

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MCG

Support person present: No

Others present : Blair Johnston, Solicitor, Clyde & Co

1. My name is MCG. My date of birth is 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background and Experience

2. I was employed at St Ninian's in Falkland, Fife from 1980 to 1982. My background was that I had spent four years at in Jordanhill, Glasgow. I became largely disillusioned whilst there and failed my dissertation. I didn't re-sit. I came back to Fife to work in leisure. My former Teacher, was working at the Fife Institute in Glenrothes at the time. He helped me get a job there and part of his job was to provide opportunities for organisations to use the Fife Institute. He was in contact with Brother LNA and knew that I failed College. When Brother LNA told him that St Ninian's were looking for someone, he suggested me. That was how contact was established.
3. I was employed for the academic year 1980/1981. I think I started working in 1980. I am not sure how long I worked at the school. I don't think I spent two full academic years there. I think I left in early 1982.

4. During my time at St Ninian's and immediately prior to it, I had become very involved with a [REDACTED] club at the Fife Institute. When I was involved at the [REDACTED] club, it was good because the children wanted to come and I got a sense of satisfaction. Increasingly at St Ninian's I started to understand that the children didn't want to be there at all. There were occasional outbursts from the boys. They would start to scrap with each other. There would be shouting and name calling. They would then start to punch and kick each other. It wasn't a daily occasion, it was probably once a week. It got to the stage where I was going home and thinking about it at night. I wasn't enjoying it. So I decided to look for other jobs. I left. Fortunately, a job came up in Edinburgh. I have been in the leisure industry ever since.
5. I worked for a small community organisation at a sports centre in Edinburgh. It was called [REDACTED]. I worked there from [REDACTED] 1982 to [REDACTED] 1983. I think they are now defunct. From there, I moved to Lasswade High School Centre in Bonnyrigg. I was employed by Lothian Regional Council as [REDACTED]. I spent just under six years there from [REDACTED] 1983 to [REDACTED] 1989.
6. I then came back to Fife in [REDACTED] 1989. I was [REDACTED] at the Fife Institute from [REDACTED] 1989 until [REDACTED] 1990. From [REDACTED] 1990 to [REDACTED] 2015 I was [REDACTED] at Levenmouth Swimming Pool. Fife Council formed a leisure trust. My next job was an [REDACTED] with Fife sport and leisure trust.
7. From [REDACTED] 2012, I was an [REDACTED] at four different leisure centres [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I resigned in [REDACTED] 2015. [REDACTED]

St Ninian's, Falkland, Fife – 1980 - 1982

8. Brother LNA was [REDACTED] at St Ninian's. After a conversation between my former teacher, [REDACTED], Brother LNA and myself I was invited to attend St Ninian's for a visit. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It wasn't so much an interview but I was invited for Sunday lunch at the school with my wife. It was July 1980.
9. At the lunch, I met two or three other Brothers. Brother MHJ was there. I believe he is now deceased. I also met Brother MBS. He was quite elderly at the time. I can't remember if Brother Kelly was there although he was at the house the whole time I was employed there. There were also various trainee Brothers who could come for a period of time. Brother Brown was one of them. He was very interested in sport as well. It transpired Brother Kelly and myself were of a similar age and were both also interested in sports. He would typically take the juniors for football and I would take the seniors.
10. Brother LNA showed around me. I was surprised at the resources they had. The playing fields were excellent. There were two football pitches and a rugby pitch. In the summer, the senior football pitch was marked out for athletics and the rugby pitch was marked out for cricket. They showed me the gymnasium. I believe it had been a dining hall before. It was the most beautiful, exquisite room. However, there were enormous windows which made it useless for the majority of PE games. I was very taken by the place. It was a beautiful building. I was offered the position. For me, I thought it was a fantastic opportunity because I had spent four years at Jordanhill and it was a chance for me to use the skills I got there.



Vetting Process

11. I don't know if there was a vetting process. My understanding was that the recommendation of my former [REDACTED] teacher was what they went on.

First Impression of St Ninian's

12. St Ninian's was a beautiful stately house. I later learned it was owned by Ninian Crichton Stewart. It was either him or his father who had leased the building for a nominal sum for educational purposes. I am sure it was explained to me that St Ninian's was a private List D school. I accepted what I heard.
13. I suppose I had respect for people of the church. At the time, I thought they were Roman Catholic priests. I now know that is not the case. I was a member of the Church of Scotland but that had lapsed the previous year. I had virtually given up church.
14. I was married, therefore, I wasn't living in at the time. I lived off-site in Kirkcaldy. I was asked on one occasion to stay in St Ninian's. Brother Farrell became very angry because I told him that I couldn't.

Routine at St Ninian's

15.  I have very little memory of Brother LNA being at the school. Brother LNA didn't give me any instruction on how to do things. Brother Farrell was still in charge of the school when I left the school.
16. My working hours were 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. It was quite an involved rota. On one occasion I was walking out in the main hallway past the grand staircase-facing front door. Brother Farrell asked if there was any chance I could stay because one or two of the Brothers were unwell. I told him it was far too short notice. He just told me to go. I only lived fifteen minutes away and I just wanted to get home. I travelled by motorbike. I had only been married in  1980. I didn't want to stay. It was one of three occasions Brother Farrell became very angry with me.

Layout of St Ninian's

17. If you drive up to the front door, you have what appears, in front of you, to be a stately home. If you looked closely, there were windows to the basement. If you drove back out of the car park and around to the side of the house, you would be one level below ground and you would be akin to what I would call a courtyard or stables.
18. In terms of the layout, if I was facing the house, you entered and went upstairs through a door which led into the reception foyer with large flagstones and pillars. The left of the staircase led down to my work/store room. It was a big room which stored the sports kits. Immediately to the right, in the corridor, was the Brothers' dining room. I think there was a chapel there too. I was asked to attend a mass there once. There was another room off the corridor for Mrs Kilbane who managed all of the clothing. She was the seamstress who looked after repairing and issuing clothing for the children.
19. As you went along the corridor turned right down a couple of steps, there was a small room. I had that room for my kit bag and to change my clothes. The corridor led to showers on the right-hand side. I'm sure Brother Kelly told me that his room was at the far end of the corridor. I wasn't shown around this area. I never had occasion to go there. I wasn't shown the dormitories either. The room, which I was given, was just a quick-change room for me.

Record Keeping

20. This might sound naïve but there wasn't any paperwork. I have a vague memory of having to fill in a questionnaire regarding each child but that was the only paperwork. The questionnaire was about the child's attitude and behaviour. I can't remember who asked me to do the questionnaire but I think it would have been Brother Farrell. I was only asked to do that once.
21. Brother Farrell and Brother Kelly were the only two Brothers with whom I had daily contact. Brother Kelly on the playing fields and Brother Farrell in the school. Brother

Kelly didn't have the authority to give me instruction. We were on equal footing. I don't know how it came to be that I would take the senior football team and he would take the juniors. In all likelihood, it would have been a simple agreement.

Teaching Staff

22. The teaching staff would have finished by the time I started. The teaching classes took place in the morning until lunchtime. As I said, my working hours were 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. However, I would typically be at the school from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm [REDACTED] to prepare.
23. I can remember [REDACTED] MIK [REDACTED] He taught [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] BHB [REDACTED] did mainly [REDACTED]. There was a small woman called Mrs Nicol. I think there was another Mrs Nicol on the domestic side but I'm not sure. The other one, I think, taught language and comprehension. Mrs Nicol left and was replaced by [REDACTED] MKF [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] as I understood at the time. I didn't have much contact with him in the school. However, he invited my wife and I to his house for dinner one evening. It turned out our wives got on very well so we would see them on occasion socially.

The Brothers

24. Brother Farrell was in charge. There was also Brother Kelly. I can remember Brothers [REDACTED] MHJ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MBS [REDACTED]. I think there was another older Brother but I can't remember. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] there was also a Brother [REDACTED] MHG [REDACTED] there. I still have no recollection of him being there.
25. I suspect there were between thirty to forty boys at the school if the school roll was full. I base that on the fact we played junior and senior football. It was more than five a-side. They boys left when they were sixteen. I can't remember if the younger ones were ten or twelve. I'm quite sure there was nobody under ten there. I believe the boys were moved dormitories and deemed to be either a 'junior' or a 'senior'. It would have been decided by the Brothers who were in charge of the dormitories.

Background information on pupils

26. In short, I didn't really have any understanding of how boys came to be at St Ninian's. On very odd occasions I would be given some information from Brother Farrell. On one occasion, one boy arrived at the school and I was told to be careful that he didn't have any access to matches because he had been involved in fire raising. On another occasion, I was advised not to be on a room alone with a boy under any circumstances because he had made an allegation of assault in another establishment. Those were the only times I was given information about boys. I cannot accurately recall who they were.
27. The population of boys was constant. I have a memory of two boys reaching the age of sixteen leaving. One of them was a brilliant sportsman. His name was [REDACTED]. The other one was [REDACTED] MOF [REDACTED]. He wasn't particularly interested in sport.

Admission

28. It wouldn't be unusual for new boys to be admitted during my time. They would be introduced. I was told by Brother Farrell, Brother Kelly or [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] that the Brothers had a social worker working in Glasgow who would deal with the referrals. She would liaise with Brother Farrell. I can't the social worker's name. She died shortly before the school closed. I knew there were some boys from the Dundee and Perth areas but they were mainly from the west coast.

Weekly Routine

29. I would arrive every day at about one o'clock. I would prepare for everything that was coming up. I had [REDACTED] class from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. I was interested in [REDACTED] so we had a [REDACTED] class. The boys had not done [REDACTED] before. I used the [REDACTED] Award Scheme. At the time, level four was the basic and it went up to level one. If you could six skills out of ten listed, they would get a badge and certificate. Some of the boys took to it, others didn't. For the boys who didn't like

██████████ we would maybe do a four week programme of, perhaps, basic ██████████
██████████

30. From 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm onwards we would have games. In the winter, Monday was football, Tuesday was rugby. Wednesday was swimming in the afternoon. We would leave at 3:00 pm and go to Perth Swimming Pool. After I left, they changed to Fife Institute. It might have been because the old Perth Pool was knocked down. There was a forty-seater bus, which Brother Kelly or Brother Farrell drove there. They would drive the boys to the pool. It was a big public pool and another pool, which we had exclusive use of. After the swimming session, we went back to St Ninian's for a cross-country run. Therefore, every Wednesday was swimming and cross-country. I should say, I was told that the boys did games every day regardless of the weather. If the weather was extremely cold we would give them two sweaters. Sometimes, that made little difference. I think the Brothers had the view that exercise would be cathartic and that it would take the aggression out of children. It was complete nonsense. However, I wasn't asked for my opinion. My job was to follow the timetable.
31. There was a variety of cross-country runs. They varied from approximately a mile and a half to five miles. For a twelve year old, it could be quite taxing. The majority of the runs were fairly level. It was just the Lomond that was up hill.
32. Thursday was football again. Football was by far the more popular sport. Some of the boys did not want to play rugby. If the boys were at the school on a Friday, it would be rugby again. The boys went home every second weekend unless Brother Farrell deemed otherwise. It wouldn't be explained to me. The boys would then shower and change. They would have an afternoon snack. From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm there was a supervised activity which largely of their choice. I was asked to open up the gym or take a group back on the playing field for something. On some occasions, there would be a short cross-country run.
33. The summer timetable was different. It was as follows, on Mondays we did athletics, Tuesdays we played cricket, Wednesdays was swimming, Thursday we did athletics again, Friday was cricket and Saturday was athletics if the boys were in school.

34. [REDACTED] one or two boys said there was boxing, there was never any boxing when I was there. I found out that a boy had died during a boxing match. We did not do boxing or play hockey.

Weekend Activities

35. We also played games against other schools. I also had to work at the weekends. We used to play against Auchmuty High School at football. We played against St Andrews High School in Kirkcaldy at rugby. We played against Viewforth High School at rugby and cricket. We played football against a team in Aberdour but I can't remember the name. It was the school in the middle of Aberdour. There was another school in Aberdour which was run by monks and priests but we didn't play them. If the boys had been away for the weekend, I had to be at the school for late Sunday afternoon, from about 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm. I would have to be there for supervised activity.
36. One particular Sunday, I came out into the carpark to find [REDACTED] MKF [REDACTED] who taught at the school and a boy getting out of [REDACTED] MKF [REDACTED] car. The boy was called [REDACTED]. I asked if they been out for the day and [REDACTED] MKF [REDACTED] became very defensive. [REDACTED] said that Mr [REDACTED] MKF [REDACTED] thought they could be distant cousins. [REDACTED] MKF [REDACTED] told me that Brother Farrell knew all about it. Again, perhaps that was something that I should have followed up. However, he was a teacher and in my mind commanded respect. He told me that he had asked and been given permission. Nowadays, if I came upon something like that, I would act on it.

Changing Facilities

37. The sports hall was roughly the size of a badminton court. It was a sixties style gymnasium. The changing room was adjoining the sports hall. There was a door which would usually be left open, there was another door which gave access into the changing room from the sports hall. There was another door which gave access to the central hall of the house and a door which led into a room at the back.

38. Once the boys had done their PE they would get changed in other changing rooms into outdoor kit. There was a different changing room. It was on the right-hand side of the courtyard. There was two changing rooms there. The boys changed there for games. There were showers in there too. [REDACTED] the doors open in the changing room in at the sports hall. There weren't any showers there. Mr [BHB] supervised the boys changing. I asked him once why he supervised them and his reply was "for behaviour and to make sure they are all circumcised properly." At the time, I thought that was a strange reply but it stuck in my head.
39. I would be [REDACTED] talking to some of the boys or be in the courtyard counting heads. I think they arrived in their PE kit because they all wore shorts and a top in the PE class. They all wore plimsolls.

Uniform

40. I am not sure if the boys wore a uniform. There was a woman who did the washing and ironing but I can't remember her name. I have it in mind that her name was Mrs Bell but that could be wrong. She lived in a small village on the way to Perth. I think the laundry room was next to the kitchen.
41. If clothes needed repaired they went upstairs to Mrs Kilbane. Her husband was the groundsman. I can remember being told that, on some occasions, the boys would be given new clothes to go home and they would come back to the school wearing rags because their parents had sold them for drink or drugs. I don't think the boys had to share clothes. I think they all had their own clothes issued to them. I cannot recall if they had nametags on them.

Mealtimes

42. I wasn't involved in the morning routine or breakfast. I have very little recollection of being in the dining room. The dining room itself was very basic. I cannot recall if I would be there when the boys were having their afternoon snack before the supervised activity. I have been there but only on a simple supervisory basis on the odd occasion.

I didn't eat with the boys or the Brothers. When I finished at 7:00 pm, I got changed and went back home to Kirkcaldy.

Leisure Time

43. I am sure that television and video tapes played a part of the boys' evening. There was a room designated as the TV room. It was on the left hand of the building. There were two large rooms, which were at the end of the main hall. One on the right hand side and one on the left. One of the rooms hosted a table tennis table. The other room was used for school assemblies in the morning. I don't recall there being a library. [REDACTED]. I don't think any of the boys were involved in scouts or boys brigade.

Trips

44. There were three trips, which I was involved in. The boys were taken on ski trips to Glenshee. It was organised by the Cadet Adventure Training Team. I have a recollection of two, possibly three, cottages being joined together. The cadets did the cooking for the first two or three nights but they gradually involved the boys so on the last night the boys did all of the cooking. Thankfully, it was basic food.
45. I would have slept in one of the cottages. On the trip, by and large, the Cadet Adventure Training Team put on activities for the boys. We would just hover around.
46. Some of the boys didn't go home during the summer holidays so there was a trip arranged to north Wales. It was a small village. Again, it seemed to be terraced cottages. I didn't sleep in any of the buildings. Brother Kelly and I shared a tent outside in the grounds.
47. The Brothers were hospitable towards me. I can remember being out a pub on four evenings with a different Brother. We would have a beer, come home and go to bed.

48. My only real recollection of the trip was the boys arriving off the bus and being given some money. I can also remember two of the boys were caught shop lifting from a local shop. I can remember Brother Farrell shouted on the two boys and told them to empty their pockets. They still had the money they had been given and lots of extra things. I played no part in this but he marched them off to the shop to apologise and give all of the stuff back. The shopkeeper wanted to involve the police but Brother Farrell persuaded him against it. Brother Farrell or Brother Kelly locked the keys for the bus inside it and had to ask one of the boys to break in.
49. The other trip was to Liverpool. I think we went to St Edwards to play rugby. I can't remember if it was a Saturday or a Sunday. I must have stayed in St Edwards somewhere. It was a privately run senior school. The boys would be farmed out to stay with a pupil from the school. We would have the rugby games. I also remember going to Old Trafford. It was a treat for the boys to see Manchester United. A boy called [REDACTED] went on the trip. He had a lower IQ.

Schooling

50. I had nothing to do with schooling. I wasn't told anything about teaching. I only heard [REDACTED] that some of the boys' educational attainments had been very poor. I think two of them had been dyslexic.

Healthcare

51. From my side of things, if there was a small accident I would do first aid or apply a plaster. There was an occasion when a boy broke his leg during a football match. I think his name was [REDACTED] I believe he is dead now. I think it happened in the junior game. I can remember going with Brother Kelly to tend to him, I tied his legs together above and below the break. Brother Kelly took him to the hospital. The boy came back with a plaster cast on. He had taken it off by the next day. I think he did that four times by which point the hospital refused to put another one on.

52. Towards the end of my time at St Ninian's, Brother Farrell appointed a matron. I cannot remember her name. She wanted me to change the room where I got changed because she wanted to use the room to put a bed in it.
53. There weren't any deaths of children during my time there. However, I learned [REDACTED] that there had been a death a few years before I went there. I think the boy had died following a boxing match.
54. Mr [REDACTED] died either during my time or immediately after I left. I went to the funeral mass in Falkland Palace. The whole school was there.

Religious Instruction

55. I don't know anything about the religion in the school other than that I was invited to a mass once. I originally told Brother Farrell that I didn't know what to do at a mass. He told me that I was most welcome. I do not know if it was compulsory for the boys to attend mass on a Sunday.

Work

56. I did not witness any of the boys doing manual work or chores during my time there. However, I learned that they did chores [REDACTED]

Birthdays and Christmas

57. I can remember boys telling me that it had been "so and so's birthday". However, I do not know if the birthdays were celebrated. I was not aware of any celebration at Christmas time. There are things that became known [REDACTED] that I now know happened, like Burns Night, for example. I wasn't aware of it at the time.

Visits

58. I can recall somebody coming once, it was a social worker. I was asked to excuse a boy from class. I can remember seeing the social worker giving a boy a cigarette. They were in the grand hall. I said something to the social worker but he remonstrated with me. I can't remember the social worker's or the boy's name.
59. I wasn't aware of family members visiting the children. The only other person I was introduced to was a former pupil who had been in the army and had made something of himself. He spoke to the children and interacted with them.
60. I wasn't aware of any inspections from the Christian Brothers or the local authority. I wasn't shown any inspection or visitation reports. I didn't know anything about that sort of thing.

Access to children

61. There were occasions when other Brothers would come to stay at the school for short periods. I can remember Brother Brown coming to stay. He was mad keen on sports. The trainee Brother was called 'Jimmy'. I don't know his second name. There was a comment made in my presence about a teaching college he was going to. I think the name 'strawberry' was part of the name of the college. I don't know if it was a college in Ireland.
62. Two other people were recruited towards the end of my time there. They were 'Ethel' and 'Jack'. I don't think they were married but they were a couple. They were employed as Youth Workers. I think Ethel went on to become a senior teacher in Methilhill. She approached me in the nineties asking me to teach a lunchtime class for miscreants. I believe she got a head teacher's position in West Fife.
63. I think there was a work experience placement in operation. However, I don't know who it was or for how long it would be.

Review of care

64. I wasn't involved in any reviews of placements. The only thing I can think of would be if there had been a child with a behavioural issue then I might have been asked how the child interacted with other children. However, my involvement was verbal and not in writing.

Siblings

65. I was aware of siblings at the school. I think there were three or four sets of brothers. There was a boy called [REDACTED] His younger brother arrived shortly before he left.

Pocket money

66. Brother **MHJ** ran a tuck shop in the evening. I can't remember if he ran it one night a week or every night. I can't remember if the boys were given cash or if they had an allowance. The tuck shop would be taking place as I was leaving to go home. I typically left from my [REDACTED] room downstairs along the flag stone corridor to the courtyard. The boys were given money on the summer trip to Wales.

Personal Possessions

67. I think there were instances of boys taking other boys things. There was a young boy called [REDACTED] who always seemed troubled. One week he had done tremendously well in his cross-country. We had made up a grid with their names and times on it. I had discussed his performance with Brother Farrell and it was decided that he was going to get a prize. There were football and rugby shirts kept in the store cupboard. [REDACTED] was given a very smart piece of sports kit, it was either a Wales rugby shirt or a Liverpool top. He was presented to him at snack time. He told me one of the other boys had taken it a few days later. I don't know if he got it back.

"Peer Bullying"

68. I think there was a definite pecking order between the boys. However, it didn't manifest itself in my classes or activities. However, I can recall an incident where one boy, [REDACTED] was surrounded by four or five other boys. They spat on him continuously. I tried to tell them to stop. Eventually they stopped. [REDACTED] didn't try to stop them. It was disgusting. I referred the boys to Brother Farrell and I told [REDACTED] to get washed and get a fresh shirt. I don't know how Brother Farrell dealt with it.
69. There were two people called [REDACTED] and they were both far down the pecking order. In contrast, I didn't see [REDACTED] being bullied. He was outside that and people wouldn't try to bully him. [REDACTED] brother was called [REDACTED] MNA I think [REDACTED] MNA had been subjected to bullying.
70. If I saw bullying in my classes, I tried to stop the behaviour straight away. If Brother Farrell wasn't available, I would have told [REDACTED], [REDACTED] MBV. Even in those days, you were wary about dealing with those situations. If two boys were scrapping, you would maybe pull the back of their shirts to try to separate them but that would be the limit of it. There wasn't any procedure. I was given little guidance but, as a matter of practice, I would report it to Brother Farrell or Brother Kelly.
71. The woman who did the laundry would speak to me sometimes. I can remember her being concerned about [REDACTED]. Apparently, he had been confiding her. She only mentioned his home life. I don't know if she passed on any of her concerns. Mrs Kilbane was very chatty but also a listener. I can imagine the children speaking to her.

Preparation for Leaving

72. I had nothing to do with preparing boys for leaving the school.

Discipline

73. Nothing was written down. When I think about it now, it seems silly but nothing was written down or documented. When I first joined the school, Brother LNA or Brother Farrell asked if I had a belt. I told him that I didn't have one. I was aware that MKF had occasion to belt people.
74. I vaguely remember Brother Farrell told me that if I had a discipline case and didn't have a belt, then I should give the boy two or three strokes on the bottom with the slipper. Discipline in my class wasn't much of an issue. Principally, I think, because the boys got the chance to enjoy sport. There were no discipline problems in football or athletics. However, there were occasions when some boys would refuse to play rugby. I would have to report that to Brother Farrell.
75. In terms of teaching the children discipline, there were javelins in the store, which I wanted to take out of the storeroom onto the playing field. Brother Farrell told me not to. I could understand why not but I told him that it was part of athletics and a chance for the children to show that they could cope with it. Eventually he said that we could do it. The children responded very well to it and I can remember being pleased.
76. I am sure I did have occasion to use the slipper. I can't remember any specific occasions either [REDACTED] There will have been the odd occasions [REDACTED]. It was infrequently. I think it was an afternoon tea. Somebody had a fork and was going to poke another boy. I can't remember the boy's name. Brother Kelly told me to take the boy away to 'slipper him'. I took the boy away. It was most probably to the gym. It wouldn't have been in a public place. 'Slippering' was one smack on the bottom. On that occasion, I think I gave him two smacks on the bottom with the slipper. I think it's because I was there as an extra body to help so I could take the child away to calm him down.
77. Sport is a great medium. It is not elite performance. I tried to pass on my enthusiasm to the boys. Whenever I tutor gymnastics, the wee one who does a forward roll is just

as good as the one who does the double front somersault. They are just at different levels. I tried to push that during all of my teaching. I took that attitude frequently.

78. I didn't witness any of the Brothers disciplining any of the boys. The times I interacted with the boys were very specific and the outcomes were clear in my head. My hours were restricted and the interaction was limited. I didn't have much social interaction with the boys. I was never told of a punishment or discipline book.
79. The boy, [REDACTED] I mentioned, seemed to be disturbed when he first arrived. I can remember on the first day going out to games, one of the boys came to me to tell me [REDACTED] was going to hurt himself. He was in the courtyard banging his head on the flagstone. He was shouting and swearing saying that he "wasn't going to fucking rugby". He was hysterical. I knew there were better people to deal with it than me so I sent one of the boys to get Brother Farrell. Brother Farrell came and took him away. Brother Farrell told me that [REDACTED] home life was horrific.

Abuse at St Ninian's

Brother Paul Vincent Kelly

80. When we were going to games, we would go out the courtyard, down a slope and across a wee burn. Everyone would walk across the pipe, which went over the burn. As we were getting there, Brother Kelly kept yawning. I said something like, "Paul did you not get any sleep last night?" He replied, "Neither would you if you had had [REDACTED] MCU in your room all night". I can remember it clearly. [REDACTED] MCU was a pupil at the school. He was thirteen or fourteen at the time. I told him that I did not think what he had said was appropriate. That was the end of the conversation. It was never referred to again. Nothing else was said. We went from there into games and my concentration was on the games. I didn't discuss it with Brother Farrell at the time.
81. Largely, I forgot about it. It was a question from the police, which brought it to mind. I found out during the police investigation from DC Gilmour that Paul Kelly had the boy in his bed every night. It was the only comment ever made to me. In hindsight, I know

I should have done something. I would contact police and social work now. It was the only time any comment was made to me that I did not think was right.

82. It concerns me greatly that I worked there for nearly two years and I didn't have a clue about what was going on. There were occasions where fighting went on between the children but I wasn't aware of anything adult to child. I did not see any signs. To this day, I don't understand how I could have worked there for so long. None of the children made any complaints to me about how they were being treated.
83. I was given no instruction at all in how to carry out my work. I had to use common sense, compassion and encouragement to the children.

Allegation against me

MBI

84. I have been asked if remember a boy called MBI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I can remember MBI a bit. He would have been fourteen or fifteen. I think he was a stocky boy. He would play in defence at football or in the scrum at rugby. My memory of MBI is quite positive. The following paragraph has been read to me;
85. MCG was [REDACTED] teacher and was also guilty of the odd hit. He would ask me to wash his motor bike. He used to give me a 'mars bar' as payment. I was washing the bike when MCU appeared and gave the bike a kick leaving a mark on the exhaust. At the time I was inside eating my 'mars bar'. MCG knew that MCU had done this but he slapped me and punched me in the stomach."
86. No, the first thing is I have never and would never slap a child. There is no need to. If a child misbehaves, you can deal with that. My motor bike was located in the kit storeroom. The children were not allowed to touch my motor bike. When I first went to

St Ninian's I got the bus. Soon thereafter, I got a motor bike. I parked the motorbike out the front once. Brother Farrell told me that somebody had vandalised one of the cars and he was furious about it. He advised me to put the motor bike in [REDACTED] kit room. I would enter by the back of the house, into the courtyard, through the doors, into the big kit room and I kept my bike in there. The children did not have access to that room. It was kept locked. Typically, it would only be myself or Brother Farrell who had access to that room. There were things in the room that the children had tried to steal. If that has happened to the boy, I am sorry for him but it certainly was not me.

87. The next paragraph has been read to me, *"I was playing football one day when one of the bullies [REDACTED] from Glasgow known as [REDACTED] spat in my face. Enough was enough I set about him on the field. The teaching staff Brother Kelly and MCG were on the pitch. I punched him and the staff told no one to intervene as [REDACTED] needed taught a lesson. I was hoping someone would stop it as [REDACTED] was not fighting back. Eventually it stopped and we went to the changing room. [REDACTED] was sent to fetch the corner flagpoles and he came into the dressing room and stabbed me with one of them. I ended up at matrons and she cleaned me up. [REDACTED] got a doing from Brother Kelly for stabbing me. Nothing else came of it."*
88. There are two points here, Brother Kelly would not normally be on the pitch when MBI was. Brother Kelly would be on the junior pitch. Now it is possible for Brother Kelly to have been on the same pitch as me. However, if two boys were fighting we would separate them.
89. I never heard about an incident with a flagpole. There were flagpoles, which were quite pointed. Typically, at the end of a games period the boys would be designated to go and collect them to take them to the kit room. I had no idea about that whatsoever. I cannot remember anything about a boy trying to stab someone with a flagpole. When we finished games period, the boys would take the flagpoles to the kit room and go back out into the courtyard to their changing rooms, which were supervised by Mr BHB

90. [REDACTED] MBI was one of the better-behaved boys. The passage of time can be a problem. [REDACTED] MBI is mistaken. For instance, [REDACTED] one of the boys alleged that I was a Brother and had caught him going into another Brother's room, which was completely wrong. He was adamant that I was a Brother because that is what his memory told him. [REDACTED] MBI may have been assaulted by someone at the school but it was not me. If he has suffered I am sorry for him, but it wasn't at the hands of me.

Police Investigation

91. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I was interviewed by Detective Constable Gilmour and another police officer on [REDACTED] I was treated with respect largely during the police investigation, however, DC Gilmour became aggressive on a couple of occasions. [REDACTED] told me that he did not act properly.
92. I was asked whether I had seen anything in relation to other members of staff or Brothers. I can remember DC Gilmour having an issue with "priests with flowing black robes" and he asked me repeatedly about Brother [REDACTED] MHG I could not remember Brother [REDACTED] MHG being at the school. I think that was because of having no interaction with him. I told the police about the comment made by Brother Kelly. It was noted down.
93. I was shocked about being interviewed. I came out of the interview feeling and probably displaying the effects of shock. I was in turmoil. I just didn't know where it all came from. The police interviewed me again [REDACTED]
94. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

95.

[REDACTED]

96. I think in the main, the police did what they had to do. I mentioned the comment made by Brother Kelly to the police and it was noted down. I have been told that they will take a child's accusation as being true until it can be disproved regardless of corroboration. I think that is unfortunate in some cases.

[REDACTED]

Brothers

Brother [REDACTED] LMZ

97. I know the name but I don't think he was at St Ninian's when I was there. There were also two Brothers who died while they were at St Ninian's. I think one was Brother LHC who had been [REDACTED] I don't know about Brother LMZ

Brother [REDACTED] MCY

98. The name doesn't mean anything to me. There were only about five or six Brothers at the school.

Brother John B Mark Farrell

99. He was there for the entirety of my time at St Ninian's. He was about ten years older than me. He is in his seventies now. I have spoken about times when Brother Farrell became angry with me. Another time, Brother Farrell lost his temper with me was on an occasion when, during the supervised hour before dinner, I got a group of boys together to see what we could do in the overgrown tennis court. I thought it would be ideal for another activity. There was a group of us working at pulling out weeds and tidying it. I can't remember if I mentioned it to be Brother Farrell later that day but I did tell him about it. He was incandescent with rage. He was shouting and gesturing at me. I was left in no doubt not to go back to the tennis court. He wouldn't give an answer as to why he was so angry. I still have no idea why he was so angry. I told the police about it during my first interview but I don't know if they did anything about it.
100. I saw him interacting with the boys occasionally. I saw him giving a boy 'a telling off' now and again. It would be a mild 'telling off'. However, he was frequently on the happy, smiling side of things. I did not see any interactions, which gave me cause for concern. I did not see him disciplining any of the boys. I did not hear of anyone raising any concerns about Brother Farrell during my time at St Ninian's. The times I would see him interacting with the boys would be rare.

Brother Paul Vincent Kelly

101. The only time I felt something was inappropriate was the incident which I spoke about earlier. In the intervening years before things came to light, I mentioned to my wife that I wondered what had happened to Paul. I thought about contacting him but I never did. We were of a very similar age and our interests were sport. He was always the one that I worked with in the games periods except on the odd occasion when he would have a day off. I can only remember him being off once or twice. On those occasions, Brother Farrell or BHB would help me. He would take the staff car to Edinburgh. It was rare that Paul wasn't there.

102. A lot of Brother Kelly's interaction with the boys was fun and games. There was definitely sport bias. I always saw him as being very positive with the children. I could see him encouraging the kids with their sport and telling them how to do things correctly.
103. Brother Kelly got a puppy not long before I left. The puppy was a source of great irritation to Brother Farrell. It would wander around and make a mess all over the place. Brother Farrell appeared to fall out with him. The kids would play with the puppy. The boys loved it. I cannot say when he got the puppy.
104. I didn't see Brother Kelly disciplining any of the boys. I did not see any interaction, which gave me concerns. I would describe him as a popular person. Certainly, my impression was that he was popular. At the time I was there, I thought he was quite a positive influence on the boys, particularly, with regards to physical activity. I am very disappointed with myself now that I know what went on. I don't think I will ever get over it.

Brother [REDACTED] MBV

105. When I went to the school, [REDACTED] MBV was not a Christian Brother. He was a layperson who was [REDACTED]. At one point, he told me that he had trained as a Brother. He didn't say that he had become a Brother. My understanding was that he was not a Brother when I was there, he was a civilian. He was based at the school. His room was underneath the grand stairs. It was near the head teacher's room. I think he was older than me.
106. I didn't see much of him doing his work day to day. If there was misbehaviour that I felt merited reporting and Brother Farrell was unavailable, I would refer to [REDACTED] MBV [REDACTED] MBV I can't remember any of his interactions with the boys. I probably saw him speaking to them but I can't remember seeing anything of concern at the time, or with the benefit of hindsight. I didn't hear of anything during my time there.

Brother [REDACTED] LNA

107. I had virtually no interaction with Brother [REDACTED] LNA other than the introduction. I am sure Brother [REDACTED] LNA was at St Ninian's at the Sunday lunch. I started a week before the boys came back to the school after the holidays. I didn't see Brother [REDACTED] LNA interact with the boys. I didn't hear of any concerns.

Mr [REDACTED] BHB

108. [REDACTED] BHB was in his late fifties or early sixties. He was approaching retirement age. [REDACTED] I don't know why that changed. He showed me around the new kit storeroom. He had constructed it himself. It was beautiful. He was a very meticulous man and had great skill in [REDACTED]. The only time he was involved in games classes would have been if Brother Kelly was away.
109. I can recall [REDACTED] BHB taking the junior football class once. It was raining so I gave him my waterproof jacket. I knew that due to his age I couldn't ask him to do too much. Other than that occasion, I didn't see him interacting with the children. I didn't hear anything about him interacting with the boys during my time there. He was quite a loud character and his 'glass was always half-full'. He was positive.
110. I didn't have any concerns about the regime. My time there was quite positive. It taught me that dealing with children from that sort of background wasn't what I wanted to do so I moved on with my life.
111. I have given statements previously to my own legal representative and to the police. I have not given any other statements.

Leaving St Ninian's

112. Towards the end of my time, I wasn't enjoying the work. The boys didn't want to be there. Some of them wanted to do certain activities but not others. I knew that there

were other opportunities out with the school in the leisure industry. I was volunteering at Fife Institute Gymnastics Club during days off and at weekends. It was very ad hoc. I knew that if I wasn't happy, I wasn't going to give my best.

Lessons to be Learned

113. There will be a raft of recommendations coming from this. I think the recommendations are simple to see in today's society. I want to try to help the work of the Inquiry. I was given no instructions to follow. There have to be systems and procedures in place. Knowing what I do now about child protection issues. I was the Child Protection Named Person for [REDACTED] I coordinated writing the policy and guidelines. I would have done something many years ago, had I known then what I know now.

Other information

114. I don't know why people would make complaints which are untrue. It happens. I was horrified by what I heard had happened. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There was reference to an advocacy group which gave individuals advice on how to complain and how to obtain compensation. I don't know if anyone has made a spurious allegation.

115. I met some former pupils, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], by chance in a shopping centre in Perth in 1985. It was an amicable meeting between a teacher and past pupils.

116. 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.

MCG
[REDACTED]

Signed.....

Dated..... 2/04/2019