

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

MII

Support person present: No

1. My full name is MII My date of birth is 1947. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

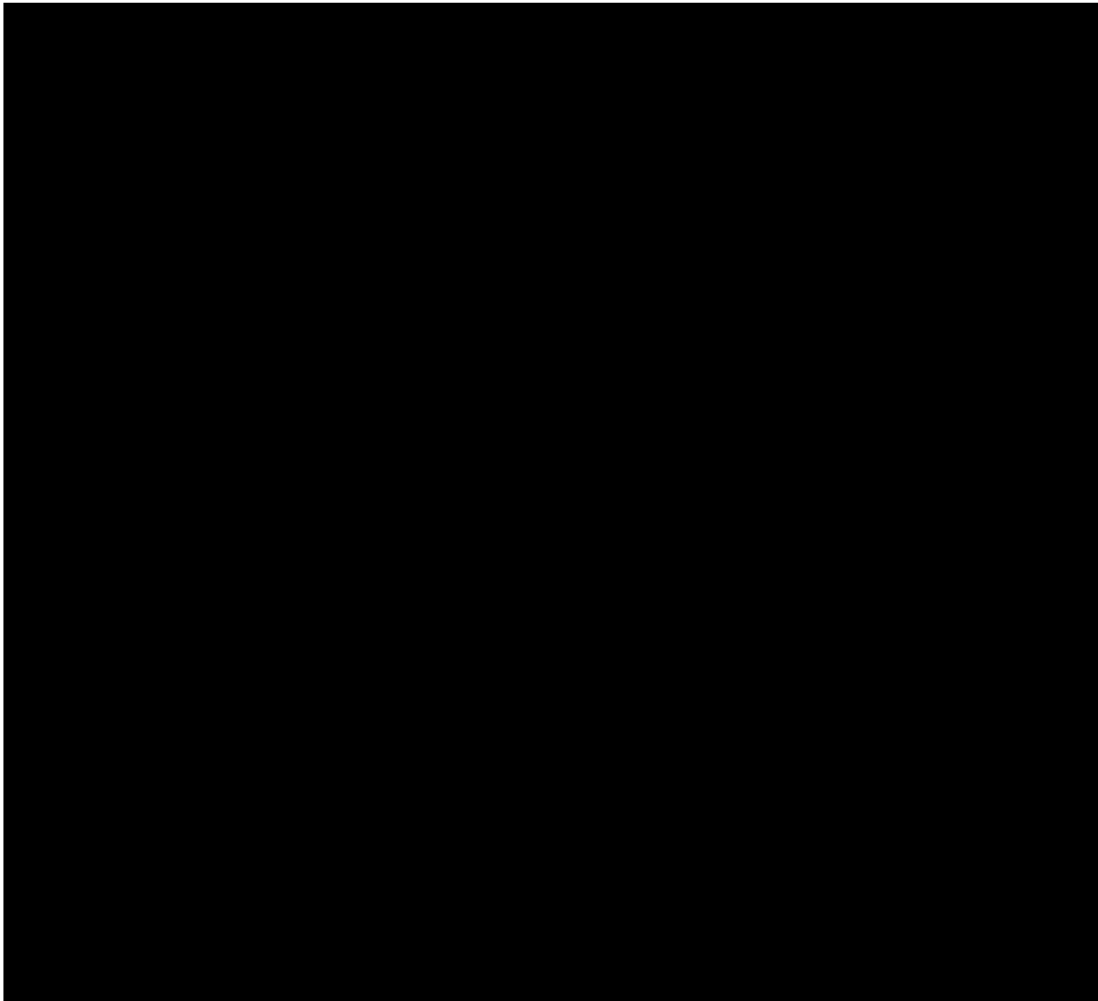
**Life before school**

2. I came from a Catholic family and all of my family were naval in that they were all in the Royal Navy. My great grandparents were Irish, my grandfather was in the Navy in Ireland. Sometime during troubles in Ireland from the late 1890's to 1900. My great grandfather was shot and injured and the family then moved to England. My great grandfather became for Cornwall.
3. His sons all followed him into the navy and the First World War. My grandfather's sons did likewise for the Second World War, so my father went into the navy. My mother was employed as my grandfather's secretary, she was in the Wrens. During the war and when my father came back from the war they got together and married. My father was and my mother was
4. I was one of three children, and I was born very premature. My older brother, is only ten months older than me. was born on 1946. I was one of twins and I suspect my sister was stillborn which is probably why I was so premature. I can't find any records nowadays to help with that. My younger brother was born on 1949 so my mum had three boys under four.

5. My dad then went off with the navy to the Korean War so he disappeared for about two years. It must have been very difficult for my mother bringing up three little boys. When my father returned in the early fifties he was like a stranger to all of us, nobody knew him at that period of time.
6. It was then decided to send my older brother, [REDACTED] and myself off to boarding school. I don't know if that was because my mother was struggling with three of us and it was to give her some help, or if that was just the thing to do, to send your children off to boarding school.

**Presentation College, Reading**

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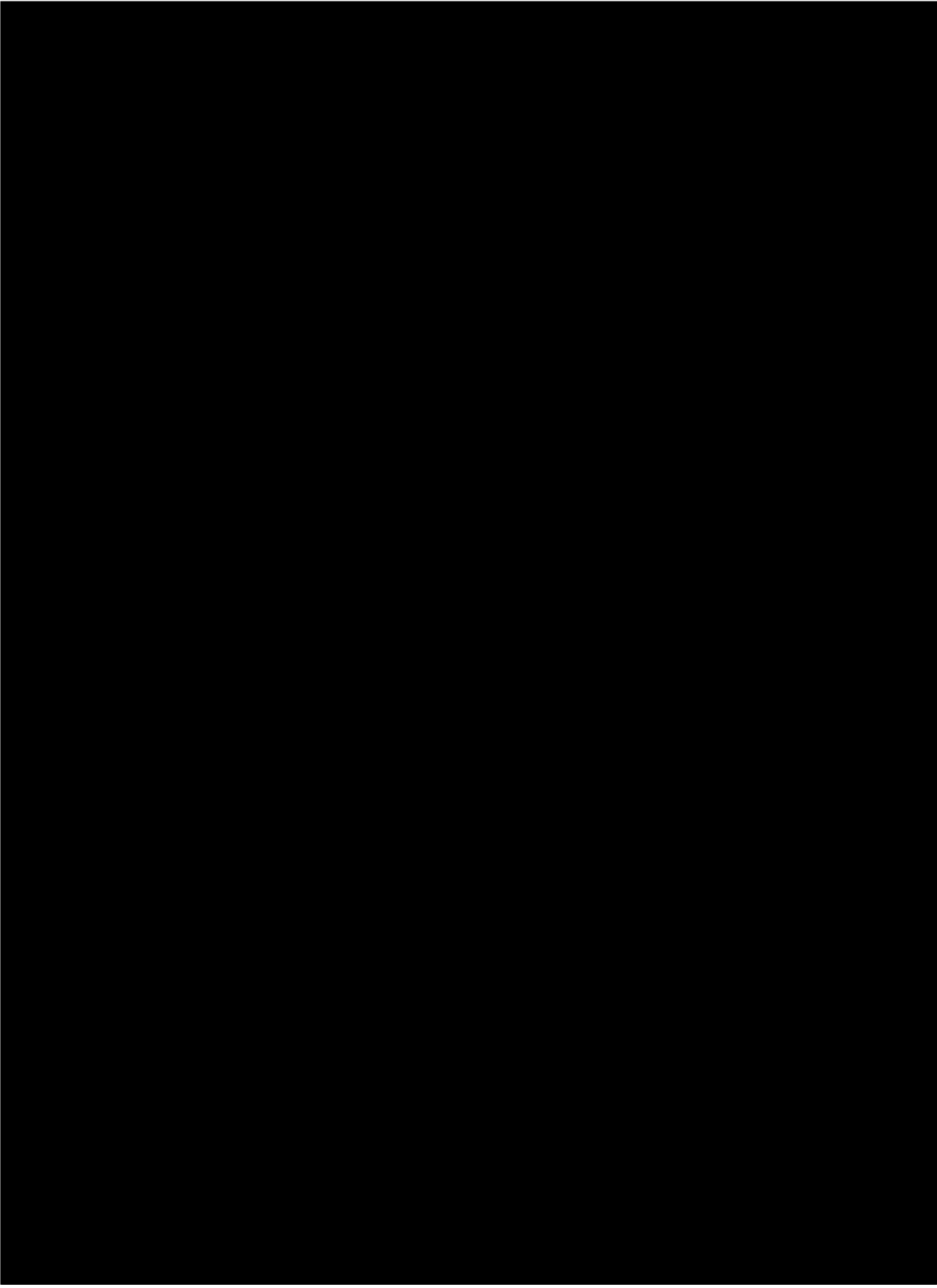
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### **Fort Augustus Abbey School, Inverness-shire**

21. I went to Fort Augustus in [REDACTED] 1961, so I was fourteen and a half. I was in third or fourth year. I stayed there until 1963. It was the Benedictine Monastery and the school was attached to the monastery.

22. [REDACTED] SNR was [REDACTED] MFF who was a Benedictine Monk. He would have been in his early forties when I was at Fort Augustus. He was blind as a bat but a great scholar and if he ever caned you he was absolutely violent. He was the only person I ever met who used to cane you with two hands.

23. There were two house masters, my one was Father [REDACTED] MFG, who's now deceased and the other was Father [REDACTED] MFE.

24. It was a harsh regime at Fort Augustus but I started to do quite well because I'd just got out of one of the most horrendous situations anyone could possibly have. I have since found letters from then from my mother and father, which say I was like a different child. My behaviour was better and my academic work was good. I was doing really well so things were good to start with.

### **Routine at Fort Augustus Abbey School**

#### *First day*

25. I can remember walking to Fort Augustus on the first day, it was a freezing cold day. The main door was at the bottom of the school tower and there was the bastion wall either side. It was originally General Wade's old red coat fort.
26. We were greeted in the big foyer and told which house we were in and that sort of thing. I remember meeting a few people and some of the other boys. I remember having a meal, the food was good.
27. There were supposed to be three houses but there were only two in operation during my time. There was a housemaster who was responsible for each one. The house I was in was called Vaughan and Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] was our housemaster. Calder was another one, but it wasn't actually enacted. The other one was called Lovett.
28. I was used to boarding school and didn't find it intimidating but there was a bit of hostility in that there were very few non Scots there. I think there were only six of us English there, one Canadian, one Irish and one Mexican.
29. My number was [REDACTED], and we were all called by our surnames, so I was always [REDACTED] MII [REDACTED]. I think there would have been about 160 boys in total at Fort Augustus. I was fourteen but the ages of the boys ranged from about twelve up to eighteen.

*Mornings and bedtime*

30. We slept in dormitories, in bunks, with about twenty boys to a dormitory. They were divided up by age and by the houses you were in.
31. We got up about 7:00 - 7:30 am in the morning, got washed and I think we then went to the abbey to say our prayers. There was an abbey church built within the grounds of the school.
32. After prayers it was back for breakfast, about 8:00 am. Everything was in the same building so after breakfast we went to school.

*Food*

33. The food was brilliant, all the meals really. We had porridge every morning which was usually followed by something cooked and toast. I had no problems with any of the food.
34. I don't remember there ever being any problem with anyone not eating the food. There wouldn't have been any alternative if you hadn't liked it, but the food was good. The bread was baked there and then in the morning, I think by Brother Adrian and Brother MNS

*Clothing / uniform*

35. We wore a school uniform, we had a tweed jacket and a blazer. We wore the blazers on Sundays or for special occasions. On Sundays the majority of the Scots wore kilts. I would wear long trousers. Everything was bought from Forsyths in Edinburgh.

*School / religion*

36. The main teaching monk was Father MRQ, he taught [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He would lose his temper and throw things at people but he wasn't an

abuser, he just couldn't handle things. I never really got on with him. I don't think he could cope. He'd been a former pupil, then he became a monk and taught. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

37. Another teacher, who taught me Latin, was Father Edmund Carruthers. I have a sneaking feeling he was an ex-boxer. His brother was also a monk at Fort Augustus, Father Jamie Carruthers, and he ran the shop for the tourists.
38. Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] taught [REDACTED] and he's the guy at the centre of a lot of the abuse. I believe he's [REDACTED] extradition to this country to face charges, because of ill health.
39. I actually got on exceptionally well with Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] but, with hindsight, I can now see he was attempting to groom me and my younger brother while we were at Fort Augustus.
40. Most of the teaching was done by the monks. Father Bernard taught music and played the organ and I remember Father Aidan Duggan and Father [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED] who [REDACTED]. They would come and go from the farfetched places they were sent to carry out their missionary work. I don't know what places. I do know they came from Carlekemp School in North Berwick which was the feeder prep school for Fort Augustus.
41. There were also lay teachers who lived in or around Fort Augustus and came in to teach at the school. I had a lay teacher [REDACTED] MIH [REDACTED], who was a [REDACTED] Fort Augustus actually had an exceptionally good hockey team, and several boys played in the Scottish national team.
42. We had our own classroom and the teachers came to our classroom we didn't move about unless we were going to the chemistry lab or out for sports.
43. We played hockey, cricket and rugby, but not very often as the ground would be solid a lot of the time. We never played football. There was also a lot of cross country

running. We played other public schools at sports, Gordonstoun and Fettes College in Edinburgh for example, but we would usually lose.

44. There was a lot of religion. We were at church about three times on a Sunday. We even went on a Saturday. In fact we went to church twice a day every day. All the monks would go and one of the fathers would take the mass. I'm sure there was confession available on a Saturday.
45. Your conscience tells you that you need to go every so often, as part of the Catholic religion but they didn't force you to go or anything. You didn't know who was going to be there for the confessional either.

*Holidays / leisure*

46. Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] took my brother [REDACTED], and other boys off on holidays to the Western Isles and Colonsay. I'm not sure if it was an official school trip but about eight of them used to go. I cannot remember any of the other boys' names. Knowing what I know now, I suspect that my brother and those other boys were all being abused. Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was always on his own with the boys on those trips.
47. We would always go home for the holidays, so I never went on any of those trips.
48. I think we did get pocket money, and we would go into the shop, Leslie's, in Fort Augustus to buy sweets and things.
49. There was a school magazine, it was called 'The Corbie'. It would have all the names of the boys from both my brothers and my years. It was published once a quarter or maybe once a term.

*Visits / Inspections / Review of detention*



50. I don't remember get any parental visits. I would go home for the holidays, that was about it.

*Healthcare*

51. There was a matron at the school and there was medical help available. I don't remember the matrons name but she had a little surgery at the bottom of the bell tower, near the front door. We would see her or get an ambulance. I never remember seeing a doctor or a dentist.
52. I can only think an ambulance would have been called for a sports injury perhaps, I certainly remember seeing one. The point I'm making is that there was never a doctor there.

*Running away*

53. I didn't run away from Fort Augustus. The food was good, the teachers were lousy and it was a bit cold but nothing that would make me run away. It wasn't that bad a life.

*Bedwetting*

54. I don't remember any problems with bed wetting when I was at Fort Augustus.

**Abuse at Fort Augustus**

55. If you were to be physically punished, it would be a beating with a cane and it would be handed out by the housemaster, Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED]. If it was more serious it would be handed out by [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] used both hands to whip you with his cane.

56. I was caned by both of them and they caned other boys. You wouldn't see that though, it always happened in their studies and other boys who were to be punished would line up outside the studies.
57. When we were caned it was usually on your bare backside, leaning over a chair, six blows with the cane and you'd see it and then feel it for a fortnight afterwards. It was always done in private, one at a time, if there was more than one of you being punished. I don't remember ever seeing anyone being belted at Fort Augustus.
58. The cane hurt and I was caned many times, as were many boys. I probably deserved it some of the time. That was the regime and that was what happened at that time, if you broke the rules or did something naughty.
59. Boys were caned for going up the clock tower as that was out of bounds, smoking and that sort of thing. I was never caned for smoking though.
60. Father [REDACTED] MRQ would also give you a cuff around the ear or throw board brushes or dusters at you in class. That could be for talking, not paying attention or for teasing him. It happened on a weekly basis to me and many other boys. It didn't necessarily hurt he just lost his temper. He was stressed and couldn't cope.
61. In [REDACTED] 1962 my younger brother, [REDACTED], came and joined me at Fort Augustus. His academic results were such that he wasn't going to get in to a top school so a decision was made that he should come to where I was. I said I would look after him, and I would always have his back, but he asked to be left alone, to make his own friends and manage for himself for the first term.
62. As I have mentioned, my [REDACTED] teacher at Fort Augustus was Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] MEV, who I believed was an okay guy. I asked him to take care of my younger brother [REDACTED], when I left Fort Augustus. He promised me he'd do that. I'm saying that as an aside because I obviously discovered that Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was one hell of an abuser but I didn't know that when I asked him to take care of my

brother. I didn't actually know that until many years later. In fact, it was only a few years ago because I had always been of the opinion he was dead.

63. There were three particular incidents that happened, within a two year period, around the time I was at Fort Augustus. All three should have been reported to the police, but as far as I am aware there was no police involvement in any of them. There was the death of a boy, a boy who committed suicide and a fire.

*Death of [REDACTED] - 1960*

64. The first death was before I started at Fort Augustus, 1960 I believe, so what I'm telling you is hearsay. I only found out about it after I started in 1962 from other boys.
65. It happened when some boys were on their 'three weekly'. That's one of the days off the boys have every three weeks. On the 'three weekly' the boys were allowed to go out of school, out into the wilds. When we did that we had to log where we were going and we had to be in a minimum of a group of three and be back by a certain time.
66. There was a reasonable bit of guidance but we were on our own so that was quite exciting. Not that we were going to walk very far in a few hours.
67. This incident must have been in the summer of 1960, the term before I started at Fort Augustus. As I say it is hearsay, but this group of boys were out on their 'three weekly' and there were apparently arguments and fall outs and when they came back to the school one of the boys, [REDACTED], was missing.
68. Apparently a search party went looking for him and people were questioned and at some point the next day his body was found floating in the loch. I assume Loch Ness. He was dead and there were lots of rumours over whether he fell, was pushed or was it some tragic accident. The thing is, as far as I know, the police were never informed and [REDACTED] was buried at Fort Augustus.

69. I went back to Fort Augustus only a couple of years ago and I saw the headstone for [REDACTED] It's in the monks cemetery at the Abbey and he is the only child in there, the rest are all monks.
70. There was a strange thing happened after [REDACTED] died. I was out for an afternoon walk one day with three other boys and we were at Ardickey House. It was just a big old derelict Georgian house. We were at the gates and we saw what looked like [REDACTED] face looking out the window. He had big white ears and I know this sounds completely bizarre but that's what we saw and we all ran back to the school in a hysterical state.
71. We told the monks what we'd seen and they actually agreed to go back to Ardickey House and perform an exorcism. Father [REDACTED] MEV and Father [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED] MRQ took us back to the house and they performed an exorcism. We were outside, so I didn't witness it.
72. The other odd thing was that when we described the big white ears Brother [REDACTED] MRQ said that would be because he wrapped [REDACTED] head in a white bandage before putting him in his coffin. I know it sounds funny, but it was in the papers. The [REDACTED] I believe although I couldn't find the article when I looked for it.
73. The important point is that poor [REDACTED] suffered an untimely death and, as far as I know, there was no police involvement.

*Suicide in 1962*

74. I can't remember the name of the boy who allegedly committed suicide, but it was when I was at Fort Augustus. It was so sad. It was after I'd been there about a year, so after the summer break in 1962. This new boy came, he was about twelve. I did know his name but I just can't remember it just now. [REDACTED] seems to come in to my head but I'm not sure.

75. The boy was so homesick so me and one of my friends, probably [REDACTED], we took him under our wing and told him no one would bully him. We told him we would protect him and if he had any problems whatsoever to just come to us. We even said if one of the monks was causing him problems to come and tell us.
76. He really was homesick crying all the time and saying his dad sent him there to toughen him up. So we said we would do whatever, keep an eye on the guy and nip it in the bud.
77. It was about a week later that he was found under the stage in the assembly hall, where he had [REDACTED]. Apparently Father [REDACTED] MFE, one of the housemasters, found him under there. There was no memorial or funeral or anything for that boy. There was no police involvement, I'm sure, and there was certainly no support of any description offered to any boys at the school, after the death.

*Fire - 1963*

78. About two or three weeks into the term after Christmas 1962, so that was January 1963, a boy at the school, [REDACTED], came and asked me for a box of matches. I assumed he wanted a smoke and gave him them, and he said it was to burn the school down. I just thought that was a bit of a joke but then about three hours later all the fire alarms went off.
79. The dormitories started filling with smoke, and then there was a maximum evacuation because the school was alight. It turned out there was actually very little damage caused to the school from the fire. It had just been some newspapers that were set alight in the library. The school had their own fire engine which was driven by Father [REDACTED] MRQ and I'm sure he saw the fire and managed to put it out.
80. Over the period of the next week or so, everyone was interviewed, and there was about 150 boys there, so that was a lengthy process. I was interviewed twice in that period. All the interviewing was by the [REDACTED] SNR Father [REDACTED] MFF, and a housemaster, Father [REDACTED] MFE.

81. Father MFE was the one who put pressure on us and asked us the questions while Father MFF was quieter. There were notes taken at those interviews, at all the interviews I'm sure, as there were so many boys to speak to.
82. I didn't think any more of it after those two interviews. I had obviously put two and two together, as I'd given [REDACTED] the matches and he'd told me what he was going to do but you learn after years at boarding school, that you don't snitch on anybody.
83. Finally I was brought up for interview a third time but this was at 9:00 pm at night. It was quite a heavy interview, by the same two fathers, and it went on for about two hours. Again, I'm sure they took notes. It was about 11:00 pm at night and they said to me that they were concerned about my safety so they were putting me somewhere safe.
84. Next thing they basically locked me in a room. I was locked up in a room for the next three days. It was the study room next to the sixth form library. I was locked in and didn't get out for three whole days. There was a toilet, bed, desk and chair and I remember Father MFE would brought me plates of food.
85. I wasn't allowed to see my brother, or to talk to my brother and I wasn't allowed any of my things. I was basically imprisoned and the only reason I was ever given was because it was for my own safety. They would take me out and interview me at maybe two o'clock in the morning.
86. I was so confused and puzzled by it all but I was never overly concerned because I assumed they would eventually sort it all out and discover I had nothing to do with the fire. Eventually I just told them what had happened.
87. So I told Father MFF and Father MFE that [REDACTED] had taken my matches and had said he was going to burn the school down. Well, they then told me that same lad had told them that I had done it and there was a witness. This went on

and on for several more hours of interrogation and in the end I said to them to get the police involved because I had nothing to hide.

88. They said they were dealing with it and that I had to leave the school. I was then given a case with some of my clothes in it and I was told I was leaving the school. This was about 8:00 am in the morning, and Father **MFE** drove me directly to the local train station. I wasn't allowed to see my brother or to get any of my things.
89. My family were living in the Lake District at that time so it took about eight or ten hours to get home, via Glasgow, changing trains and everything. I walked home from the train station and was greeted with a stone wall by my parents.
90. My father told me that Father **MFF** had told him what I'd done but I told him it wasn't true and that I had nothing to do with the fire. I also told my father to get the police involved.
91. My father then went to Fort Augustus to see Father **MFF** and I assumed they would get it all sorted out. When he came back he said that as far as they were concerned I had done it and there was now no place for me in the school.

### **Reporting of abuse at Fort Augustus**

92. In fairness I feel that had there been something I wanted to report I would have gone to Father **MEV**. Looking back he was probably the last person to go to but he would have been who I'd have spoken to at that time. The headmaster was totally unapproachable, you wouldn't have gone to him.
93. I didn't speak to anyone about physical abuse at Fort Augustus. My suspicions of sexual abuse and the grooming by Father **MEV** came about many years later after seeing the programme 'Sins of Our Fathers' and communicating with the producer, Murdoch Rodgers.

94. I just saw the programme on the BBC when it when it was first aired. After watching it I decided to phone the BBC and asked to speak to Murdoch Rodgers. That was it really and it was Murdoch that alerted me to the fact that Father [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was still alive.
95. Not at any time since we left Fort Augustus would my brother ever discuss anything about Fort Augustus with me. I was with him until his dying day, so he had the opportunity, but he would never speak about it. He died at the age of 51, in 2000.

### **Leaving Fort Augustus**

96. When I was thrown out the school, I was supposed to be sitting my lowers, or whatever the exams were, so that was me with no qualifications. I didn't get to sit any of my exams.
97. My father told me I could join the army at sixteen though and I also got to go to Lancaster college for a few months where I passed maths, English language and English literature examinations.
98. I was allowed to stay at home until my sixteenth birthday then I signed up at Preston recruiting office and joined the Junior Leaders Royal Artillery.

### **Life after being at Fort Augustus Abbey School**

99. I joined the army and started to do quite well. It was pretty tough to start with. I had a public school accent so it was a case of hit first and ask questions afterwards.
100. I was then being considered for selection at the army training college at Wellbeck but, sadly, I developed [REDACTED] I was literally paralysed. I went to the army hospital in Chester and I was told they could operate but that a medical discharge was the best course of action.



101. So I was medically discharged and stayed with my parents in Somerset until I could have the operation [REDACTED] I was in hospital for over three months following the surgery. My father didn't visit me once and my mother only visited when I was coming around from the anaesthetic.
102. I then had to stay at home until my plaster came off and I was able to get out and get a job or something. There was no love or conversation or anything when I was at home recovering. I might as well have been boarding in digs somewhere. As soon as the plasters came off I got myself a bedsit and an assortment of jobs then followed on from that.
103. Eventually my father got me an interview for a job with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I completed management training in Portsmouth. That was [REDACTED] 1967. My mother then died from cancer of the liver in [REDACTED] 1967.
104. I did very well with [REDACTED] becoming their youngest ever branch manager and I went on to become one of their most successful managers. I then became a divisional director and took over all the [REDACTED] in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north of England.
105. Sadly though, I was still trapped because I didn't have a degree, I had no qualifications. I did financial management courses, I went to the European business school in Paris, I did international marketing at Templeton College in Oxford and I was a good manager but it got to the point where the [REDACTED] business was dying. I then had to manage the shrinkage of the business.
106. After about twenty five years with [REDACTED] I jumped ship, I got head hunted to go and work for a building society to try and get some customer service. That was quite interesting and I moved down to Devon. They were then taken over by the Allied Irish Bank and I ended up out of work.

107. Every job I went for I was being told I didn't have enough experience, I had been institutionalised in one business or I was over qualified. I was out of work for about two years I suppose.
108. I met my wife, [REDACTED], in 1976, and we were married in 1978. I had initially told her I didn't want children and she had agreed but then all our friends started having children. I must have acquiesced as we had two children and I now have three grandchildren.
109. Following on from the period I was out of work my wife, [REDACTED] and I decided to buy a pub. We ran a pub for a while then I became ill which was a bit of bad luck. The pub was up and running, we'd won a [REDACTED] award and then I was struck down with illness.
110. I had all these pains in my chest and arms and the doctors weren't sure what it was. I had to see various specialists and it went on for about eighteen months, working the pub and always in this pain. After about two years I was diagnosed and I had to sell the pub and stop work.
111. I'd had a horse riding accident in 1976, over twenty years previous, and I underwent a myelogram procedure in the hospital. That was a dye which was injected into my system. That dye should have been flushed out but it wasn't and it didn't dissolve either so it remained in my system and twenty odd years later all these symptoms came on. This was diagnosed as arachnoiditis, which is an inflammation of the arachnoid in the spine and causes endless pain.

### **Impact**

112. I felt very bitter and frustrated. I couldn't understand my parents, I couldn't understand why and I still cannot to this day. I can't understand why they did to me what they did.

113. Half of me tries to give my mother the benefit of the doubt and assume that maybe my mother didn't know what happened at [REDACTED] and that my father didn't tell her the whole truth.
114. She was writing to my brother [REDACTED] saying I was up to my old tricks again, so then I think no, she must have known as she would have done most of the writing. I couldn't come to terms with that then and I can't come to terms with it now. I don't think I ever will.
115. When I was thrown out of Fort Augustus, my private life was totally destroyed. I have copies of those letters my mother wrote to [REDACTED] I don't think being abused at a previous school was an 'old trick', so my private life was finished, it was gone.
116. I don't think, in my eyes, that I had very good role models for parents and I suspect that may be why I didn't want to become a parent. I suspect my younger brother may have been the same.
117. I worked on the simple principle in life that I would never give up, I would never let my friends down and I would work my clogs off. That's exactly what I did. I just never want to let people down.
118. I had no possessions, I had nothing. I don't even have a photograph from when I was a child. There was such injustice and it's all part of my life, and that includes flashbacks and so much anger.
119. Within the last three years I have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), more as a result of the experiences at [REDACTED] but I think it's the accumulative effect of everything.
120. I have suffered from depression and I have received Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, which was all within the last ten years.

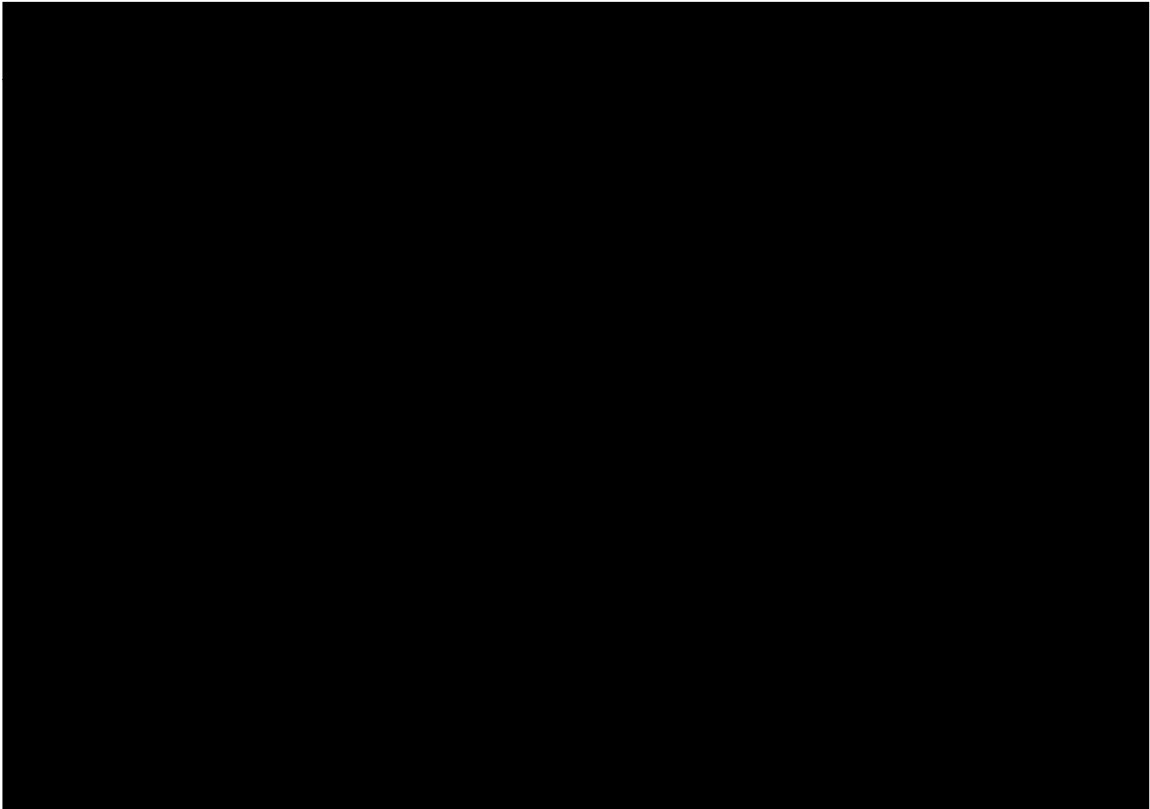
- 121. My wife, [REDACTED], has been so supportive throughout everything but she thinks I'm very withdrawn. I would never ever commit suicide but I have reached stages in life where I'm not actually bothered if I'm alive or dead.
- 122. I get so angry about the situation, probably because I know I can't resolve it and that then causes me great frustration, nightmares and sleepless nights.
- 123. Without doubt there has been an impact on my family. I blame myself for my son having all the problems he has. He has had terrible issues all his life, battling with depression. I thought perhaps I was a good parent but perhaps I wasn't.
- 124. I'm not an open person, because of my life. I've closed myself in. I'm not emotional towards people, I don't cuddle or kiss them I don't tell them I love them. I don't think I'll ever be able to break that or ever be able to really trust anybody.

**Reporting of abuse**

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130. In relation to Fort Augustus, I don't think the death of the boy in the loch, the suicide of the other boy or the fire were ever reported to the police but they should have been.

### **Records**

131. After seeing 'Sins of Our Fathers' I went to Fort Augustus to try and get copies of all my school files. That would have been in 2017. Of course there was nothing there, the school was gone so I wrote to them.

132. The Benedict brothers couldn't find any records and put me onto their solicitors, that was Clyde and company. The school could only find about four sheets of paper telling me certain classes I'd attended. I knew I'd been expelled so there must be some correspondence between the school and my father, but they were denying everything. There must be more files or records from my time at Fort Augustus

**Lessons to be learned**

133. The only reasons I'm giving evidence to this Inquiry is because I don't want to see people, who were responsible for abuse, getting away with it. The Benedictine brothers have moved these abusers all around the world like there's no tomorrow.
134. I have hated [REDACTED] all my life. He stitched me up for the fire but when I think about it, why would he want to burn the school down? He was a bit of a bully but always immaculately smart and he seemed to have everything. He might have been having a hard time at school but why would he want to burn the school down?
135. So when I then think about it, he might have been caught between a rock and a hard place and the only way out if that situation was to burn it down. Maybe he was being abused.
136. I'd never tried contacting anybody about the abuse at Fort Augustus until I saw that programme 'Sins of the Fathers' that Murdoch Rodgers produced. As I said I made contact with Murdoch and then discovered that Father [REDACTED] MEV was still alive and had been shipped off to Australia. I had thought he was dead.
137. When I had been at Fort Augustus I got on well with Father [REDACTED] MEV so, it was many years later, and with hindsight, that I was learning about him.
138. I think there could be a lay role, like a team leader, who isn't part of the establishment. A mix of people so that you can actually identify if there are any issues.
139. It is so easy, be it a religious or ordinary public school, for the establishment to have their own prefects or whatever who are basically just an extension of the establishment. Then everything, be it bullying or sexual abuse, can quite easily be covered up.

- 140. If you had sets of people who would report things and share things, share ideas, if you had that sort of situation, where they would meet informally and share one another's problems. If you could have that sort of situation within a school community, and it was being shared, then none of these problems would occur.
- 141. I don't think anyone, in that environment, would have talked to any independent service or inspectorate, they certainly didn't have anything like that at the schools I attended.

**Other information**

- 142. I can't put right what I've gone through, my wife thinks I can, but I don't think I can. If speaking to you helps the Inquiry stop other people having to go through what I've gone through then that will help me.
- 143. 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...  30<sup>th</sup> JAN 2019 .....