their wages and the rest would be put into the boy's bank account for when they left.
64. They tried to get me to sit O' level exams and one time my brother [REDACTED] visited me and he was told by the staff to try and encourage me to sit them. I didn't because I took off and ran away.
65. A few times I saw some of the boys fighting. The staff would break it up and slap the boys about a bit. There were only one or two members of staff who would give you a slap but they didn't even give the belt there. I can't really remember anything about the staff because I was there such a short time and it was so long ago. I think the staff realised that we were a bit more grown up by then so they were maybe looking after themselves. The atmosphere was much better and they treated us more like adults. We were allowed to smoke and food was better too.
66. After I had been there about a month I fell ill and had the mumps and was in my bed. You were allowed to smoke at St John's but not in the dorms. I was lying in my bed smoking when one of the teachers, who was an ex-army sergeant, came in and caught me. He tipped me out of my bed and when he found my tobacco he confiscated it.

67. You had to be in there six weeks before they considered giving you weekend leave. After six weeks I got weekend leave but I didn't go back when I was supposed to. I was caught and was taken back. About two weeks later I ran away again from St John's. I used a knife to unscrew blocks which stopped the window from opening. I opened it, climbed over the roof and ran away. I used ten bob that another boy gave me and made my way to Govan. I think in total I was only at John's around two months. I was between fifteen or sixteen when I ran away from alfo St John's.

### **Life on the run from St John's**

68. I was on the run from St John's for a year and two months. In that time the police came to my mum's and my auntie's house maybe twice. By the time I was seventeen I decided to write to the headmaster at St John's and told him that I was willing to go back provided that I didn't get sent to borstal. I got a letter back inviting me to attend a children's panel at Shawlands Academy. I knew there was a risk that they would take me back and I could end up somewhere else but I went.
69. I explained to the children's panel that I had been working doing casual jobs down in London. This wasn't true as I had in fact been doing various jobs in Glasgow. They obviously saw that I hadn't been in any trouble with the police and at the end of the meeting they told me I was free to go. I was so happy when they told me this.

### **Life after being in care**

70. Throughout my adult life I have done various jobs, often seasonal at holiday camps around the UK. In between I did other casual jobs like roofing and bricklaying, worked in a pulp mill and various driving jobs. I met and married my wife in 1980 and we subsequently moved to Fort William. I have my own children and grandchildren. I am currently signed off work because I am having issues with my hips.



## Impact

71. Because Christmas wasn't celebrated and because of the year that I didn't get home for Christmas from St Ninian's I think that is the reason that I hate Christmas. I don't like celebrating it. I go along with it because of my grandchildren but I only do it for them. I like the Christmas dinner but to me it is just another day.
72. I was born a Catholic but now am more of an atheist. I am not sure but it could be because of my time at St Ninian's with the De La Salle Brothers. It was probably because they were abusing me that turned me against religion because they were the ones that were supposed to be protecting me. They also dragged me to chapel every Sunday.
73. Sometimes I still think back about my time in care, especially St Ninian's, and how badly treated I was. I think it affected my kids because I was always very strict with them. I didn't want them to get into trouble and go through what I did in care. I was possibly too strict with them. When I see my grandson, who is around the same age I was when I was in care, it makes me think about my time in care and wonder how it could possibly have happened.
74. Me being in care probably had an effect on my relationship with my mother. She left the family and didn't come to my wedding or my brothers. I don't believe that it affected my relationship with my brothers and we are still quite close and get on fine. I don't think it had any impact on my ability to form relationships as an adult.
75. I think I got a decent education when I was in care although I suppose it could have been better which could have meant I got better jobs. On saying that I worked for a number of years in the building trade and had a lot of good laughs and I enjoyed it.

## **Treatment/support**

76. I have never felt that I needed any support or counselling as a result of my time in care.

## **Reporting of Abuse**

77. In 2001 I read an article in the Sunday Mail newspaper about St Ninian's. It talked about children being abused and was looking for people who had been there to get in touch with Ross Harper and co solicitors. I got in touch with Ross Harper and gave a statement. Included in the statement was what happened with Brother Benedict and the other Brothers and staff at St Ninian's. This included Mr MCK. My solicitor came back to me later and said there wasn't enough evidence to pursue this case to charge Mr MCK.
78. My brother [REDACTED] contacted me around 2020 and he told me he had been in touch with the police and asked if I wanted him to pass on my telephone number. He did and Detective Sergeant Carol Bruce from Glasgow CID contacted me and later came to interview me. I have had two lengthy interviews with the police which resulted in criminal trials.
79. The police did a good job overall and I was impressed at how they dealt with it all. Leading up to the trial of Brother Benedict the Procurator Fiscal's office kept in regular contact with me to let me know what was happening. Giving evidence at the High Court was harrowing. I was incredibly nervous and it was harrowing. Once I was in the courtroom and saw the judge I was initially anxious but when I started speaking I was fine. I had told them that I didn't want to see Brother Benedict in the courtroom so they put a screen up so we didn't see each other. There was supposed to be a video screen but the video link wasn't working. Having a screen was fine. I wouldn't choose to give evidence again but if I have to for Brother MBZ then I will.

80. Brother Benedict got seven years at the trial where I gave evidence. I was quite happy with that but it could have been more. Everyone kept saying it was a shame because he was an old man. I don't see it like that because I was just a wee boy and he shouldn't have done what he did.

### **Compensation**

81. Ross Harper was trying to make a civil claim against the De La Salle order in 2007. There was mention of a time bar but apparently that changed. I subsequently received compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. In 2021 after I gave my statements to the police I got more compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. They worked it out that I got one hundred percent in relation to physical and emotional abuse and thirty percent in relation to sexual abuse.

### **Records**

82. Wellbeing Scotland are currently trying to locate my records. There was a boy who was looking into finding them but he has gone off on long term sick so I had to go through everything again with another girl and she is continuing to look for them. Neither Glasgow council or Stirling council could find any records for me.
83. I know that the Procurator Fiscal's office have something which proves when and where I was in care but they cannot release this to me just now while there is a possibility of a trial against Brother **MBZ**. I will need these for my redress application.

### **Lessons to be learned/Hopes for the Inquiry**

84. I think more care and consideration is essential before the decision is made to put children into care. I shouldn't have been removed from my family and put into care in

the first place. My family was broken up and no one tried to find out what the issue was or try and resolve it or at least offer any help.

85. Religious Brothers shouldn't be put in charge of children. Some of them were absolute animals. Vetting has to be stricter and if there is anything in the person's past that rings alarm bells they shouldn't be touched with a bargepole.
86. I hope that what happened to me, my brothers and all the other boys, never happens again to other children in the future.

### **Other information**

87. Brother Benedict was transferred to St Joseph's in Tranent at some point. I heard that he continued to abuse the boys in there. I know now that his name is Michael Murphy and Brother <sup>MBZ</sup> [REDACTED] is <sup>MBZ</sup> [REDACTED]
88. I gave evidence at the High Court in Edinburgh at the trial of Brother Benedict where he was sentenced to seven years. At the High Court they were making out that he was just an old man at 88 but I was just a wee boy when he was doing this to me. I was told later by someone in the Procurator Fiscal's office that he was found guilty of hitting me across the back with a chair. Thankfully there was justice.
89. Brother <sup>MBZ</sup> [REDACTED] and I have been told by the Procurator Fiscal's office that attempts are being made to [REDACTED] Scotland so he can face trial. I haven't heard any update for quite a while so I am not sure what is happening with him.
90. Mr McKenna the woodwork teacher was in court in 2005 for touching boys up and he was convicted.
91. 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.

IAM

Signed.....

Dated..... 07-03-23