

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MCW

Support person present: Yes; [REDACTED] Wellbeing Scotland

1. My name is [REDACTED] MCW. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was brought up in Paisley. My mum and dad, [REDACTED], both worked. They both liked a drink but they weren't heavy drinkers. My mum and dad have both passed away. I have one sister [REDACTED] who is younger than me, and two step brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were both older than me. I had another brother [REDACTED] who was the youngest in the family, but he died when he was 47. My dad was quite hard on us when we stepped out of line or if we didn't go to mass. He would strap us with a leather belt. We were a good catholic family and went to mass every Sunday. I loved playing football which I played all the time. I loved primary school and had a happy childhood. We were well looked after as children.
3. My sister left the family home first. She had a daughter at an early age and moved out to live with her boyfriend. The second oldest of my step brothers, [REDACTED], moved out too. This meant I had a bed of my own. Before that I had to share a bed with two of my brothers. It wasn't easy because times were hard but we got through it. My brothers ended up in care at some point because they refused to go to school and I think they were breaking in to shops.

4. When I moved to Sacred Heart secondary school I couldn't settle. It is now called St Andrews. I didn't like it so I stopped going. My mum and brother took me back up to the school one day and I was taken into the headmaster's office. I basically refused to go to school. I ended up at a children's panel at the age of thirteen. I went with my mum and dad. At the panel I was allocated a social worker called Miss Hill or Miss Hall and I was sent to St Ninian's in Falkland which is in Fife. That was my first involvement with a social worker. The social worker took me in a car and drove me straight from the children's panel to St Ninian's. We didn't speak on that journey. She didn't know where she was going and it was late by the time we got there.

St Ninian's, Falkland, Fife

5. St Ninian's was an old mansion house and had been built for the Ramsay and Stuart families. In the middle was a courtyard. There were showers upstairs and downstairs. There were changing rooms, classrooms and games rooms. There were over forty boys in there, no girls. The age range was from twelve up to sixteen. There were junior dormitories and senior dormitories. You became a senior at fourteen. There were three beds in my dormitory. Most of the other dormitories had four beds in them. One of the senior boys had a room to himself.
6. Brother **LNA** was in charge of the senior side. Brother **MCY** was in charge of the junior side. I started off in the junior side. There were a few other brothers there. There was a female cook in the kitchen. She and Mrs Brown, the art teacher, were the only females at St Ninian's. Mr Kelly did sort of admin work. He would let the social worker and my family know how I was getting on in the home. He didn't phone them but would write to them. There was no one officially on duty during the night.

Routine at St Ninian's

First day

7. I remember the social worker telling me that St Ninian's was run by Catholic monks. I thought to myself that I was going to be safe with them. We went to the front door, rang the bell and Brother [REDACTED] LNA answered. The social worker got taken into a room for a tea or a coffee and I was taken to the matron's room. There I was given pyjamas, clothes, Jesus sandals and some bedding. I didn't have any of my own stuff. I put the clothes I was wearing in the wardrobe. I was then taken to a room where there were two other boys. The following morning a couple of boys took me down to the dining room and they told me where to sit at a table for my breakfast.

Mornings and bedtime

8. Brother [REDACTED] LNA came round the dorms every morning and woke us all up. We would just really get up and go down for breakfast.
9. At eight o'clock, usually straight after our evening snack the juniors would start to get ready for bed. The juniors would get taken up to their dorm, where they would get showered and get into bed. Lights out was at nine o'clock for them. The seniors were taken up at nine o'clock and they would shower, get into bed and it was lights out at ten. The seniors used to get background music played over the Tannoy system. It was Radio Luxembourg. There was a toilet beside the showers which you could go to at any time, even through the night. The dormitory doors were never locked.
10. We sometimes had a bit of fun at night and had pillow fights. Just what normal young boys would do. Brother [REDACTED] LNA would come into the rooms through the night. He used to patrol both sides, the juniors and the seniors. He was the only brother who patrolled. I think he just wanted to make sure everyone was sleeping. We usually just pretended we were.

Mealtimes / Food

11. There were four boys at each table in the dining room. Most of the junior boys sat in one area and the senior boys in another. At every meal one of the brothers would sit at his table in the dining room and supervise us. It was usually either Brother **LNA** **LNA** or Brother **LHC**
12. Breakfast was usually either porridge, cereal or stuff like that. If you didn't want what was offered you didn't get offered anything else. What wasn't eaten at meal times was put into a slops bin. A lot of the boys went hungry because they didn't like the food. Some boys used to sell their breakfast to other boys for cigarettes. That's why they used to steal sweets from the tuck shop because they were hungry.
13. Lunch was a three course meal. We had soup, a main course and then a desert. There was a lot of wastage because the food wasn't great. We were expected to eat it but some boys just couldn't. Again, if you didn't like the food you weren't given anything else.
14. Sometimes we would get a piece on jam about four o'clock. Our evening meal was at seven o'clock and would be a light snack. It would be something like spaghetti, ravioli or beans on toast.

Washing / bathing

15. There were four open plan showers upstairs. We showered before we went to bed. The juniors showered first and then the seniors. There were about sixteen showers downstairs. There was some privacy downstairs because they were individual cubicles.

Clothing / uniform

16. My own clothes were put in the wardrobe and I wore them at the weekend. We had to wash these ourselves. I wore the clothes they gave me the rest of the time. These

clothes were taken away and laundered. You didn't get the same clothes back and you just had to take what you were given.

17. We had a school uniform, grey flannels and a button down shirt and Jesus sandals. For our chores we wore our jeans and a T shirt and shoes or boots if we were cleaning the toilets. Brother [LNA] sometimes took us to the shops to buy new clothes. I don't know where that money came from. I was number [REDACTED] at St Ninian's. [REDACTED] was stamped inside my football boots and my working boots so that no one could steal them. Brother [LNA] always called me by my surname. He never called me by my first name. He called other boys by their first name but not me

School

18. After we had done our chores we went to the classrooms. All the time I was at St Ninian's I went to the classrooms within St Ninian's. There were usually about eight or nine boys in each class. Mr [BHB] was a [REDACTED] teacher in the school. Mrs Brown was an art teacher. She was a really good teacher. It was a different atmosphere if it was the teachers from outside who were teaching us than when the brothers were doing it.
19. Brother [LNA], Brother [MHJ], Brother [LMZ] and Brother [MCX] used to do some teaching. Brother [LNA] and [MCX] were not related. The teachers were fine at school but I felt they weren't teaching us very much. They just really taught us the basics. There were boys in there that could hardly read or write.
20. When I became a senior I was selected to go to Elmwood College in Cupar for some of the time. There we got taught woodwork and metalwork. Only about fourteen or fifteen boys were selected to go. Some boys who were progressing well at Elmwood were guaranteed to go. The others were randomly selected to fill the minibus. The boys who weren't chosen to go just went to the classes in St Ninian's.

Leisure time

21. We played lots of games, rugby, football, basketball, hockey, cricket, netball, volleyball and any other game you can think of. I loved it because I loved sport. There was a tuckshop at St Ninian's. If it was Brother LHC in there, he was the oldest of the brothers, so the boys used to regularly go in and steal sweets. They would fill their pockets. I think the boys did it because they were so hungry.
22. We sometimes did concerts and shows for the villagers. They used to come up and we sang and did regular shows. We did these in some of the halls in St Ninian's.
23. We were allowed out at the weekend but we were not allowed to go into Falkland village without a member of staff. The only time we were allowed was on a Sunday when two boys would be sent in for ice cream which was a big treat.

Pocket money

24. We got pocket money as juniors but I have no idea how much we got. As seniors we got pocket money, train fares money, and other spending money for the weekend. Brother LHC gave us the money. I am not sure where the money came from.

Religious instruction

25. There was a chapel in St Ninian's where the brothers would say their morning prayers. A couple of the boys would be used as altar boys. They were woken up and taken away to have prayers with them. We had mass every Sunday which took place in St Ninian's. We were made to go to confession and made to take the Eucharist. If the priest from Falkland couldn't manage to come to St Ninian's we would be taken down to the chapel in Falkland Palace to get our Sunday prayers.

Work / chores

26. After breakfast all the boys were given different chores to do. My first task was to clean the main hall stairs. I had to go down on my hands and knees and polish the individual steps. All the jobs were to do with cleaning and you got a different job every day. Brother [REDACTED] LNA would supervise you doing your job and if you didn't do your job properly he would give you the belt. He would hit you in front of the other boys who were there. The belt wasn't a trouser belt, it was a tawse with splits at the end. He would belt us on the hands but sometimes it would come up onto the wrist. I never got the belt for not doing my chores properly but I saw other boys getting it.
27. One of the chores was to clean the brothers' rooms. That included making their bed. Some of the boys liked doing this job because they took some of the dog-ends from their ashtrays when they were emptying them.

Trips / Holidays

28. I got home leave in the summer. I remember the first time I got home leave because my mum and brother [REDACTED] came to meet me in Glasgow. I would have been thirteen. I got home for Christmas too, and in the summer for a couple of weeks. Sometimes I stayed at my mum's house and sometimes at my auntie's.
29. I went on a few trips with St Ninian's. I went to Liverpool on a rugby trip. We played against a school that was run by the same brotherhood. We slept in sleeping bags on the floor in a games room. I also went to Sunderland. I got to stay with one of the boys at his home. The staff took us to Queen Street in Glasgow and we got the train to both these places. Brother [REDACTED] LNA came with us to Liverpool and Sunderland. As seniors we went on a ski trip to Glenshee and hillwalking up north. We went camping to St Andrew's. That was Brother [REDACTED] MCY who took us camping and it was always at the weekend. It was only the seniors that went on these trips. There were other trips for the juniors.

Birthdays and Christmas

30. I went home for Christmas. I would get dropped off by the school minibus at Queen Street in Glasgow and I would have to make my way home from there. I was usually with other boys from Greenock. I was about thirteen the first time I got home. The brothers never gave us a Christmas present.
31. For boys' birthdays they would bake a birthday cake. I never got a birthday cake when I was at St Ninian's because I was never there when it was my birthday. I must have been on home leave or Easter holidays. I remember other boys getting cakes but I didn't.

Visits / Inspections / Review of Detention

32. My family never visited me when I was at St Ninian's. We were allowed to use the phone once a week. You had to ask Brother [REDACTED] LNA for permission. I sometimes phoned my aunt because she had a landline phone. Brother [REDACTED] LNA used to listen in to my conversations. You had to be careful what you said.
33. The only social worker I saw when I was at St Ninian's was after the one and only time that I ran away. It was the same social worker who had taken me there. Brother [REDACTED] LNA went on to abuse me and I wanted away from there because of what he had done to me. I didn't tell the social worker why but I told her that I wanted out of there, even if it was to another home. The only other times I saw the social worker was when I didn't want to go back to St Ninian's after my weekend leave. My mum would take me down to the social work department thinking that they would take me back. The social workers just gave me my train and bus fares to get back to Auchterarder from Paisley. I had to walk from Auchterarder back to St Ninian's.
34. We got home leave regularly but that all depended on Brother [REDACTED] LNA. If you misbehaved or had done something wrong you weren't allowed to go home. Sometimes he refused to let me go home and there was no reason given. He would just tell me I wasn't going. Sometimes he would tell me that my mum had phoned and

said my dad wasn't well so I couldn't go home. He was lying because my mum wouldn't phone and say things like that no matter how ill my dad was. When I did get home leave I either went home to my mum and dads or I stayed at my auntie's house.

Healthcare

35. There was a matron at St Ninian's but I am not sure if she had any medical training. She used to dish out the clothes to everyone and check our hair. If your hair was dirty you were taken to a barber in Leslie and he would shave your hair off. The doctor used to come in occasionally and give the boys check-ups. We were taken to the dentist in Auchterarder.

Running away

36. Me and my friend ran away and we got as far as Kinross but the police picked us up. We tried to tell them a story about where we had been but St Ninian's must have reported us missing because they knew and they took us back. For the next five days, after our evening meal we were punished.

Bed Wetting

37. If anyone wet their beds they had to lie on their wet sheets until the morning. There were no brothers there through the night that they could tell.

Discipline

38. There is no doubt that Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] was the alpha male in there. He dealt with most of the discipline. Usually they would be given six of the belt on their hands. Another brother who gave the smokers the belt was Brother [REDACTED] MCY [REDACTED]. If boys were caught smoking, they would all get the belt and their cigarettes or tobacco would be taken from them. Sometimes they would also get sent to their bed early.

Abuse at St Ninian's

39. When I was still a junior, Brother [REDACTED] LNA took me and a couple of other junior boys into his private living quarters. It was at night time when we had our pyjamas on. When we were there he put me on his knee and sort of bounced me up and down. He put his hands inside my pyjama top and was tickling my upper body. He was trying to make me laugh. When he was bouncing me on his knee I could feel that he had an erection. He was drinking beer when I was there. He took me into his room a couple of times and did this but it stopped after he sexually abused me in the showers. He took boys regularly to his room. Several times I saw junior boys getting taken into his room. Sometimes it was one boy and sometimes up to four junior boys. They would be in there for about half an hour. They weren't upset when they came out and they never said what happened when they were in there.
40. We had showers at night before we went to bed. The juniors went first then the seniors. The showers were open plan so there were no doors and no privacy whatsoever. Brother [REDACTED] LNA was always there watching us. I don't think he was there to supervise, he watched. He would just stand there. I can't remember him coming in when I was a senior, but he was always there when I was a junior. Most of the boys used to call him [REDACTED]
41. The first of the three times that Brother [REDACTED] LNA sexually abused me was after a rugby game when I was thirteen. I was still a junior. I swore at him on the rugby pitch. After the game we were all queuing up to shower and I was just about to get my turn to go in. Brother [REDACTED] LNA told me, for no reason, to go to the back of the queue. This made me the last in the shower. When I came out the shower he told me to wait behind.
42. I thought he was going to belt me for swearing at him. He locked the shower room door and there was only the two of us left. He told me to remove my towel, which I did. He bent me over the sink and sexually abused me. He had sex with me. I was traumatised when he was doing this to me. I had never experienced anything like it before. When he was doing it he told me it was our secret and that he punished boys

to make them good boys. That has his way of turning a bad boy into a good boy. I will always remember these words. They will never leave me. He also said that if I told anyone I would never get to see my mum and dad again. He said I would be sent to a worse place than St Ninian's.

43. Afterwards I could barely walk because of the pain in my backside. I was bleeding from my back passage. I went to my bed that night and I can remember I was crying. At one point Brother [REDACTED] LNA burst into the room. He shouted and bawled at me and told me to get out my bed. I told him I couldn't because I was in too much pain. He told me that I had better be out my bed in the morning. I was able to walk a bit better in the morning. I never had to get any medical attention for that.
44. Whenever I saw Brother [REDACTED] LNA after that first time I was scared. Every time I saw him, no matter where it was, he would ask me if I was being a good boy like he asked me to be.
45. The second time also happened in the same showers downstairs. I had been fighting with another boy. It was the same routine as the first time. When we were alone in the showers he lashed me over my back and buttocks with a belt then sexually abused me like he had done before. He had sex with me.
46. The third time was in the same showers and it was the same as the second time. I had been fighting again. He sexually abused me like he had done twice before. After the third time the sexual abuse just stopped. I don't know why but it did. The physical assaults continued. I am not aware of Brother [REDACTED] LNA sexually abusing any other boy. I don't believe I would have been the only one but it wasn't something we would ever discuss in there.
47. One time when I was fourteen I was cleaning the toilets. I was hanging out of the window having a cigarette. Brother [REDACTED] LNA came in and caught me. He knew I had been smoking. He searched me and took my cigarettes off me. He then lit a cigarette and when he was sucking on the cigarette he put it on my arm. It burnt my arm. I still have the scar.

48. One day there was six or seven of us mucking about at a pond at the bottom of the road near St Ninian's. It was summer and we were having a good laugh. We went back to the house and it was all shut up. We rang the bell and Brother [REDACTED] LNA let us in. He started shouting and bawling at me. He took me away from the other boys and told me I was leading the other boys astray. I never answered him and he punched me full in the mouth. It loosened one of my teeth and I was up all night in pain. I should have gone to him because I was in a lot of pain but I was too frightened to go to his room. I was terrified of him. Mr Kelly later took me to the dentist and I had to get two teeth taken out. I would have been fifteen at that point and it wasn't long before I left St Ninian's.
49. Two boys from St Ninian's went to Ireland with Brother [REDACTED] LNA and [REDACTED]. It was a personal trip. Both these boys were excited and happy about going but when they came back they were acting completely different. They certainly weren't happy when they came back. I can only imagine what happened. They were orphans. I knew that because they were in my dorm for a while and they told me this. They had been in Nazareth House, Lasswade. A lot of the boys in there were orphans and they wouldn't have anyone they could tell.
50. There was one time that I refused to run in a cross country race. I was a good runner but I refused to run. The next time I was in class with Brother [REDACTED] LNA he sent me to see Brother [REDACTED] MHJ. I went to his door. He came out with his belt in his hand. He told me that if I didn't want to represent the school at sport then I wasn't getting to go on the next skiing trip. He then told me to put my hands out and he gave me six of the belt. That was the first time and only time that he gave me the belt. I never heard of him belting anyone else at St Ninian's.
51. When we came back to St Ninian's after being home for the weekend, sometimes we were told to leave our bags at the entrance to the main hall. The brothers would then rummage through our bags looking for any contraband like cigarettes. They would confiscate our cigarettes. Some time later they would then organise a smoke night. They would pass out the cigarettes they had confiscated from us and we got to smoke our cigarettes. Brother [REDACTED] LNA would sometimes search the junior and senior

rooms for contraband. He would trash the room and leave them a mess. Again if he found tobacco he would confiscate it.

52. In the morning if any of the boys had wet their bed Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] made them stand in the corridor. He would come in and ask if anyone had wet the bed. He knew who the regular bed-wetters were. They were made to take their pyjamas off and stand in the corridor holding their wet sheets. Sometimes they were naked. They were obviously really embarrassed. Sometimes there could be seven boys standing there holding their wet sheets. All the other boys would know they had wet their beds.
53. They were made to wash their own sheets in the morning. They had to take them to the shower room downstairs where there was a big sink. They had to rub the sheets with big blocks of red soap. They then hung them in the drying room so they were dry for the next night. They made their own beds at night. They still had to do their chores and sometimes they would miss their breakfast. This never happened to me because I never wet the bed but I saw it. Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] was the only one who made the boys do this. None of the other brothers did.
54. On the one occasion when me and another boy ran away and the police caught us in Kinross, we were punished for the next five days. After our evening meals they made us stand at either end of the hall facing the wall. No one was allowed to speak to us. They made us stand there until it was time for bed. They didn't let us use the tuck shop either. I only ever ran away once. I saw this happen to other boys too.
55. I once saw Brother [REDACTED] MCX [REDACTED] give one of the boys called [REDACTED] a real beating. [REDACTED] had been cleaning the brother's room. Seemingly [REDACTED] stole some of his cigarettes although [REDACTED] denied that he had touched them. A few of us were there when Brother [REDACTED] MCX [REDACTED] came in and confronted [REDACTED]. He then started beating him with his fists. He 'rag-dolled' [REDACTED] and beat the living daylight out of him.
56. At school we were given the strap if you couldn't do your sums or if you couldn't read certain things. None of the teachers who came from out-with St Ninian's ever belted us. It was only the brothers who gave us the belt. I got the belt loads of time at the

school. Brother **MCY** Brother **MHJ** and Brother **LMZ** often gave me the belt. Brother **LNA** was always on the prowl. He was looking for any reason to belt us. The brothers had their belts hidden under their cloaks over their waistband. They all belted us on our hands, nowhere else.

Reporting of abuse at St Ninian's

57. I never told anyone about the sexual abuse by Brother **LNA**. I blamed myself because I had been bad and this was my punishment. I had sworn and had been fighting so thought it was my fault. I never even told the boys in my room.
58. When Brother **LNA** punched me in the mouth Mr Kelly took me to the dentist. Mr Kelly never asked me what happened and neither did the dentist. I was too frightened to tell them. I was too scared to tell anyone else. I didn't trust anyone at St Ninian's that I could have told. After seeing Brother **MCX** beating **MCX** for stealing cigarettes that made me feel even more insecure and made me think even more that I couldn't trust anyone in there.
59. After Brother **LNA** sexually abused me I had to hide it from my friends. I was a happy go lucky sort of person before the abuse. I had to put on a brave face so they didn't notice the difference in me or they would have realised that there was something wrong with me. Some of them noticed and asked me what was wrong. I just told them that Brother **LNA** had belted me. I thought this was a normal punishment. I was naïve.

Preparation for leaving St Ninian's

60. When I was at St Ninian's I worked for a week in a paper mill in Falkland and a week in a newsagent in Kirkcaldy. It was all work experience and training me for work. I worked Monday to Friday. When I was working at the factory, St Ninian's gave me an

old bike to cycle back and forward. When I was in Kirkcaldy they gave me bus fares and I had to make my own way there.

61. I never saw a social worker on the lead up to me leaving St Ninian's and no one tried to prepare me for life outside. Once I had left I never saw a social worker again.

Leaving St Ninian's

62. I remember it was just coming up to my sixteenth birthday and I was sitting having my dinner. Brother **LMZ** stood up and made an announcement that I was leaving. Everyone clapped. I was told my bag had been packed and I was leaving there and then. I never got a chance to say goodbye to any of the friends I had made. None of the brothers came to say goodbye to me. I was given a Rolling Stones music album as a present for leaving the home. Mr Kelly took me outside to his car and drove me to Queen Street in Glasgow. He dropped me off there. I went to my auntie's house. She stayed at the east end of Paisley. I didn't want to go home as I was frightened that I might get drunk and through alcohol tell my friends what had happened to me in care.

Life after being in care

63. I stayed with my aunt in Paisley for three to four months. My mum and dad knew where I was. It suited my aunt for me to be there because I babysat for their children when they went out. I was happier being there that I wouldn't reveal anything about the abuse.
64. I had quite a few jobs but I didn't hold any down for very long because of my drinking. I then started taking other drugs, like Temazepam and Valium. I smoked cannabis as well and took amphetamines. I took drugs maybe for a couple of years.

Impact

65. For quite a long time I drank heavily. For a couple of years I got involved in street drugs. I did this because it stopped me from thinking about the abuse at St Ninian's. I have always been a bit of a loner. I didn't really have any friends. I did start playing football which was good. This started me playing sport again. We played on a Saturday morning which was good and helped get me off drink.
66. I have two daughters but I don't have much to do with one of them as she was the result of a fling I had when I was young. We never got any sex education at St Ninian's and I didn't know what I was doing. I lost contact with that daughter because of my drinking which was a big part of my life then. She has had her own daughter but I have never seen her. My other daughter [REDACTED] still lives with me and her mother [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is my current partner.
67. When I was heavily into the drink and drugs I got involved in crime. I was breaking into shops to fund my drink and drugs. I never got any prison sentences apart from one night in Barlinnie which was for non-payment of a fine. I came off the drink and drugs about ten years ago when my partner gave me an ultimatum. I didn't want to lose her and my daughter so I came off drink and drugs.
68. I don't really leave my house on my own because I feel safe in there. I spend most of my time sitting in the kitchen watching the television. I don't drink anymore and I don't want to get back into that way of life because I will probably start talking about my abuse. It will bring it all back to me.
69. If you were to ask me what affected me more, the death of my mother or the abuse at St Ninian's I would have to say it would be the abuse. My mum is in my heart and I always cherish and think about her. The abuse is in my head and I can't get rid of that.

Treatment / Support

70. I have been seeing a psychiatrist for the last eight or nine years. I started seeing a psychiatrist because of my drink and drugs addiction. It is only in the last two months that I have managed to tell him what happened to me in St Ninian's. [REDACTED] from Wellbeing Scotland has been giving me counselling for the last two years. She has been fantastic for me and if it hadn't been for her I would have given a statement to the Inquiry.

Reporting of Abuse

71. I have never come forward before now to tell anyone about the abuse I suffered at St Ninian's. I have always felt no one was going to believe a wee boy from [REDACTED] who said he was being abused by a man of god hiding behind a wee white collar. No one would have believed me. I have never told the police.
72. The first person I told about the abuse was my partner. I only told her two years ago. She brought home a newspaper and read out an article about a case involving St Ninian's and Brother [REDACTED] LNA was mentioned. About a week later I asked her to contact Wellbeing Scotland and I told her why. She couldn't believe I had kept it from her all the time we had been together, thirty years.

Records

73. Wellbeing Scotland put me in touch with lawyers who have written to Renfrewshire District Council a couple of months ago to try and get my records. I haven't heard anything back from them yet.

Lessons to be learned

74. There has to be more checking of the backgrounds of people who run these homes to make sure they have all the appropriate paperwork. The homes should be visited and checked on a regular basis to see how things are running. Children, of all ages, should be spoken to when they are there and asked about their experiences in the home. When children leave the homes they should also be asked, just in case there are children like me who didn't come forward because they were too frightened.

Other information

75. I only learned recently in the Daily Record that David Sharp who had been at St Ninian's had gone to court against Brother [REDACTED] LNA. He was sexually abused, just like I was by Brother [REDACTED] LNA in the shower area. Another boy [REDACTED] who was also at St Ninian's with me only came forward about two years ago to Wellbeing Scotland. I don't know if he reported anything to the police. [REDACTED] told me he was abused in the same showers as me.

76. I attended a campaign for Safe Scotland which was held in Dundee. They were trying to encourage people who had been abused to come forward and talk about their experiences. I found this a really good experience.

77. 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] MCW

Dated.. 23.11.2018