

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

HOC

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is HOC. My date of birth is the 1961. I am 56 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. The institutions I was in are as follows, I cannot be certain of the dates and times because of the young age I was at the time: 1. Craigtoun (possibly in St Andrews) – 1968 or 1969, 2. St John Bosco's , Aberdour, Fife 1971 - 1972 for two years, 3. St Joseph's, Tranent 1972 – 1974 for two years, 4. Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow off and on for two days at a time, 5. St Mary's Approved School, Bishopbriggs 1976 for a few months, 6. Longriggend Remand Centre, Airdrie 1976 for a few weeks, 7. Polmont Young Offenders Unit, Polmont 1976 – 1977 for eighteen months, 8. Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow 1977 off and on over the next years of my young adult life.
3. I was in approved schools of one kind or another for most of my childhood. I was just too young to realise what was happening. I didn't have a lot of choice in where I was going and what was expected from me.

**Life before going into care**

4. I was born and brought up in Blackhill, Glasgow. I was the oldest of five children. My parents' names were and . My brother was called and my

sisters were called, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Both my parents have since passed away.

5. My parents had problems with addictions to alcohol and drugs. I was living hand to mouth and became a thief. My parents used to encourage me to go out and steal to support their addictions. I was not attending school and I remember I appeared before a Children's Panel. I recall at the Panel meeting, my mother told them that she did not want me.
6. I think that the Panel agreed that I should go with my brother [REDACTED] on a summer placement to Craigtoun Children's Home. Mr Bracken was my social worker at this time.

**Craigtoun or Craigtown Children's Home, possibly in St Andrews 1968 or 1969**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

### **Leaving Craigtoun Children's Home 1968 or 1969**

11. I went back to my parents and they still had addiction problems. I didn't realise that my mother was addicted to drugs. They still wanted me to go and steal to help support their habits. I was getting into a lot of trouble. I was not attending school so the social work department became involved. I was still dealing with Mr Bracken. I can remember attending a number of children's panels at an office in Albany Street, Glasgow. Eventually one of the Panels decided that I should be placed in St John Bosco's Approved School, Aberdour, Fife.

### **St John Bosco's Approved School, Aberdour, Fife 1971 – 1972.**

12. St John Bosco's was run by the Catholic Church and was staffed by Priests, Brothers and lay staff. It was an all-boys school. The school was situated in a big house in Aberdour, Fife. It was a brutal place and I was to stay there for about two years. I learned to become violent and to defend myself. I was told that I was there under a court ruling called a Section 413.

### **Routine at St John Bosco's Approved School, Aberdour, Fife.**

#### *First day at St John Bosco's*

13. I was taken to St John Bosco's by two security staff but I didn't know who they were. I remember being terrified. I was placed in a dormitory with other boys. I was given some kit. No one spoke to me and told me what to expect. I was told to follow the other boys and I went down to the dining hall for something to eat.
14. I was sleeping in a dormitory that had a partition for some privacy. I think that there were six of us per dormitory. It was an all-boys dormitory.

15. There were children from all over Scotland at the school. We were all under twelve years of age but there were some exceptions who were older boys aged sixteen or seventeen. They were used by the staff could keep us under control. They were just bully boys.
16. It was a very clean place and I remember that it had a gym and a football field. The games of football could be forty a side and I remember that the priests also played. You could get your aggression out and I recall the priests being very hard tacklers.
17. There was a place that you kept your spare clothes. It was a kind of cave and it was infested with rats. I remember that there were rat and mice traps everywhere and there was quite a smell of dead rats. You would take your clothes and bed sheets to the laundry to be washed. You didn't have any other chores to do.
18. I was in the Ogilvie wing and I recall that there was a fragment of bone belonging to Saint John Ogilvie kept in a glass container. All of the boys from the wing had to kiss the container. I also remember that a number of well-known Priests came to visit and I think that I met LRM when he called at the home.

#### *Staff*

19. Father LOB was SNR at the school. I was always an absconder so I was regularly punished by him. He used to hit me with a walking stick. I recall that there were lots of staff and I can't remember them all. I recall Father LNB, Father Neal, and GRN who was a member of the teaching staff. My teacher was Miss IXA.
20. Brother LMW was the woodwork teacher. He also drove the school bus. He didn't seem to be about at night time. I would describe him as being a smart, well turned out man who started off being very nice to me and trying to encourage my woodwork skills. He had black hair and was ages with my father probably in his 30's.

*Mornings and bedtime*

21. You were woken up by the Priests in the morning at about eight o'clock. Once you had washed you went down for breakfast. After breakfast you had to go to school. The school day was shorter than normal school. You had lunch and then school in the afternoon. After school you were allowed to play unless the staff called you back to make your bed or to do something they wanted done.
22. You would have a tea and then be allowed to watch television. I can recall that my favourite programme was John Cravens Newsround. There were no chores to do as the cleaning was done by staff. I was into woodwork and used to attend extra classes. I also remember that we had to go to chapel quite often for prayers but my memory of that is not good.
23. There was always a supper which was usually a drink and a bun and then we were sent to bed about 8:30pm. We were in dormitories of three or four boys and we would often fight and carry on with each other after we had been sent to bed. The Priests had a room near to the dormitory and they would often creep about the dormitories but I didn't witness any sexual abuse.

*Religion*

24. I was brought up as a Catholic and I can remember being sent to chapel in the school a few times every day. I was an altar boy. I was selected along with three other boys but eventually the Priest only wanted me to go to the rehearsals for the different masses.

*Mealtimes / Food*

25. You got porridge and cereal for breakfast. I can't remember much about it but it wasn't that bad.

*Washing / bathing*

26. There were showers and baths and you used them as you needed to. There were no issues with washing and bathing.

*Bedwetting*

27. There were a lot of bedwetters. It never affected me. They put all the bedwetters together and they used to get them up through the night. I think that the bedwetters had a particularly hard time.

*Clothing / uniform*

28. The uniform that you had to wear was jeans and plastic shoes. You also wore a blazer and if you were an absconder you had to wear short trousers. I think that they put the short trousers on you to stop you running away. I grew wise to this and had a pair of long trousers hidden for the times that I did run away.

*School*

29. There was a school in the home. My teacher was Miss IXA. I am convinced that she knew that I was being abused and she used it as a threat to try to punish me. She would threaten to send me to see Brother LMW who I was terrified of. She treated me very badly and did everything she could to demean me. I never learned anything while I was at school.
30. I remember that Miss IXA had a budgie and she kept it on her desk. I hated Miss IXA and she didn't like me. I killed her budgie with a sharp pencil. I really liked the budgie and the only reason I did it was to get back at Miss IXA. I remember that Miss IXA stayed in a big house in Aberdour across from St John Bosco's.
31. There were woodwork classes and you also got PT. The school day was not as long as normal school and I can also remember being taken to the local swimming baths.

*Discipline*

32. I don't remember any formal discipline. The Brothers would hit you and the older boys under the direction of the Brothers would also hit you. You also got the cane from Father LOB.

*Trips / Holidays/Home leave*

33. I remember a trip to Aberdeen. It was to another Catholic run home in a place called Peterculter. We were left with the local Priests who ran the home. I had never met them before. I can't remember its name. All the boys from St John Bosco's would go up in a fleet of buses which were old bangers. I also recall that we would be sent out to pick raspberries for most of the summer. I think that we were there for about six weeks during the summer holidays.
34. We also went to another convent in Aberdeen which was run by nuns They had a swimming pool but the nuns wouldn't let us go in the water. They would make us put on our swimming trunks and stand at the side of the pool. I have no idea why they did that as it made no sense.
35. I was introduced to other children from other approved schools. We never formed any friendships with them.
36. The home went on another trip to a place in Glasgow. It was at Christmas time and it was quite a snobby place. I remember that my parents came to meet me there. The priests were all there. It was in the west end of Glasgow. It was a Christmas Show but I took this opportunity to run away.
37. I never got home leave because you had to behave and earn it. I was always running away so I never got the chance. I was not the best behaved boy at the home.

*Leisure*

38. You could watch television. I used to head out into the countryside and I enjoyed being in the woods and looking at the wild life. I was from Glasgow and this was all new to me. When it got dark the staff would send out search parties to find me and bring me back. I didn't really join in the organised leisure activities I preferred my own company.
39. We used to go to the swimming baths at Kirkcaldy. We were not allowed to change in the cubicles and had a large communal changing area. The older boys would bully you as you were getting changed. They thought that they were acting on behalf of the priests. I met these boys in later life when they were well known Edinburgh criminals. I told them what I thought of them and they didn't like that. They denied it happened.

*Visits*

40. I don't think that there were any visits from the social worker and I didn't have any family visits. Most of the boys were at St John Bosco's for care and protection. I told the other boys I was there for committing crime although this was not true. The boys that were there for care and protection were "slagged" by the other boys. I don't know why I was there. It was my parents that put me into St John Bosco's.

*Running away*

41. I used to run away regularly and the police would usually bring me back. I never got very far. I did try to tell the police what was happening but they were not interested. I ended up in Dunfermline once and had to try and get to Glasgow from there. I remember escaping from the car that came to collect me when I was at the police station. It had run out of water and broke down. I knew how to work the child locks. When I was on the run in Glasgow I would commit petty crimes and usually got caught by the police.



42. You would get battered for running away and put into a cold bath. No one ever asked me why I was running away. It was all about surviving. Most of the boys like me all ended up in the prison system in later life.

*Birthdays and Christmas/Pocket money*

43. I don't remember birthdays or Christmas being celebrated. I do remember the trip to Glasgow at Christmas time for a show but that was it. You didn't get pocket money. I don't think that my parents acknowledged my birthday.

**Abuse at St John Bosco's Approved School, Aberdour.**

44. It was a brutal regime and the older boys would be acting under the direction of the priests in charge in handing out physical punishment. You would also be hit on the head by the priests. They would punch you. I felt safer on the streets of Glasgow than I did in St John Bosco's.
45. I was told by Father **LOB** that if I behaved for six weeks I would get home leave and would be able to board the bus to go to Glasgow to see my parents. I got on the bus and as I was sitting on the bus he told me that my mother didn't want me home at the weekend and to get off the bus. He did it in front of all the other boys to humiliate me. All the boys laughed at me. It would break my heart.
46. I was an altar boy and the Brother that was in charges of the altar boys was Brother **LMW**. He was also the woodwork teacher and he was very kind to me. I really liked him. He persuaded me to become an altar boy. Initially there were five trainee altar boys. He started getting me to go on my own. He always helped me get dressed. It was then he started to touch me.
47. On the one occasion he managed to get all my clothes off. He forced me to perform oral sex on him. He took all my clothes off. He then sexually assaulted me. I started to scream so he let me go. I vowed at that time that I would kill Brother **LMW**. He had started out as such a nice man and I trusted him.

48. There was a day when the mail from your relatives was handed out. I recall standing there with all the other boys and my name was called out. I started to walk towards Father **LOB** when he said to me in front of the other boys that my mother had not written. I was laughed at by the other boys. It was terrible and made me feel isolated.
49. I am convinced that my school teacher Miss **IXA** knew that I was being abused by Brother **LMW**. She would use this as a threat and would tell me that I would be sent to Brother **LMW** if I didn't behave. I was terrified of Brother **LMW** and she knew this.
50. I can recall there was a wee American guy called **██████████**. He was a small boy at the home. He was in the dining room one day when he screamed out that he was being sexually abused. He had the courage to say something. I think that he was taken away after that because I never saw him again. I don't know where he went. I never saw him being sexually abused.

#### **Reporting of abuse at St John Bosco's 1971 – 1972.**

51. I told my social worker what had happened at St John Bosco's but nothing happened. I also told two trainee police officers who were at the school to gain experience of approved schools. Nothing happened when I told them. I remember that one of them had a surname Mitchell. I later had dealings with him when he was a sergeant in the Police.
52. I also told my parents but they didn't care. I know that my mother noticed behavioural changes in me. I started to get into a lot of trouble and had a lot of dealings with the Police.

### Leaving St John Bosco's, Aberdour 1972

53. It happened all of a sudden and I was given no warning. I was taken home to my parents. I was there for about two days when the authorities arrived and took me to St Joseph's School in Tranent. I was not consulted.

### St Joseph's Approved School, Tranent, East Lothian 1972 – 1974

54. I arrived at St Joseph's much more street wise than I had been at St John Bosco's. I had turned into quite a violent person and I was not going to stand for any of the abuse I had previously experienced. I had learned to deal with adults. I also taught myself to fight.
55. When I arrived I noticed that the boys were all a lot older than me. I was under the impression that I was to be there for no longer than twelve months. There were some people I had met previously in the care system.
56. The school [REDACTED] Mr and Mrs <sup>HPT-SPO</sup> [REDACTED] They had a [REDACTED] son who was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I remember that he gave us the odd slap. I have no hard feelings towards him. He just felt that as he was the son of <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] he could do this and get away with it.
57. There were a number of children who were sons and daughters of the staff at the school and we used to mix with them although they attended a different school from us.
58. St Joseph's was split up into cottages which were run by house parents. I remember that there was also a night watchman at each cottage. They were strange people and used to get involved in drinking and they also brought in local young girls.

59. There was a big house and four cottages. There would be about thirty boys to each cottage and the whole place housed about 120 pupils who were all boys. The boys went all the way up to eighteen years of age. They came from all over Scotland and most of the boys were there because they had been involved in criminality. I was still under the section 413 Order.

*Routine*

60. I shared a room with six other boys in the cottage and it was quite relaxed. I would get up and have some breakfast. I then went to school. It was a short school day. I played a lot of snooker at the school as there were two full sized tables. There was also a dovecot and I used to look after the pigeons.

*Staff*

61. It wasn't the same religious type establishment as St John Bosco's. It was still run by priests and Brothers but there was not the same emphasis on the Catholic Church. SNR [REDACTED] was called Brother MJF [REDACTED]. He was a very nice man and I had nothing but respect for him.
62. Brother Ben was a bit of a nut case. He was brutal with us and he used to punch us with his closed fist. He used to get very angry and someone would end up getting hit. He was a very big man and we were all frightened of him.
63. HPT [REDACTED] was my house master and he had worked as a night watchman previously. He used to run the cottage with his wife [REDACTED]. There was also a matron but I can't remember much about her. Another member of staff was called Mr HPS [REDACTED] he used to sexually assault some of the boys.
64. There was a metalwork teacher called MJK [REDACTED]. He had the nickname 'MJK [REDACTED]' because he used to throw hammers at you. On one occasion he asked me to hold two metal rods. He then induced an electrical current which caused me to be thrown to the ground. It was done in front of the other boys who all found it

very funny. I was the new boy and didn't know any better. I thought that he trying to kill me. It was very humiliating. I didn't need any medical help but I was very shaken.

### *Schooling*

65. There was a school in the grounds of the home. It was based in the big house and I would have to attend there. I did not like school and so I didn't get involved in the education part.

### *Washing*

66. To be honest I don't remember much about that but I must assume that they had the facilities because you could shower or bath as you pleased.

### *Leisure*

67. I was an absconder and so I wasn't allowed out very often although I remember a trip to The Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh. I also remember a trip to the pictures in Edinburgh to see the film Towering Inferno.
68. I can recall that we used to go as a group berry picking somewhere in the Arbroath area. We used to stay in wooden huts. I don't remember many trips.

### **Abuse at St Joseph's Approved School, Tranent**

69. **HPT** and some of his pals held parties in the cottage. He used to be a night watchman and so he still had friends that were also night watchmen. They used to get bottles of cider and offered them round the older boys that came to the parties. I think that the girls that came were local and were young. They can't have been sixteen. A lot of the boys had sex with them although I didn't see this.

70. I can only remember one of them who had long hair and a moustache. The older boys told me that the staff would watch the older boys having sex with the young girls.
71. Brother Ben was a teacher and was very unpredictable in what he would do. He would punch you. He was a big man. You didn't argue with him because he would punch you once and that would be it. He was about mid-forties with black hair and glasses.
72. I would go out on a bike ride with Brother Ben and twelve other boys. Brother Ben would round up the stragglers and hit them. I saw the bruises on some of the boys when we came back from the cycle run.
73. Mr HPS would sexually abuse the boys by touching their privates and putting his hands down the front of the boys trousers. He told the boys that he was teaching self – hygiene and how to wash their private areas. This didn't happen to me as I was wise to it. But I saw this happen on a few occasions.
74. Mr HPS once locked me in the boot of a car because he thought that I was running away. He then drove the car for thirty miles with me still in the boot of the car. It was very frightening.
75. MJK who was the metalwork teacher quite deliberately gave me an electric shock to humiliate me. It was given to me through a bit of equipment he had in his classroom. The other boys knew about it but I was a new boy and had no idea. I was badly shaken afterwards.
76. When I went to Arbroath to pick berries I ran away one of the nights with a boy called [REDACTED]. We were brought back and I remember looking into the hut where the staff were staying. There were all naked and fooling around. [REDACTED] and I thought that it was very strange. I remember one of the staff was called Miss IVD [REDACTED] and I met her in later life when I was at Longriggend Remand Centre. I

told her what I had seen. She didn't like that and got one of the prison officers to punish me.

### **Leaving St Joseph's Approved School, Tranent**

77. I was always swearing at the staff and running away. I think that one of the main reasons I left St Joseph's was because I attacked Brother Ben with the leg of a desk. I was charged with serious assault and was "terminated" from the school. I went home for a short spell to my parents and I was enrolled in the local High School. I think that I was nearly fifteen years old.
78. The day I left St Joseph's, I was told to pack up my stuff and then I was dropped at the local train station in Tranent. I was given a ticket to get to Glasgow and put onto the train to Edinburgh. It was now four years on since I was placed in approved schools and I was only meant to have been there for a year. My parents were not expecting me and they asked me why I was home. I had a letter which I gave them telling them that I was released from the system.
79. The return to my parents and main stream schooling didn't work out so I was sent to St Mary's Approved School in Bishopbriggs. Before being sent there, I think that I was in Larchgrove Remand Home. I attended Larchgrove on more than one occasion but only ever for a few days at a time.
80. I think that I was sent to St Mary's under some sort of court order but I just don't know. I never had much say in what was happening to me at any stage of my childhood. Brian McDonald was now my social worker.

### **Larchgrove Remand Home, Glasgow 1975 and 1976**

81. There is nothing much to say about Larchgrove apart from the fact I know I was there on more than one occasion. I was never there for longer than one or two days and nothing ever happened to me when I was there. Larchgrove was run more like a prison. I was kept in a cell on my own and didn't mix with the other inmates.

**St Mary's Approved School, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow 1976**

82. I was to remain at St Mary's for about six months when I was about fifteen. The staff seemed to know all about me. I got to know one of the staff who is [REDACTED]. I think that the staff were part of a paedophile ring. I heard stories from the other boys at the home about things that went on although I didn't see any of the events.
83. There were two members of staff called Bill Franks who was a chef there and a man called "LYT [REDACTED]." They were sexually abusing the boys. I later heard that both these men had been arrested by the police, charged and convicted in court. My brother law told me more about them when I spoke to him much later in life.
84. I don't know who ran St Mary's. There was a secure part and an open part. I was staying in the open area. I would run away regularly. The school was situated in Kenmure Drive in Bishopbriggs. There were about sixty boys in the school.
85. St Mary's was a last chance saloon for me. I was caught by the police and I appeared in court and I think that this was the point of my life of that crime started for real. I was a juvenile and I was remanded in custody and sent to Longriggend Remand Centre.
86. There was nothing more to say about St Mary's as it was a similar routine to all the other approved schools that I attended. Nothing happened to me although from what I was told the sexual abuse was rife between the staff and the boys.

**Leaving St Mary's Approved School, Bishopbriggs 1976.**

87. I was charged by the police for a number of offences which I appeared in court for. I was remanded in custody for these offences and sent to Longriggend Remand Centre. I was still a juvenile in the eyes of the law. Most of the other residents were older and there was an area where there were boys who were between sixteen and twenty one.



**Longriggend Remand Centre, North Lanarkshire 1975**

88. I was remanded in custody by the courts to Longriggend. I was to remain there for five months. I was unconvicted of the charges that were against me.
89. Longriggend was run by the prison service and was a locked establishment. All the boys there had committed crime of one kind or another and a lot of them were awaiting trial.
90. I would describe the routine there as being harsh as it would be in any prison. I do recall because of my age I was forced to attend school every other week. I was the only resident who was attending school. I had a one to one with the teacher who was called Miss IVD and who I had met when I was at St Joseph's.. Most of the boys at Longriggend were between 16 and 21 and went to work instead of school.

**Abuse at Longriggend Remand Centre**

91. I had an issue with one of the prison officers called zHEG. He was constantly hitting me and bullying me. I eventually had enough of him and retaliated in such a manner that I was charged with assaulting him. This was another charge that was added on when I appeared at court.

**Leaving Longriggend Remand Centre, North Lanarkshire 1977**

92. I appeared in court to answer all the charges against me and I was sentenced to three two year sentences to run concurrently. I was sent by the court to do my sentence at Polmont Young Offenders Prison. I was still under Section 413 of CYP which was on the card on the front of my cell door at Polmont.

**Polmont Young Offenders Unit 1978 – 1979**

93. I was transferred there from the court by prison officers and I remember on my first day I was put into the Educational Unit called the "Ali Cali". It was like an army

training unit. I was now nearly sixteen and about to serve a two year prison sentence. I was no longer a child I had become a man but I was still the youngest resident at Polmont.

94. I understood the rules at Polmont and it was easy to cope with the routine. I knew where I stood and I was not being bullied or abused. There was nothing that went on that I need to tell you about. It was a locked place and so I didn't run away. I was in my own cell and felt happier that I was on my own.

#### **Leaving Polmont Young Offenders Unit 1979**

95. I had been in Polmont for eighteen months when I was told that I was getting released. No one told me why it just happened and again I was not consulted. They told me to collect my belongings. I was given a train ticket and went home to my parents in Glasgow. When I walked in the front door my little sister didn't know who I was. My parents also got a shock when I turned up out of the blue. They were not expecting me. There was no prior warning to either my parents or me. I was seventeen years old.
96. I continued a life of crime and was getting into more trouble with the Police. I again appeared at court and this time was given a sentence to serve at Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow.

#### **Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow 1979**

97. I was one of the youngest prisoners at Barlinnie. I was well looked after and a lot of the other prisoners became my friends. I liked being in prison as I felt safe. As a young man in prison I was looked after by the other prisoners and they taught me how to deal with adults. Prison was just prison and I had no difficulties there.

**Life after being in care**

98. I drifted into a world of crime and drugs. I was using Class A drugs and was addicted. I had married and had children but the drugs always took over my life. I had little or no education. I taught myself to read and write when I was in prison. I was eighteen and my schooling had not taught me anything.
99. In later life I have seen what the drugs did to me and my family. I had a stroke and I had lost my family who I never got to know. I have been clean for eighteen months and am starting to get my life back. I am re-establishing relations with my family. I have slowed down and realised the effect that the drugs had on me and those closest to me.
100. I get embarrassed looking back at the life that I used to lead. I have had to keep away the people I knew from my previous life. I threw away my mobile phone and prefer to spend the time with my family.
101. The last time I appeared at court I was offered the choice of prison or to be put onto a drug treatment programme which is administered by the court. It was called a Drug Testing Treatment Order and it involved me being monitored and tested every few days. I did a "cold turkey" and received support from my Drug Treatment Officer. I received Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and completed the programme.

**Impact**

102. My childhood was wrecked by the system. My mother put me into care. She apologised to me in later life before she died. I was sent out by my father to steal so that he could get money for alcohol. If I didn't make any money stealing I would be punished by him. Even though my parents are both dead I miss them and also forgive them for placing me in care.

103. I was originally meant to go to St John Bosco's for a year but ended up spending more than five years in the care system until it finally turned me into a criminal. I didn't have any say in my own destiny.
104. As a result of my time in care I was quite happy to go to prison because I was institutionalised I felt safe in prison as I was able to adapt to something that I knew how to cope with. What I learned in the institutions prepared me for prison life. I thought that the life I led was what life was all about. It was all that I knew. I would become bad with the drug abuse and would do a spell in prison with my friends and come out drug free again. I just kept repeating that cycle but always went back on drugs.
105. I have always wondered what a Section 413 is and what it means. It was never explained to me what it meant. I need someone to tell me why I was detained in all these institutions under a section 413 during a period of five years..
106. I no longer have a relationship with my brother [REDACTED] and the last time I met him it had a violent outcome. I don't trust anyone but my family. Now I no longer want to go to prison.
107. My honesty and my family have helped me to stay away from drugs. I am a changed person and with the help of the Drugs Treatment Officers in West Lothian I have stayed clean of drugs. I know that my time spent in the care system made me the type of person that I became. There was no love in my life when I was growing up.
108. I am due to attend a three month residential rehabilitation programme with a NHS organisation called Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme. The programme will start in mid-July.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

109. The only people I mentioned the abuse that I was suffering at the hands of the care staff was to the young police officers who were at St John Bosco's. I also tried to tell

my social worker Mr Bracken but he did nothing about it. My parents did nothing when I told them. They didn't believe me and I didn't trust adults enough to confide in them anymore.

**Records**

110. I have never tried to access my records but it is something I am thinking about.

**Lessons to be Learned**

111. I hope that what happened to me never happens to any other child that is in the care system

**Other information**

112. It is a bonus to me today that people from the Inquiry have spent the time to listen to me. It is a big thing for me. I am in touch with Future Pathways and I will spend time with their counselling service. I now have more trust with adults and am happy to speak about what happened to me.

113. 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..... 27/6/18 .....