

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

EAJ

Support person present: No

1. My name is EAJ My date of birth is 1949. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. My mother died when I was three months old. My Dad was still alive but he was a drunk. He worked in a factory that did a lot with coal. My sister tried to look after us. One morning my dad came down and sat at the breakfast table and died. I was two. Eventually Glasgow City Council took us from her as she couldn't cope. She had kids of her own and she just couldn't cope with me because my brothers and sisters weren't nice to her. was and her husband was an alcoholic too. She looked after the lot of us. It would have been hard. I have respected her all my life for that.
3. I have got brothers and sisters. I was the baby. There is only , , and me left. . He is still alive but he is not well. There was , , , , and me.
4. We lived in the Gorbals, at in a room and kitchen, then we moved to a bigger house in Pollock and that was better. Eventually, was drinking a lot more and the council took us because either or kept demanding money. and went their separate ways but they put the rest of us in Smyllum.

5.



### **Smyllum Orphanage , Whitelees Road, Lanark**

6. Smyllum was in Lanark. The orphanage itself was huge, ginormous. It was a nice looking place. There were 3 separate areas. The nursery, for up to six or seven year olds, then the middle age group dormitory, then the upper one for older boys. That was aged up to fifteen. There were about 5 buildings at the back.

7. Sister EAA was the Mother Superior. She was brilliant. She was in charge of all the nuns. I don't know if she knew anything that was happening because she wasn't around a lot. She had her own office. I saw her at least once a week. I would see her on a Sunday because she was in charge of me in the chapel and she would ask how I was.

### **Routine at Smyllum Park**

#### *First day*

8. I can't remember my first day. All of a sudden you notice that there are a lot of kids around you. I think I was just two, almost three then and there are things I remember.

9. I met young [REDACTED] who was about four, and I remember him being beaten by a nun and he was crying, he was in pain. They hit him more to shut him up. He was a quiet boy, like me, and they didn't like it when you were quiet. They always thought you were up to something. They pulled a curtain around his bed so that we couldn't see. I don't know if they killed him, but they beat him quite a bit. The next day [REDACTED] was

gone. We all cheered because we thought he may have been adopted, that he had got a family. I never saw him again.

10. I remember my brother [REDACTED] brought me in a little green wheelbarrow. I thought it was brilliant. He had made it for me. They took it from me and I never saw it again. I was told I couldn't get it, that I wasn't allowed it. I told them my brother had made it for me but I never saw it again.
11. [REDACTED] wasn't in the nursery with me, she went somewhere else. We were all separated right from the start. Boys and girls couldn't mix. I don't remember seeing my sisters at all when I was younger.
12. I can't remember how long I was in the nursery. All of a sudden one day I was told, "Right come on you are out of here". I must have been six or seven.

*Mornings and bed-time*

13. In the morning you were practically thrown out of bed. We had to make the bed. You had to pull the sheets over and then go and wash. If I got caught cleaning my teeth I got whacked. You should see my teeth now. I still fear cleaning them, even now. They also gave me a fear of needles. They were cruel. They loved it. Their aim was to make you cry.
14. We all sat on the floor of the nursery and ate breakfast. I can't remember what we got to eat. It wasn't very good anyway. There must have been at least twenty of us. I don't think there was anyone younger than me at two. There were no babies that I remember.
15. There was at least two nuns in charge of us. The only name I remember was Sister [REDACTED] EAB. She was quite nice, she wasn't as bad as the others. I can't remember any of the other nuns. I think I blanked their names out over the years.

16. After breakfast we all sat in the playroom. There were books to look at or you could play with anything that was there. There were things there to play with but I don't really remember what exactly. We didn't do a lot. Lunch and dinner were the same as breakfast.
17. I can't remember when we went to bed when we were in the nursery.
18. When I was six or seven I left the nursery. I went to the next place. It was a dorm. There must have been at least thirty boys in my dorm. My brothers weren't in my dorm, they were elsewhere because they were older than me. It was still kept to age groups then. I very rarely saw them.
19. I never got to see my sisters, we were completely separated. I did find a way of sneaking through to see them. I remember the nuns asking if anyone wanted to feed the chickens and I stuck my hand up. That is how I used to see my sisters because the chicken run was up by the school at the back of the place and the girls' area was there. So we used to meet there and chat and I'd tell them that if anyone comes just hide in the chicken hut. So we used to chat.
20. The routine was the same in the dormitory as it was in the nursery. You had to get up and again make the bed and wash. We also had to clean the floor and do any laundry that needed doing. We were forced to do that. They did nothing. They just stood there and shouted and whacked you with the belt if you didn't do it right.
21. We then went for breakfast. It was a proper dining hall. It was only those in my dorm that were there. I remember one of the ladies, she used to call your name out and you would go up and get your porridge. She was a spinster, really old. I can't remember her name. She wasn't too bad. She was a bit rough. She didn't speak to you nicely and if you didn't eat your porridge you wore the plate. You had to eat the lot and show the empty bowl. We then had to wash the dishes, clean the tables and set them for lunch.

22. At night the bed-time was set. You had to be dressed properly and no speaking. You were still energetic because it was early. The bed- time never changed the older you got. It was eight or nine o'clock at night. I remember once I caught chickenpox and they kept me in the dorm.

### *Food*

23. Mealtimes were all the same. You had to eat everything. Everything was steamed as well. I learned this when I eventually went with BAC [REDACTED] to clean the steamer. I learned a lot then and that gave me experience using my hands. That eventually helped me in the navy because my first ship was a steamship and I thought, "This is a doddle".
24. There were a couple of times, I am ashamed to say this, but the food ran right through me and I had to just sit there.
25. The nuns didn't eat with us. They had a separate room off the kitchen, but they were there all the time just to make sure we ate everything.

### *School*

26. School was another thing as well. At school the orphans had to sit at the back of the class and we weren't given any books or anything. The teacher and what we called the part-timers sat at the front. The part-timers were those whose mum was a drunk or dad was in jail and they were only there a short time.
27. The part-timers were the ones that caused all the trouble and we got it in the neck for it. They were treated better. We had to try harder. In fact I stole a book so that I could try and learn and I got caught with it. I didn't close the desk quick enough and the nun saw me. It was very difficult to learn anything there.
28. Schooling was really hard, I struggled. There was a couple of guys who tried to help me but I just couldn't take it in. My head wasn't right. I failed my eleven-plus and

again it was **BAC** who helped me. He sat me down and said "Come on, let's do this". I sat it again and I got a C or a D. I can't remember exactly but I passed anyway.

29. When I was eleven or twelve I went to Lanark Secondary. It was a ten minute walk from the orphanage. Smyllum had an orchard and we would walk through that and the school was just there. But the nuns used to muster us in the morning before school. They would keep you there until ten to nine and then they would say "Right you have ten minutes to get to school". Anybody who was late got the belt.
30. They held the girls back even longer and it was a longer walk for them because they were at the back of us. So many a time they got the belt. When you got back from school the first question the nuns asked was who had got the belt that day. If you had, then they would hit us too.
31. I got taken out of Lanark Secondary when I was thirteen, nearly fourteen. By that time I had started to learn because the teachers there were good. They were real teachers and they treated us fairly. It was pretty good and we could mix with the guys from Lanark. They used to call us "fucking orphans". While I was there the nuns gave us a sandwich to take to school for lunch, well it was us that made them up. So I knew what was in it, whether to eat it or not.
32. The boys all wore grey trousers, a blazer and a shirt to school. At weekends we just wore anything, again it was shorts and a shirt, maybe a jumper if it was cold. Nothing of our own.

#### *Washing and bathing*

33. You washed at the sink. You got a bath once a month and we shared it, you weren't alone. You had your bath, got out and then someone else went in with the same water. All the time you were in the bath the nuns were watching.

34. There was one of them, again I can't remember her name, she used to love beating me because she said I killed my mum. She wasn't just happy belting me across my trousers she made me get naked. I heard the nuns laughing at me.
35. It was [BAC] who actually gave me a bit of strength. He said he knew they weren't nice to me but when they beat me I shouldn't cry. He said even if I wanted to cry don't let them see it. That made them even madder. I wanted to because it was painful. I would just look at them. Eventually as I got older [BAC] started taking charge of me and giving me jobs, helping him out and the beatings stopped for me. I must have been about nine or ten.
36. Some people used to say that [BAC] beat kids but I never actually saw him do it and he didn't look the type. That was my opinion. He certainly didn't beat me. I never heard anyone say a bad thing about him because he was our guy. He was there for us. He used to play football with us. He got a couple of golf clubs out and we battered balls in the field. [BAC] I don't know about his earlier life because he had been there all the time. He never married. I don't know why.

### *Leisure Time*

37. There was a sort of play area, a big square and we would kick a ball about. If you broke a window you got a beating. A couple of the part-timers used to bully me and again it was [BAC] that would say to me, "Punch them, hit them", but I would say I can't and he would tell me to just do it. I did and they backed off.
38. [BAC] was a positive influence on me. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I used to call them uncle [REDACTED] and auntie [REDACTED] They grew all the stuff for the orphanage. I can't remember how many acres there was there, probably about twenty or thirty. I remember when I was about twelve I asked if they would adopt me and they said that they would love to. I told my big sister [REDACTED] and she said "That will never happen, we can't allow that because you will be split from us".

39. Little did I know that my sister [REDACTED] along with my auntie [REDACTED], who eventually took me out of Smyllum, were doing it for the money. The council were giving them a lot of money for taking [REDACTED] and I. As well as this, and what I didn't know, was that my dad had a pension sort of thing, life insurance, and when I was eighteen I got called in to the Glasgow City Council offices and this guy said congratulations your dad left you some money. I got £5 and he told me that it would obviously have been more than that but they had been paying for my care. So my sister and my auntie were getting that money.
40. Once I started punching a few of the guys for bullying me, [REDACTED] BAC got me a pair of boxing gloves. He taught me a bit of boxing and that helped me in the navy as well. The navy wanted me to be a boxer. They put me up against this big guy and I beat him but he hurt me and I said I am not doing that again, thank you.
41. There was a big sitting room, which had a television in the corner. Of course the orphans had to sit at the back and the part-timers at the front. Eventually [REDACTED] BAC changed that. He said "Right swap round, come on". Although he was the [REDACTED] he had influence in Smyllum, well I think he did. Whether the accusations of him being a cruel man were true, I don't know.
42. For a couple of years, I played in the Smyllum Park School brass band that [REDACTED] BAC put together. I played the soprano coronet. There were about twenty boys in the band and we practiced at night and played at festive periods and once a year we marched down the streets of Lanark on Lanimar Day. We were treated very well that day and given ice-cream and sweets. Although we had to learn how to play the instruments, [REDACTED] BAC always made it fun for us.

### *Holidays*

43. Once a year we used to go to a holiday camp in Aberfoyle and that is when we used to mix with girls. We went for two weeks. That was pretty good. It was so different. The food was brilliant, it wasn't steamed. We were looked after by [REDACTED] BAC



and the nuns of course. There were others there because there was a group, I think from Dundee. We mixed with them too.

44. We stayed in a big hut. We slept in bunks but it was comfy. It was really good. We used to go swimming and hill climbing. I liked that and I still do it now. I remember one time we were leaving Smyllum to go there, I can't remember what age I was, and my sister [REDACTED] was at the front door and I said "Come on get in", but that was her leaving. They didn't even tell us. She was fifteen. I think she got a flat in Glasgow.
45. We got to mix with the girls at Aberfoyle, so I saw my sisters there. I got my first kiss there as well, from a girl called [REDACTED]. She was from the place in Dundee, which was a girls place. One of the things I used to look forward to was seeing [REDACTED]. She was lovely. Then one year she didn't turn up.
46. We didn't go anywhere else apart from when [REDACTED] BAC got a car and he used to take a few of us to Lanark. We would run about because Lanark had a market, I think they still do, a farmers' market. Eventually, when I was old enough, I used to go and get them fags and things. I was allowed to walk into the town.
47. We used to stay out for the day and he would buy us a meal and then we would maybe go to the pictures. There were four of us in the car. It was great.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

48. I don't remember ever celebrating my birthday in Smyllum.
49. At Christmas we used to get a present from somebody we didn't know and then after Christmas they would take it from you and you didn't see it again. People donated them, they called in and asked for a name and sent them a present. One year I got a stethoscope. It was beautiful, but it was taken from me and I never saw it again. When I was leaving Smyllum I asked for my stethoscope back and a nun went away

and came back and said she couldn't find it. You kept your present for a couple of days and that was it, then Christmas was forgotten.

50. We had a turkey but that was it. Steamed vegetables and a glass of Irn- Bru, that was a special treat. We decorated the place. We had to hang the decorations up and if you fell off that ladder you were in for a beating. We had to do all that, but again BAC helped. He was always there, he was the main man.

### *Working*

51. We had to work while we were there. We had to wash the floor, make our bed, clean the dishes, ironing and all that sort of stuff. We had to peel the potatoes and clean the boiler house. I would help young [REDACTED] in the boiler room because I used to watch him. I would fill the furnace with coal and again that helped me in the navy because I had to do it on my first warship. A lot of things came out of Smyllum that helped me for my future, inadvertently.

### *Bed-wetting*

52. I had a problem with bed-wetting for a bit. Boy, did you get it if you did. You got whacked and then you had to wash the sheets and change the bed. When we got up in the morning we got inspected. They would beat you there and then in front of everybody. They used that as a lesson.
53. You couldn't get up during the night to go to the toilet because they didn't allow it. They wouldn't let you put lights on so you couldn't see anyway. The nun's bed was right next to the toilet. If you did get up you had to be very quiet. If the nun heard she would shout, "What are you doing?", and the child would pee himself. We learned to tiptoe very quietly.

*Religion*

54. Religion was a big thing there. You couldn't miss chapel at all or any of the ceremonies that were going on. This was every Sunday. Eventually they made me become an altar boy because I could remember everything that was being said. That wasn't bad.
55. Being an altar boy meant doing the service on a Sunday. There was one bad thing I do remember there. A priest tried to touch me inappropriately. Thankfully that's when BAC teachings came in and I said "I don't do that", and his attitude changed towards me then. When we finished the chapel we had a cup of coffee together and he said "Don't tell anybody", and I said "I won't if you don't touch me again".
56. His name was Father AFI He didn't do it again. He went to Aberfoyle as well, as we had the mass there on the Sunday.
57. We had to say our prayers every morning and before every meal. Before bed you had to kneel at the bottom of your bed and pray. If they were so holy why were they so nasty?

*Visits/Inspections*

58. I didn't get many visitors when I was there. In fact there were times when I was told I wasn't getting any visitors that day because I was too cheeky. I would tell them I hadn't said anything and they would say that's what they meant. So they would stop visitors. It was probably hard for my family to get from Glasgow to Smyllum, but there might have been people coming and the nuns wouldn't let them.
59. I got a visit one time from my older brother who was in the navy. We were sitting in the visiting room and I was asking him all these questions about it. He said to me, "You'd love it".

60. I had no visits from social workers or people from the council throughout my time at Smyllum. I was never made aware of what was happening.
61. I would see BAC [REDACTED] regularly, almost every week. When [REDACTED] I was there. I enjoyed that.
62. During the day at weekends, if it was good weather we would be in the playing fields. Eventually I went for the post and at Christmas they used to give me a big bag and two of us would go in to town and get all the parcels. We would look and see who was getting a parcel. It was a good walk from Smyllum to Lanark, it took about 20 minutes.
63. On a Saturday when we got a bit older they allowed us to go to the pictures. I think it was thrupence or nine pence, it was cheap anyway. We used to have a little collection of money. It was given, donated. It wasn't a vast sum of money. I don't know who gave us it. The nuns kept it for us all. They had a money box as they called it and once a year they used to bring it out and there was a handle on the side. I didn't know how much I had. I would just ask if I if I can have a shilling to go to the pictures. I'm sure it was nine pence and I had thrupence left, we used to buy a sweet with the rest.

### *Healthcare*

64. When I had chicken pox I was strapped to my bed, arms and legs, and just left on my own. This was to stop you mixing with other children. A nun would pass every now and again to make sure you were alright and walk on. There was no doctor or nurse in Smyllum. I think a nun was trained as a nurse, so it was her that we had to deal with. I only saw her when I had the chicken pox.
65. I did not see a dentist in my whole time at Smyllum. My teeth are not quite brilliant now.

## **Abuse at Smyllum**

66. Visitors used to come to the nursery, and I would hear "Mum's here" or "Dad's here" and I used to keep asking "Where is my mum?". I can't remember if I was told about my mum then but I must have done because I think that is when I started to be withdrawn, not say anything.
67. I think the worst thing that happened to me was being constantly told that I killed my mum. It was the same nun that said it to me. I can't remember her name. I was in the middle dorm, after nursery, so I would be between six and eight years old.
68. I have always said that if I had been given the chance when I was a baby when I was in mum, I would have wanted 'Him up there' to take me. It would have saved her. I would have gladly given my life up for her because then she would have kept the family together and we wouldn't have had to go into that awful place.
69. The nun took pleasure in telling me this. She would laugh, calling me "Mum killer". I was made to stand in the corner, and told not to say a word. I couldn't tell anybody that she was doing it. She would be in her fifties. She took great delight. This was in front of other kids, so of course the part-timers used to make fun of me about that as well. So it made me more withdrawn and of course they didn't like that, that I wasn't saying anything. It lasted for over quite a long period.
70. If I was caught cleaning my teeth I was battered. I was asked, "What are you doing here?", and then bang and they would push me up against the wall and kick me and slap me and say "You are not to clean your teeth". I asked why and was told, "Because I am telling you", or "You shouldn't be alive because you killed your mother".
71. If I farted I got belted and if I wouldn't talk to anybody then they would say "What are you doing, right, trousers down", and they would hit me with this belt. Like a teacher's belt, really thick. If I looked at a nun the wrong way it was, "You here,

hands out". [REDACTED] BAC helped. He would tell me, no matter if I felt like it that I shouldn't cry, because they loved it to hear me cry. They took delight if you cried.

72. There was one nun that always made me strip naked before she belted me. Again, I can't remember her name. There would be two of them there and I heard them talking to each other. They were trying to see if they kept hitting me whether my penis would go hard. This was for nothing, just because they wanted to. They used to take me into the TV room. They would shut the door. I was on my own. I was eight or nine when this happened.
73. I was belted at least once a week that I remember, minimum. I would try and keep out their way so they didn't come and search me out. When they found me they'd say, "Why aren't you coming in and mixing", then I'd get a slap on my head. Just because I wanted to be on my own.
74. The beatings with the belt were really sore. It would be on the bottom or sometimes on my back or hands, on the legs as well. It was really vicious. They just didn't care as long as they hurt you. They had the belt on a thing around their waist and it was there all the time.
75. I remember this one nun was grinning away when she was hitting me. I wasn't crying and I went right up and I said "What do you think you are doing, you think your hurting me but you're not". She backed off then.
76. Over my time there were at least half a dozen nuns responsible for beating me. Not always those in charge of me. When I used to go up to the chicken shed I would meet one of them coming from somewhere and she would ask me what I was doing there and hit me before I could reply, just because I was near the girls' side. I cannot remember any of the names of the nuns who abused me. I have blanked them out.
77. The food was forced down you. They used to get the older and bigger kids to force the food down the throat of the younger ones if they didn't finished. Until it was

empty. It got forced down your throat whether you liked it or not, stuffed in and then they would hold their hand over your mouth.

78. I became more and more withdrawn, speaking to other people less and less. BAC BAC helped a lot. It got a bit better when I started doing odd jobs with him. I'd be about ten then. It's fair to say that during my time at Smyllum I was closest to him. I remember the day I left I gave him a big hug and he said he was going to miss me and I said I am going to miss you as well. He was maybe in his fifties or sixties when I was there. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were younger. They were great and he treated me nice. I loved them.
79. I think it is because of him that they stopped beating me. As well as this I was beginning to come out of my shell. I was interacting more and once I started beating up the part-timers for calling me names I felt better myself. I could look at them and say "Go on call me an orphan now".

### **Leaving Smyllum Orphanage**

80. I remember one visiting time my sister [REDACTED] came. She said "I have got good news for you, auntie [REDACTED] is going to adopt you and [REDACTED]". I had never met my auntie [REDACTED] and I said "When are we leaving?". She said they would get all the paperwork done and I left about a month later.
81. My dad's brother, my uncle [REDACTED] had died and auntie [REDACTED] was his wife. She stayed in Castlemilk, Glasgow. She had a son, who wasn't a nice person. He treated me badly. He didn't like that I could stand up for myself. Auntie [REDACTED] was easily in her fifties. I was just about turning fourteen and [REDACTED]
82. Both of them were always drunk and [REDACTED] and I had to wash the dishes and cook, make the beds, do the washing and clean the house. So basically we looked after ourselves, but she was getting paid for it. My sister [REDACTED] used to come once a week and I would see auntie [REDACTED] opening her purse and passing money across to

██████ So they were splitting it. It wasn't an enjoyable time staying there for my sister ██████ and me.

83. I couldn't get out of that house quick enough so I foolishly married a girl that I thought was lovely. Within a year she left me but it got me out that house. I just didn't want to be there anymore. I didn't want to be with them. Auntie ██████ used to give me £1 a week pocket money and that was nothing.
84. When I went to the school I learned a lot. I went to Castlemilk High School and they helped me there. School was good.
85. I left school and got an apprenticeship in engineering in the shipyard. The one bit that I didn't like was that they made me go to college and I still wasn't very academic then. I knew it just wasn't going to work, I wasn't going to pass any exams so I would never have got my degree.

### **Reporting of abuse at Smyllum**

86. I don't think I could have ever told the Mother Superior about what the nuns were doing because she was the boss.
87. I never told ██████ BAC ██████. As I said, he was around. When we were in the big square, kicking a ball and doing things ██████ BAC ██████ would be there sometimes so that is probably when he heard and of course the kitchen was there so again he would hear. But he was aware and he would give me advice, like don't let them see me cry and to stand up to bullies. I don't know how he found out about the beatings but he obviously knew. Every night we would hear somebody screaming and then slap, slap, slap and if he was around then he probably did know.
88. My wife ██████ has been brilliant. When I told her about coming to the Inquiry last week we sat down and chatted. ██████ told me when I first met her family they did not know how to treat me because I was so quiet. They didn't want to say anything in case they upset me. It took a while for me to accept that I am part of a family which



is what I hadn't had before. It took a bit of getting used to because they treated me great.

89. I was always too afraid, too ashamed to tell anyone what happened to me at Smyllum. For years in the navy I was afraid to tell people I was an orphan because I was ashamed. I did tell [REDACTED] the recruiting Sergeant, and my best friend [REDACTED] certain things.
90. I have never reported it to the police. I don't think they would have believed me. The first thing that they would say is that they are nuns, they are holy people. I was too scared.

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

91. I left the shipyard and I went to work in an off-licence in Rutherglen. I worked there for a while. It was nice and I enjoyed it because I was getting to talk to people. That was bringing me out of my shell. I remember one Christmas there was a bottle of whiskey left for me for being so cheerful.
92. I then met a girl, [REDACTED] I can't remember what age I was, twenty-something. I married her to get out of my auntie's house. She was really lovely-looking, she was beautiful. It was a big mistake.
93. I thought we were a good couple but she never used to come home on a Friday. She would come home drunk. One time I found out she'd been with another man and that is when she said she wanted to be with him. We were together for just about a year. We were staying with her dad in a flat in Castlemilk. I got on well with her father.
94. I decided one day in 1971 that I'd had enough of working in the shop and I went to the navy recruiting office and my life turned from then. I had split up with my wife but we had made a pact and I'd carried on living at her dad's. But I wasn't there long. I went to the recruiting office and two weeks later I was in Plymouth, so it was that

quick. She said she wanted me to divorce her but I said no. So I stayed married until she eventually had to do it, that was my punishment to her.

95. When I made the decision of what I wanted to do and get away and see the world I went to the recruiting office. I walked in and there was a [REDACTED] marine sergeant there called [REDACTED]. I sat down and had a long chat and I thought, he is asking me a lot of stuff. I told him a lot you know about my past and he told me I had to take two exams. I told him I wouldn't pass but he told me to take them anyway and see how I get on.
96. There was about twenty of us who sat the exam and I thought I had no chance. We were sitting waiting after the exam and fourteen were called and sent out through what I thought was an inner door but it wasn't. There were six of us left. [REDACTED] came back in and he said congratulations you have passed. I was dumbfounded. I spoke to [REDACTED] and I said "Just tell me how did I pass those exams?". He told me that when he was talking to me he saw something in me and nobody had ever told him anything like I had before. He said he had marked my papers. I thanked him and went through all the rest of it. He said come back at 1600 hours.
97. I next met him 10 years later and I said "You, bar now". He said to me that I'd told him a couple of things about where I was brought up and the discipline in the navy will be nothing compared to what I'd been through. He was right.
98. On the day of the exams, I went back and he was counting money and some rolled towards me and I picked it up, it was a Queen's shilling. He stuck his hand out and said welcome to the navy son. Two weeks later I was gone, I was on a train to Plymouth and that is where I met [REDACTED] who was from Dumfries. We became best friends and we are to this day. I never looked back.
99. At training we were in the hut with all the unmade bunks and all the bedding sitting there waiting and the Petty Officer asked who could make a bed. I looked around them all and there was thirty of us and I stuck my hand up. He said "Go on then". So

I made it perfectly. He said "I suppose you can do washing and ironing?". I told him I could and I could clean-up too. He made me class leader. I made [REDACTED] my Deputy.

100. It wasn't until my middle twenties that I found out that I didn't kill my mum. She died of a perforated ulcer. It was my older brother [REDACTED] that told me. He lived in the Isle of Man and I went to see him. We were chatting away and we had a drink and I talked about mum and he said "You didn't kill her, she died of a perforated ulcer". That's the first time I knew since the nun used to tell me I'd killed her.
101. For years, that nun had rammed it down my throat. Since I was six or seven years old. As well as that, if my dad had been around I would have punched his head in. If my mum had that problem why did he put another baby in her belly. She was 45 years of age.
102. I met my wife [REDACTED] in the navy. That was in 1976. I went back for more training because I didn't want to stay a naval seaman all my life.
103. We had a little private club which we used to go to for a drink and a dance and hopefully a kiss and cuddle. I saw this lovely [REDACTED] in the corner of the cloakroom and the guy behind me told me I had no chance. He said she was too posh for me, she was [REDACTED]. A month later [REDACTED] and I got together.
104. Things just went on from there. We got to be known as a couple. We always got invited together at night's out. Of course I went to sea and we kept in touch, writing and phoning. Eventually in 1977 or 1978 we got engaged and then in [REDACTED] we got married. I was on the [REDACTED] a big cruiser, it was the [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED]. I never looked back from there.
105. The two major positives in my life have been [REDACTED] and the navy.
106. I went around the world three and a half times. I finished as a [REDACTED]. I never got my warrant because when [REDACTED] was out in the Falklands and I was on board the [REDACTED], every time we would go into the

harbour I would go to the radio office, where the mail was kept and this guy kept telling me, "Nothing for you". He kept niggling me saying "She is enjoying herself out there amongst all those men". He kept it up and I thought I had to do something. I went to see the [REDACTED] the First Lieutenant who ran the ship and I told him that the guy was harassing me and saying these things about my wife. He told me to keep him informed.

107. A short time after that we scrapped the ship, shut her down and put her away. We had a leaving party and it was about two in the morning and I was drunk. I was coming out to go back on board and the mail guy came out and said "I bet your wife is still enjoying herself". I walked away from him and he came back saying more nasty things about her and I turned round grabbed him by the throat, punched him and broke his nose. I knew I was in trouble.
108. I went back on board and they woke me up at four in the morning. I spent the night in the cells and met the [REDACTED] the day after and we had an interview. I told him the guy had continued to say things about [REDACTED] and so I hit him. I was court marshalled and received a £500 fine. It was coming up to Christmas time and he said because we are not sending you to jail we are taking the £500 off in a lump sum. The guy got three months in jail for harassment and a dishonourable discharge.
109. After that I was told I would never get my warrant. This taught me a lesson, to keep my hands to myself. I did the right thing by telling the [REDACTED] that the guy had been doing it because that saved me from getting the jail. I would have got 2 years.
110. I worked at Rosyth and we stayed in [REDACTED] for 10 years. We had a nice house there it was lovely, you can see the Firth of Forth, it was beautiful.
111. I was in the navy for [REDACTED] years. My 22 was coming to an end and the Captain called [REDACTED] and I into the office. I thought I was in trouble but he said "Sit down, I want to have a chat with you. That is why I asked your good lady to be here". He then offered me another [REDACTED] years because I enjoyed the job I was doing. It was ship maintenance and [REDACTED]

██████████ I enjoyed the job it was brilliant. He even gave me the choice whether I went back to sea or not. I didn't as ██████ only had ██████ and she had said that I should take the ██████ and if I wanted to come out ██████ then I could do that. When the time came I was enjoying myself so much she told me to stay. She had a job with the ██████ and she was happy too.

112. I have been retired for ██████ and moved to ██████ in 2006. It was only meant to be for a couple of years but ██████ got promoted again and we have stayed. Retirement is ok. On a Tuesday, I do a gardening club for youngsters, showing them what to do and they enjoy that. On a Wednesday, I help at an OAP's lunch club. I help the chef and dish out the food. I give them tea and coffee and sit and chat and just be there for them.

113. I miss the people in the navy, you do get close-nit, but I don't really miss going to sea. I do like to go on a cruise every now and again and it takes me back. We were out in Spain recently and we went out on the boat and I sat on top and I thought, this is the life.

### **Impact**

114. A lot of people thought I was strange because I wouldn't talk. I am a terrible conversationalist. I can't do it. Last week my wife ██████ told me that story about her family being afraid to say things in front of me in case they upset me. It must have taken a couple of years before I started relaxing. I apologised to ██████ last week for that. However, not being a talker did me a lot of good in the navy.

115. Part of the impact from Smyllum was that I became so insular. It inadvertently helped me get on in the navy, by being so quiet. I just obeyed without question and I would somehow get it sorted out. I was able to think that way and it helped me.

116. It had the opposite impact on my personal life for a while but when I started to get to know the guys and mix and went for drinks I got on fine. Generally, just being

together and doing the same training, knowing we had the same problems made it ok.

117. Another thing Smyllum did for me was that it made my life in the navy a lot easier than some of the guys. Some of them really struggled but I loved training them and helping them because I knew I could do it. This was noticed and towards the end of my career I was called a sea dad. They used to send the young ones to me if they had a problem. I would just say let's sit down and have a chat, if you want a solution I will give you it, if not I will let you work it out yourself. Nine times out of ten they worked it out themselves. I wish I could tell the nuns now that they actually gave me a good career, even though they didn't mean it.
118. My family all scattered after they left Smyllum. [REDACTED] went to Australia. I remember him coming to see me in Smyllum, he said "We are going away now", and that was the last that I saw of him. I tried to get in touch with him. I wrote to the Australian Government. They said that they couldn't tell me without his permission. I still don't know where he is. I've never seen him since that last day he came to Smyllum. I don't even know if he is alive.
119. I am in touch with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and he is not doing well at all. I saw them both last February. We went to a little party and sat and chatted. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] I think, something like that. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] She has got problems walking, so has [REDACTED] I am lucky in a way, the navy kept me fit. I don't know about [REDACTED]
120. Because I got belted for cleaning my teeth it had an impact on me when I was in the navy. I was still scared to clean them. The guys used to say, "What's up [REDACTED]?". I said "I'm not very good at this". The guys said, "Just shut your eyes and do it, don't think about it". So the guys helped. Even now I am still a bit reluctant to do it but I do because I want to keep what I have left.

**Records**

121. I have never requested my records from Smyllum. I didn't want to. I didn't want anything to do with them. I don't think they would have given me them anyway. I think they would have sent them to, Glasgow City Council, John Street, and they wouldn't have given them to me.

**Other Information**

122. I have never received any support or counselling. I just don't think I could cope with that because now it is all coming back. I don't think I could go through that too often. [REDACTED] has been my support, she has been brilliant.
123. I saw an article about Smyllum in the Sunday Post. I contacted them, sent an email to the reporter who did it, I think his name is [REDACTED]. I didn't get a reply. I then saw another paper and the Inquiry number was on it and I thought I am going to ring up and see how I get on.
124. I want to see the Sisters of Charity disbanded, never to be a unit again or have the chance to touch anybody or to look after anybody every again. That is what I want.
125. 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..... [REDACTED] .....

Dated..... 26-10-17 .....