

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Frank MCCUE**

Support person present: No

1. My name is Frank McCue. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1957.  
My contact details are known to the inquiry.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Both my parents are deceased. I married [REDACTED] when I was 17 years old and we have been married for 42 years. We have four children and 12 grandchildren. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

3. I used to work as a freelance production carpenter in the theatre but had to give it up 18 years ago because of osteoarthritis.

**LIFE BEFORE GOING INTO CARE**

4. I had a very poor upbringing on the south side of Glasgow. My father was initially married to my Auntie [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He then went with Auntie [REDACTED] younger sister, my mother. She ended up pregnant with me although he was still living with Auntie [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. My mother didn't cope [REDACTED] and she was out of work and my father wasn't supporting her. She was desperate and had an up and coming operation and she had no one to look after [REDACTED] because she had been

thrown out of her family for having me out of wedlock. Because of this I went to Quarriers at Bridge of Weir. I was there for about a year then moved back in with my mum and dad.

### **LIFE IN CARE - QUARRIERS**

5. I went in to Quarriers in 1961 or 1962 when I was either four or five years old. I think I was there about a year and I came out about six months before I started in primary school. [REDACTED]

6. I can't remember who my house parents were and I don't know what cottage I was in. Quarriers was fine and I didn't witness any abuse apart from the walk of shame for bed wetting. I remember I had never bed wetted before and I was told that I had stopped doing it at about two years old. In Quarriers, however, I persistently wet the bed almost every night. In the morning they had this routine where I was forced to gather up my wet sheets and then line up in single file with other bed wetters and walk with them to the hampers outside where the sheets were put. Ridicule by the other boys was encouraged and they were made to laugh at us, the "Pee the beds"

7. When I was there I remember one visit from my mum and the second time she brought my dad and I got introduced to him because I hadn't met him before. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Apart from the bed wetting walk of shame with the wet sheets I have no other good or bad memories of Quarriers.

8. I moved back in with my mum and dad just before I was five years old. I just remember there were always parties at our house when the pubs were shut and I didn't have a great childhood.

9. My mum and dad split up when I was about 11 years old. One night my mum went out to work and she never came back. She had had enough of the abuse from my dad. I was the target of most of his physical abuse and he would sometimes take a belt to me. My dad couldn't cope so I went to live with an auntie, my dad's sister. The house was overcrowded and chaotic and the area wasn't a good place to be brought up because of the gangs in the area. I was frightened to go out. About that time I was on probation because I had been caught in a stolen car. My mum had a new boyfriend and I stole his razor. The police got involved and I was sent to St Ninian's, a List-G school in Falkland House, near Falkland Village in Fife for two years in 1970 by order of the sheriff court. I had a probation officer called John Colquhoun and he said he would suggest to the sheriff that I should go to St Ninian's because of the razor theft and my current poor home conditions and that's what happened. He said that I would be looked after there and have an opportunity to learn.

#### **LIFE IN CARE - ST NINIAN'S**

10. I was 13 years old when I went to St Ninian's. I was there from 1970 – 1972. There were about 40 boys in the house and they ranged in age from 10 to 16 years old. Some were there for the whole six years but most came and went and there were always new arrivals. The home was run by the Irish Christian Brothers who lived in the house and they did all the teaching classes apart from [REDACTED]. That was done by a man from the village – Mr BHB. He insisted that we call him BHB. The matron, the seamstress and Lizzy the cook and [REDACTED] the cleaner were all female. The seamstress was married to the grounds keeper - Mr Morris Bain or McBain. [REDACTED] had a room in St Ninian's but all the other secular staff lived off site. There would always be roughly six Brothers at any one time but sometimes there were as many as 10. They did the teaching as well but they weren't very good at teaching and may not even have been trained. I got on well with some of the Brothers and I think I was accepted because I was good at sport.

11. [REDACTED] MCS took a big part in my last year at St Ninian's and he is a whole chapter to himself and I will talk about him later. He was the school [REDACTED] and he lived in Buckhaven in Fife. MCS was supposed to be the [REDACTED] but he also later told me that he was the [REDACTED]. He also used to [REDACTED]. He later came to live at St Ninian's. I never actually believed [REDACTED] MCS was a member of staff.

12. The school was divided in to two houses. There was the Stuart House and the Ramsay House. I ended up the captain of the Ramsay House and the school team captain. I was also the Head prefect.

## ROUTINE

13. We would get woken up at 0730 in the morning by a hand bell. One day in the week there was morning prayers then we would do some light chores. We would have breakfast then we would do 10 minutes of light chores. On Sunday we would spend much longer doing the chores, maybe three hours. If you had small arms you were made to clean the drains in the showers.

14. One of the biggest fears at St Ninian's was bed wetting. If you wet the bed, your sheets would be hung over the balcony to let everyone know who had wet the bed. I think generally the seamstress dealt with the wet sheets and the laundry.

15. On Saturday night there was an inspection of your Sunday best, which is the clothes you would be wearing to church on the Sunday. On other days we used to wear our grey trousers and a maroon sweatshirt.

16. I generally fitted in quite well at St Ninian's, partly with one section of the boys because I was a smoker. They also found out that I was exceptionally good at sport which was a big part of the ethos at St Ninian's. I did athletics and played rugby, and I did really, really well.

### First day at institution

17. I went to St Ninian's, Falkland House in Falkland Village three or four days after I was told by the sheriff court and I went there with a social worker in their car. There wasn't much talking on the way and I was quite relaxed about going there. I didn't know of anyone that had been there before me but I was well schooled so knew what to expect. It was an impressive stately home set in its own grounds which were immaculate.

18. The social worker dropped me off in a sitting room and I was introduced to two Brothers and I was shown the ropes by them. That first night I was given pyjamas to wear. They were nice and clean and my bed was nice and clean too.

19. That first night I was in a dorm with three other boys. At some point I got woken up by Brother LNA who was fumbling about under my sheets and he had his hands on my pyjamas and he was on his knees. He told me not to worry and that he was just checking that I was not a bed wetter. Apparently this was a common occurrence to check, they said, if you were a bed wetter. He had one hand under my backside and the other on top of my pyjamas at my genitals area. He only ever did this to me on one occasion. Brother LHI was standing at the dormitory door at the same time.

### Mealtimes

20. Food at St Ninian's was generally pretty bland but it was okay. We had breakfast, lunch which was our main meal and a snack about 4pm. I think the food was cooked off-site. If you didn't like the food, that was just tough.

### Bedtimes

21. There were four beds in each dorm, and there were eight dorms in total. Bed time was set at 9pm

### Washing

22. Shower nights were generally after sport, and we probably showered twice a week. When you showered there were two Brothers on shower duty and there were no shower cubicle doors. Brother LNA would sometimes come in to the cubicle where I was showering and told me how to wash myself. He would tell me to spread my legs and work up a lather, bend over and wash between my bum cheeks and make sure I got in to every nook and cranny. Brother LMZ however, when he was on shower duty, would just stand at the front door smoking and didn't come near us. At the age of 15 you were allowed to have showers at other times if you got permission from the brothers.

### Leisure Time

23. Most of our leisure time was spent doing sport, and we were encouraged to do it. We were very competitive and it was often against other schools. We were always winning no matter what the sport. We were allowed to watch the television for an hour and a half before it was time for the light out. We didn't have a radio but on a Sunday they used to play the top 40 charts over the Tannoy. After we had done our Sunday chores we had three hours of free time when we could wander out on our own which was great. Every Sunday we would run up Lomond Hill. Even if you weren't fit or injured you were made to do it.

24. There were books and magazines at St Ninian's that we could have read but there were none that would interest children. There were no toys or games for us to play with apart from table tennis.

### Trips and Holidays

25. I remember we were taken to the cinema once when I was at St Ninian's. We went to see Kelly's Heroes. Occasionally we would also go to Kirkcaldy swimming baths. When we had school holidays most of us just went home, well I

went back to my aunt's. Those who were orphans or who had no-where to go would stay in at St Ninian's with the Brothers.

### Schooling

26. There were only three classes and they were grouped according to ages, 10-12 for the junior class , 12-14 for the middle class and 14 upwards for the senior class. There was no real structure at school and there was no set timetable. Everything was taught in your own classroom and there were no separate subject classrooms. The school day finished at 4pm.

### Healthcare

27. There was a matron at St Ninian's but she did nothing and a lot of the time she should have. If something serious happened an ambulance would be summoned. We did go to the dentist if we needed to but you got treated without any jags.

### Religious Education

28. At school we got lots of religious education which was usually given to us by Brother LNA Actual Mass services were conducted by a priest from the village. The Brothers had their own prayer meetings.

### Christmas and Birthdays

29. In all my time at St Ninian's I never saw a Christmas tree or a Christmas decoration. It just wasn't celebrated. On your birthday the brothers may wish you happy birthday but there was no card or gift. If you were lucky you may get a birthday cake.

Visits / Inspection

30. I was visited once by my mum when I was at St Ninian's, but I am not aware of ever seeing any inspectors or any officials at any time.

31. On the last summer holiday before I left St Ninian's I was at my aunt's house in Glasgow when Brother LNA and Brother LHI appeared at the door. They said they had popped in to see how I was doing and they introduced me to a 10 year old boy who was going to be starting at St Ninian's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I really don't know if this was standard practice that they would check up on the kids to make sure they were coping on their holidays.

Discipline

32. If you did something in class that deserved disciplining you would be made to stand outside the class in the corridor and wait until Brother BHD saw you then he would strap you. It was usually only Brother BHD and BHB who would hit you on the hand. Brother LNA would normally send you to Brother BHD for punishment. I think that Brother BHD was [REDACTED] at St Ninian's.

33. Another punishment was to get you to stand for ages in the main hall on an imaginary spot about two foot square. You weren't allowed to move or speak, and everyone ignored you. That kind of punishment was used a lot for all sorts of misdemeanours. You were told to stay there until you were told you could move.

34. They had a punishment list, although it wasn't written down, and it was all to do with you losing your privileges. First you may lose your tuck shop privileges, then your TV privileges, then the worst one to lose was your free time. In free time you got to wander and go where you wanted for three hours. Say for



example you were caught smoking they would double up and you may lose two of these privileges.

### Running away

35. After an incident with Brother [REDACTED] BHD when he caught me smoking and beat me up then left me standing for hours in the main hall I decided to run away. Four or five other boys came with me. I didn't encourage them but they also wanted away from Brother [REDACTED] BHD. We left about 2 o'clock in the morning through the toilet side window and we walked all the way to Edinburgh cross-country, covertly avoiding all the roads. We got there the following night. We went to one of the boy's houses and his mum gave us a pie each. She went to the shops, where she must have contacted the police because when she came back the police were with her. We were taken back to a police station where we were asked by a big sergeant why we had run away. I told him that I had been battered to hell for no reason and he then started shouting and told me that I should show the Brothers some respect. When we got taken back we were made to stand in the main hall again. We waited for our punishment but nothing else happened that night and we were sent to our beds.

36. The second time we ran away, probably about four months later when I was nearly 14, we walked cross-country again all the way to Dundee. When we got there we met a down and out guy and he pointed out a howf that we could stay in. We went in and it was there right enough and it was ideal for us. After he told us the guy must have told the police because they came and picked us up again.

### **ABUSE**

37. I had been there over six months and would have been 13 years old when things started going wrong. One day after I had been playing rugby one of our boys had a packet of 10 cigarettes so we went in in to a toilet and were passing a cigarette round. I was waiting for the cigarette to be passed to me when Brother

BHD came in and pushed the others out the way and punched me in the face knocking me off my feet and into a blocked urinal. I was soaking from the urinal and then he kicked the shit out of me. He never touched the other three, just me. He then sent the four of us to the main hall. In the main hall we had to stand in the imaginary two foot square box, and he left us there for about five hours. Other boys were going past but they didn't dare speak to us or they would end up joining us. Other Brothers would walk past as if we didn't exist.

38. Eventually we started talking and telling jokes and I started laughing. Brother BHD came in to the room and caught me laughing. He told the other three boys to go to their dorm and he left me standing there. I think they got sent away about 9 or 10 pm and I was still standing there until 2-3 o'clock in the morning, hours after the others had gone. Brother BHD never came back. Another Brother came by and he was shocked that I was still there and told me to go to my bed. By this time the urine that I had been soaked in earlier had dried out.

39. The time that we ran away to Edinburgh and were taken back we were made to stand in the hall but didn't get any other punishment at that time. When we ran away to Dundee and were taken back we were made to stand in the main hall again maybe for about an hour then we were sent for a shower then to our bed. I lost some privileges because of it and for a while afterwards the other Brothers were all a bit distant towards us and maybe sent us to 'Coventry' a bit. But that didn't last long as the five of us were all good at sports and we were winning everything in all sports so were quickly accepted back into the fold.

40. A couple of days after we ran away to Dundee Brother BHD grabbed me, pushed me up against a wall and then punched and head butted me in the face. He also threatened me with borstal. He burst my nose and it was bleeding. This was the second time that he beat me. Brother BHD had a hatred for me and he was evil. I had seen other boys being punched and kicked by Brother BHD. [REDACTED] was in St Ninian's at the same time and he was beaten by Brother BHD with a back scrubber in the showers although I did not witness this myself.

41. Brother BHD was our teacher and I was good at everything apart from [REDACTED]. He was an angry man who would prowl the corridors late at night. Sometimes he would hit the blackboard duster off your head. Other times he would hit you on the knuckles with an extendable ruler and tell you to stop slouching, or he would hit the back of your head or kick you. He was hitting me all the time but he was hitting others as well some times, but not as much as me. This was the build up to me running away.

42. When I was about 14 years old we used to go to a disco at Strathmiglo and the girls were captivated by all the different accents but the local boys hated us for it. I remember we met a couple of girls and they had friends at Falkland Village which wasn't that far away from St Ninian's and we told them to come and see us. A couple of weeks later we saw them walking along the road so went to speak to them. MCS who was St Ninian's [REDACTED] told us that we were to get back to the house immediately. We had words and I eventually told him, like you would tell a friend, to "F" off. He then left to go and tell Brother BHD who later tried to kill me that night for swearing at a so called member of staff.

43. When we got back to the house I was with my best pal [REDACTED] and when we came out of the boot room Brother BHD came screaming out of the darkness with a golf club in his hands like a madman in a horror film and hit me with the golf club flush on the top of my head and I fell to the ground. I tried to get up and he hit me on the head again bursting my head open. This time the head of the club actually broke off from the shaft. He was left with just the metal shaft and he then started whipping me with it and wouldn't stop. I tried to block the blows with my hands and in so doing that's when I reckon my fingers were broken. [REDACTED] was screaming and he ran away up the stairs to try and get help. Brother BHD grabbed me by the hair and was trying to pull me up the stairs but he was exhausted. He was whipping me all the time with the shaft. At the top of the stairs he dragged me along to the main hall where he tried to prop me up and told me to stay there and not move. I collapsed but he picked me up again and propped

me up against a marble fireplace. [REDACTED] was in the hall and I told him I was going to pass out and I did and face planted onto the floor.

44. Brother [REDACTED] BHD must have heard me fall and he came running back over. I remember [REDACTED] was shouting to him "You are killing him, you are killing him". [REDACTED] tried to get out the door and was shouting about calling the police. Brother [REDACTED] LMZ and another Brother dragged [REDACTED] back and were sitting on top of him. Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] MCS and either Brother [REDACTED] MCY or Brother [REDACTED] MBV and possibly Brother [REDACTED] LHI pulled Brother [REDACTED] BHD away from me. I was left in a puddle of blood and snotters.

45. The other Brothers and [REDACTED] MCS picked me up and carried me through to the senior sitting room and put me on a sofa and I was pleading for an ambulance. I had never been in so much pain. I was on fire from my toes all the way up. I knew then that I had at least broken some of my fingers. I told them that my fingers were broken because they were swollen up like balloon fingers of a cartoon character, and I had blood running down my face and the back of my neck but they just told me that I would be fine. Brother [REDACTED] BHD was still trying to get at me and he was spitting foam, shouting about me going to borstal. He was enraged.

46. Brother [REDACTED] BHD was taken out the room and I got taken up to my old dorm where someone had made up a bed. I think after that I must have passed out with exhaustion. When I woke up [REDACTED] MCS was standing beside me and he was crying. The pillow was stuck to my face because of the dried blood. I tried to get up and I vomited on the floor. I showed him my hands and he just went on about how sorry he was. I told him I needed a doctor because I needed treatment.

47. A wee boy came in later and gave me clean pyjamas and told me that I was to shower. He helped me with my clothes and I stood under the water. He had to turn the shower on because I couldn't. My head was stinging. I put my pyjamas back on although I was still wet. By the time I got back to the bed it had been changed and it was clean, and the vomit had been cleaned up. Brother [REDACTED] LNA

was there and I told him that I needed to go to the hospital. He said that I didn't need the hospital and the matron would come in and see me as soon as she got back. She was on holiday.

48. I lay in that bed from the Friday until the Monday until the matron came back her holidays and I was called to go and see her. She helped me take my pyjamas off because I still couldn't use my fingers. I was covered from head to toe in these giant thick weals. She told me that my fingers weren't broken and that they were just staved. She bandaged my hands and my head. She also rubbed cream from my neck down. I asked if I needed stitches in my head but she said no because I had holes and not slits that could be sewn. I was then sent back to bed in the room on my own. I can't remember the matron's name.

49. I never got any other medical attention for my injuries, and in the five days I was in my bed I never saw any of the Brothers. I was in agony for about three weeks then left just feeling numb. It was just the other boys who were feeding me and looking after me.

50. I didn't go to school at that time although I did go to some classes and after five days I was allowed to wander in the building and in the grounds. I think to be honest they were trying to keep me away from Brother **BHD**. After a while I got to sit at the back of some of the classes.

51. I was told that Brother **BHD** had left St Ninian's **MCS** **MCS** came to me and told me how Brother **BHD** was going to be punished and that the other Brothers were having a big meeting. I think Brother **BHD** was at St Ninian's all the time and what **MCS** said was lies. About two weeks after I got that beating I saw Brother **BHD** in St Ninian's and he knew that I had seen him. The next thing he came to me with Brother **LNA** and Brother **BHD** said that he was sorry for what he did but said that I should accept responsibility for my part in it. Brother **LNA** asked if I accepted his apology and I said absolutely not. Brother **BHD** then stormed off and that was the last time I ever saw him. I understand that he died in 2008.

52. When I left St Ninian's, MCS had arranged to meet with [REDACTED], maybe two months after the beating and I went to meet them. MCS told me that because of me Brother BHD life was in ruins. He had been sent to Rome for a year, some sort of sabbatical then he was to go to Ireland but he was never to be allowed to teach again and wasn't allowed to be near kids. This was all a load of rubbish and lies and said to make me think that the matter had been dealt with properly to keep me quiet. I think Brother BHD was there the whole time and was in an upstairs room being kept out of the way.

53. There was one boy at the school [REDACTED] whose mum was on a life support machine after she got run over by a car. One day Brother BHD come in and interrupted the RE class and said to [REDACTED] that he didn't want any tears or any emotion and that his mum had died at 0630 that morning. MCS told me later that he had mentioned to Brother BHD about it and his excuse about the way he had broken the news was that her death wasn't unexpected.

54. Some of the young boys were told after they had been playing football if they had any injuries they should have a shower then after it was dark to come up to the Brothers rooms. I sometimes saw them sitting on the Brothers knees getting cream rubbed in. I felt sorry for the 11 and 12 year old boys. It just wasn't right.

55. I have no lasting physical injuries from the abuse I suffered apart from my fingers have never been as strong as they should be. I suppose it had some impact on my work because I would get spasms or cramps in my fingers. I have not had any bother with my head.

56. Another incident which happened was in one of the senior [REDACTED] classes we were waiting for Brother BHD when one boy went behind the blackboard and drew a vagina, BHD came in and saw it and demanded to know who had drawn it. Nobody would say so we lost all our free time, tuck shop and

TV privileges for a week and we were sent to bed at 7pm. Sometime after midnight we were all dragged out of our beds and told to put our PE kit on. We stood about in the courtyard and were then made to run about three miles along the road to a local landmark, Kilgour Gate and then back again. I think it was autumn at that time. This was just another example of the regime.

## REPORTING OF ABUSE

57. There was no one in St Ninian's that I could turn to and confide in. Everyone there all knew what was going on and nobody ever did anything about it. Everything wrong that took place was just covered up. All the brothers who weren't involved in any of the abuse would have been well aware of what was going on.

58. When we ran away and were found in Edinburgh we told the police about what was going on. When we ran away and were caught by the police in Dundee the policeman asked me why I had run away. I told him about the constant violence and that I was terrified of this man and he was hitting us every day. I told the policeman it was Brother [REDACTED] BHD but he just laughed and said he had just been speaking to him on the phone. He then said "What a kicking you are going to get when you get back". Neither the police in Edinburgh or Dundee took us seriously. This really bothers me because they just didn't listen.

59. When I was in St Ninian's after I was beaten with the golf club and I couldn't write because of the damage to my fingers, I got one of my school friends to write three letters for me. They were for my probation officer, my mum and my dad. After that we were told that all letters should be left open. You used to be able to seal the envelopes and the Brothers would put a stamp on them and post them. I am assuming that my three letters were intercepted and binned. I asked my dad later and he said he didn't get my letter, and neither did my mum. I never saw my probation officer to ask him.

60. In 2014 I told the police about what happened to me and that [REDACTED] had witnessed it and I told them about [REDACTED] MCS I also told them about [REDACTED] who had also been beaten in St Ninian's. It was a PC Andrew Gilmour although he is known as Robbie who I spoke to and I gave him [REDACTED] MCS details. By that time I had found out that [REDACTED] MCS had four websites which had something to do with clubs for kids involved in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I told the police all about him and that he may be worth looking at.

61. I had previously emailed [REDACTED] MCS and asked him why he stood back and watched what went on at St Ninian's but he just got back to me and said that he had no information of interest about the Brothers.

62. PC Gilmour later said that [REDACTED] MCS had told him that my statement was true and an accurate account and that he did not need to speak to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I complained to the police about the lack of action and I just got a letter back saying that my abuser was dead so no further action would be taken. I believe [REDACTED] MCS was told to leave St Ninian's by Brother [REDACTED] BHD.

63. I found [REDACTED] on Facebook and we have since met up for a coffee. We talked about old times and he said he would be willing to give evidence to support me in relation to the last assault on me with the golf club but he wants nothing to do with the Inquiry in relation to anything committed against him. I am in regular contact with [REDACTED] and he has also said that he would be happy to support me and give evidence about what happened to me at St Ninian's but wouldn't want to give any information on the abuse he suffered.

64. When I was at St Ninian's I think Brother [REDACTED] BHD would have been about 42-43 years old back in 1972. Brothers [REDACTED] LMZ and [REDACTED] LHI were both in their 20's. [REDACTED] LMZ was a [REDACTED] teacher.



## LIFE AFTER ST NINIAN'S

65. From the time I got the beating with the golf club by Brother BHD I was left alone and I left St Ninian's around 1972. As far as I am aware Brother BHD left to visit family in Ireland and I am sure he was away when I left St Ninian's.

66. I left St Ninian's when I was 14 and a half in 1972 and I went to my aunties where I stayed only about a week. It didn't work out there so I stayed a few other places including three nights in a scrapyard, eventually ending up with and that's how I met my wife. I got taken in by her family and got a job initially as a porter in a fruit market. Even though I was probably still only 14 there was something written down that if you were the oldest son and a breadwinner you could leave school early. That's what happened and I applied for and got a national insurance number. My wife got pregnant in 1973 and we got married at 17 in November 1974. My wife got me a job working in the Pavilion Theatre where unfortunately I discovered alcohol. With the theatre we would tour the country and I spent far too much time drinking and spending too much money.

## IMPACT

67. I have kept it together well but a lot is because of the support I got from my wife and my family. When I was 17 I was well on the way to becoming an alcoholic. When I got the job with the theatre it was just far too easy to drink. I never used to blame Brother BHD and St Ninian's and I pushed that right to the back of my mind but as I got older I suppose that is part of the reason I turned to alcohol. I started drinking alcohol probably when I was 15 years old. Alcohol became a problem probably through the lifestyle that I was living on the road. I was enjoying the time drinking with my pals more than spending time with my wife and family. Three months of the year I was at home and the rest of the time I was working away from home. I can't say for certain if St Ninian's was the reason I turned to alcohol but the drink made my whole life feel better. St Ninian's however did cause me to be the

man I was, especially when I was drunk. I was a violent drunk. In any confrontational situation I was happy to use my fists or my feet to sort it out. By the time I was working with Scottish Opera I was drinking at every break we had and I was basically a functioning alcoholic.

68. I starting missing the kid's Christmas and I wasn't sending money home to my wife and I was skipping weeks where I should have been sending her money. I have never been abusive to my kid's and I was only ever violent to strangers if I had been drinking.

69. Because of what happened to me at St Ninian's I probably did need some psychological treatment but I never went for it. I constantly think about my time there. With everything that happened to me, when I was younger I couldn't trust people, especially people in authority, and people that I should be able to trust. That was down to St Ninian's. I was never violent before I went to St Ninian's.

70. I have no faith and not interested in religion because of St Ninian's, I came from a strong catholic family and I was an altar boy but I lost my faith. When a 'holy' person puts the boot in to you, you lose faith.

71. Now and again I have flashbacks, one of which I remember was about my golf club beating and that was when I watched a film called "Song for a raggy boy" which was set in Ireland in a Christian Brothers school 30 years before I was in St Ninian's. In the film one of the Brothers starts lashing a boy with a leather tawse and won't stop and ultimately kills him. The Brother had white flecks of foam coming out of his mouth. They sent the Brothers over to America and that was all that happened to them. This film left me upset, I had tears running down my face, shaking as I felt that I was back at St Ninian's. Now and again I still have flashbacks about my beatings.

72. I am still on medication for depression and pain killers for my back, but again I don't think I can blame that all on St Ninian's.

73. I stopped drinking when my wife phoned 22 years ago and told me that my granddaughter had just been born. I was shocked and just stopped drinking. I haven't drunk since

#### **HOPES FOR THE ENQUIRY**

74. This incident where I was hit with the golf club has apparently been recorded as an assault whereas in mind this was an attempted murder. Overall the police were nice enough and tread very softly in case they offended me but I just want the people who have been responsible for putting me in there to hold their hands up and say that they were sorry

75. I hope that MCS and Brother LMZ will be asked to come forward and be interviewed about what was going on at St Ninian's. MCS MCS and all the other Brothers who knew what was going on should be asked why they stood by and watched and did nothing.

76. I hope that for the children of the future who are in care that there is no stigma of being in a home and that they are given a good education. I also hope that children are only put in to care when they are assured to be 100% safe. Nothing should happen to these children.

77. I hope that this enquiry makes people aware of the extent of abuse and that the Government should stand up and say that they were accountable for the abuse that I suffered, and that I should get an apology from both the Government and the Christian Brothers.

78. I want my own experience to be a matter of public record. I don't care if anybody knows me; I am not in to it for fame. I am not in to it for compensation. I would like to see dozens of cases like mine, a lot will be worse than mine, well documented and well-presented and available for people to see on line and make them more aware of what was going on.

79. I would like to see more coverage in the press so that people are aware every day what is going on in these places.

## OTHER ACTION TAKEN

80. I personally have not had any counselling or therapy. I have spoken to my GP about flashbacks and he just gave me some advice.

81. I have spoken to [REDACTED] who is retired and living in Florida, and asked him if he would give a statement about him getting battered by [REDACTED] BHD when he was in the shower but he says he has put it all behind him and doesn't want anything to do with it.

82. I sent an email to the head of the order of the Christian Brothers in Dublin and told them what had happened to me and asked where Brother [REDACTED] BHD was sent after 1972 but they just wrote back and said that they were sorry for what I had experienced but they had no records of where Brother [REDACTED] BHD was sent.

83. According to Robbie Gilmour the policeman who I told about my assault, he says that Brother [REDACTED] BHD died in 2006 or 2008.

84. A couple of years ago there was a story in a paper about a boy claiming to be abused by Brother [REDACTED] LNA. There was a pixelated photo so I contacted them and they sent me a copy which I will give you a copy of today. In this photo I can name most of the boys. Starting at the back left are, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The one grinning is [REDACTED] but I can't remember who the next one is. In the middle row is [REDACTED] I don't know who is next to him, [REDACTED] then another one I don't know, Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] ABF [REDACTED] ABF Don't know the next two and then [REDACTED]. In the bottom row the first

one is [REDACTED] and on the far right is [REDACTED]. This photo was taken when I was 14.

85. When I got the photo from the Daily Record I was asked if they could send my details to a David Sharp. I subsequently contacted him and he said he was at St Ninian's in 1972. I don't remember him at all. He said he was in the bed next to [REDACTED] who I do remember. [REDACTED] was sent home for a holiday [REDACTED]. David Sharp told me that he was the victim of sexual abuse at the hands of Brother LNA and that he was trafficked over to Ireland and abused by different priests over there.

86. Because of this I got involved with the In Care Abuse Survivor group (INCAS) and through them I gave a statement to the police in 2014. I am now the secretary of INCAS and I attend their monthly meetings. This has been quite therapeutic for me but it doesn't really help with my depression.

87. About six months after I left St Ninian's, when I would have been 15, I went back there and hung about the village for a while then went up to the big house. I think I was hoping that I would miss my last bus home and I would have to stay there. I went back there because I had nothing in my life and I knew that Brother BHD had left. I was turned away at the door. Brother LMZ walked me back down to the village and bought me a pint of beer. That was my first ever drink of beer. After I got the bus and then the train home. I was quite upset.

## RECORDS

88. I went to the Social Services in Albion Street to try and get my records. They replied saying they had nothing but would contact the Mitchell Library where all the records are stored but again they said they couldn't find any records for me. The probation office held nothing either. I emailed the head of the Christian Brothers in Belfast about my time at St Ninian's and they said they didn't have any records for me. I went to Glasgow City Council in the new building in John Street but

they had nothing. I have exhausted all possibilities and can't think who else to contact to try and locate my records.

89. 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

19/10/2016