

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness statement of

Sister [REDACTED] EAC

Support person present: YES

Others present: Richard Souter, solicitor, for [REDACTED] EAC
Lesley Allan, solicitor, for the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul

Background

1. My name is Sister [REDACTED] EAC I am known as Sister [REDACTED] EAC and have not been known by any other names. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1940. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I joined the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1958, and in 1959 I started my community life, in Dublin.

Posting at Smyllum

3. I came to Smyllum in 1960 but I did not really start in 1960. It was early 1961 and then I got my first group of children. When I went to Smyllum first I had some medical issues.
4. Before I commenced my duties at Smyllum Park I didn't have any training or qualifications.
5. I've been asked how I ended up working in Smyllum. I was just named by my Superior to do it, at the time one of our Sisters was sick and there was a vacancy and so I was asked.
6. I didn't have the opportunity to visit Smyllum before I started. It was my very first time in Scotland. I didn't go through an application process or anything like that.

Establishment

7. My first impression of Smyllum was that it was a beautiful castle in the country. The house that I got with my first group of children was a house on its own in the grounds and it was lovely. I thought it was a lovely house. It was called Roncallie House.
8. I had 26 children in my group and I think there were two other groups of 26, and two groups of 30 from what I can remember.

Structure

9. The Superior at the time was Sister [BAF]. She wasn't the Superior the whole time I was there. I'm not sure when Sister [EAL] came but she did come before I went to do my training, I know that, so she must have come between 1961 and 1963, when I left to do my training.
10. In Roncallie, I had one member of staff. Her name was Jean and I cannot for the life of me remember her surname. She was there before I arrived. I had only had the one member of staff all the time I was there initially. I was only there for 6 months then the Sister coming off her training took that group and I moved on to the next group of children.
11. The children in Roncallie house were aged from 5 to 7. 26 was the maximum and Roncallie was mostly at full capacity when I was there. If we were talking about the group, we called them the wee boys. If we were talking to them directly, we called them by their first names.
12. After Roncallie, I moved to Sacred Heart. The children there were aged 7 to 11, and were all boys. This was still in my first two years.
13. When I came back after my training in 1964, I was in Ogilvie House. I stayed there until I left Smyllum in 1971.
14. I've been asked about my first impressions of the set up in Smyllum. Well, since I had never been in a children's home before I did not know an awful lot about it to be honest. I thought it was interesting and I enjoyed it and it was good.

My role

15. When I worked in Roncallie, I reported to the Superior. Jean and I worked together. Sister [EAL] who was also there, and the Superior Sister [BAF] [BAF] walked round fairly often. If there were problems either Jean or myself would have a word with them about it.
16. I didn't get any sort of induction or training when I arrived at Smyllum, or later. Jean was a much older woman than I was and she had been in child care for many years. I am not sure how many years or anything like that, but Jean and I would talk things through and she would tell me what to do.
17. I was the house mother at the house and my role was to see that the children were cared for. I would make sure that they went to bed on time and that they got up at the right time and that they got their meals. If visitors came to see particular children, it was my job to make sure that they saw them and then they left.
18. I think Jean got half a day off a week but she was there otherwise and she lived in the house, and so did I. When she had her day off I just got on with it. There wasn't anyone else who came in to help. I didn't get a day off, I was there all the time.

Children

19. The children slept in bedrooms in Roncallie. In Sacred Heart they slept in dormitories. There were two or three dormitories and my room was in the middle, and the staff's room across.
20. Siblings would be put in a dormitory according to their age. Initially, siblings would not be kept together.
21. That changed when I came back from my training in 1964. It completely changed, and we tried to keep families together. It was excellent.
22. Ogilvie House was a family group of all ages. We had a baby and a young child in that group, and children up to 12, 13 or 14, that sort of age group. It was a mixed group of boys and girls.
23. Ogilvie House had shared rooms rather than dormitories. We had about 20 to 24 children in that house. I think we had 4 rooms, but I can't remember. We would try to keep male and female siblings in separate rooms.
24. The children had school clothes and I presume it was a uniform. The children had about 3 or 4 sets of clothes. They had one for school, they had one for play, they had one for church on Sunday and they had another set maybe something similar to the Sunday one. This was if they were going somewhere or something like that.
25. Of course if they got clothes from anybody belonging to them then of course they were allowed to wear them. There were no restrictions on anything like that but the majority of their clothes were supplied by the house. The same goes for shoes, I think. I don't remember how shoes were allocated. I don't remember taking the children to get shoes so I think they were probably just given shoes in their size.
26. We did our own laundry in Roncallie and in Sacred Heart. There was a central laundry but for uniforms and things like that we did our own. We, myself and Jean, also did the ironing, and polished the shoes.

First day at Smyllum

27. When children first arrived, we started with a blank sheet most of the time. We had very, very little information. That's not to say that the Superior might not have got it, but we didn't get information. We did not have a case history or anything like that.
28. There wasn't any set procedure. Everyone was welcomed and they were introduced. They were usually with the social worker who would have a few words with them. They would be shown around the house and shown their bedroom or their bed and that was about it.

29. We would tell the other children who they were and where they came from, and we would welcome them.

Mealtimes

30. The children ate in Roncallie. The meals were taken from the kitchen to Roncallie, because we had our own dining room but we didn't have cooking facilities.

31. Generally the food was very, very good because everybody got the same food, and we had a good cook. The children ate the same food as us. I would eat with the children if Jean was off but otherwise I would eat with the other Sisters.

32. I honestly can't remember what happened if a child ever refused to eat what they were given. I think they did eat, but I can't remember so I don't think it was really an issue.

Bedtime

33. I think they went to bed around 8.00 o'clock and I think they would probably have had their baths before that. They would have their bath in Roncallie. We had two baths, just ordinary household baths. The children were never bathed more than one at a time. There wouldn't have been fresh water drawn for every child, but for every few children.

34. After their bath, they used to come down to watch television for a little while and they got something for supper. I used to make cocoa very often for them.

35. Then they were off to bed. I would be alert during the night to any disturbance.

36. I can't remember if there were children who used to have a problem with bed wetting. If they did we did have facilities to get the sheets washed and to get them dried. They were little so they were never punished but would have to have a bath if they were wet. It would be a hot bath not a cold bath. They would have to take their sheets off and leave them beside the washing machine.

37. The situation was the same in Sacred Heart.

38. There was never any punishment for wetting the bed.

39. The staff didn't patrol at night. If I heard a child, I would be up. If any child moved I would hear and I would be up just to make sure that they got back to their own bed alright.

Washing and bathing

40. We definitely had more than one bath night but I don't think it was every night. I don't know how often but it wasn't every night but it was more than one or two in the week.
41. If the children weren't having a bath, they had a wash. They all had their own separate towels and flannels which they kept on hooks in the bathroom with their names on.

Leisure time

42. We had a television in Roncallie but just outside our door they had a lovely green space and so they used to go out and play football or they would be playing outside. They did not mix with the older boys as they were too little. That is why we had this green area, which was fenced off. It didn't actually belong to us, it belonged to the school but when school wasn't in progress the boys could play there.
43. I'm sure they had access to a radio.
44. I'm sure there were books but I can't remember an awful lot of them. I can't remember comics. We didn't really encourage reading because they didn't have much time.
45. The Variety Club of Great Britain used to give us very nice toys. Two groups used to give us nice toys and the children also had people outside the house who took an interest in them. They would bring them toys and things like that. The children could keep the toys themselves or put them in the cupboard. We tidied the cupboard, but we didn't do it very often. They also had a locker beside their beds where they could keep their bits and bobs.
46. The boys in Roncallie didn't go to cubs or anything like that. They didn't get taken swimming and neither did the older boys, because we were far away from swimming pools.

Trips and holidays

47. We did have holidays, we did have trips. We had a mid-term trip to the seaside or to somewhere, we would go Christmas shopping and they came. We did have outings, not very often but they were good. The outings were for all the boys, not just the older boys.
48. For the summer holidays, I remember going to different places. I remember going to Meigle and St Andrew's.
49. They did get pocket money according to their age every week. They used to save their pocket money. They went to the pictures every single week. Every child had a purse in a case and the case was locked in the cupboard with the child's name on it. They used to save their money for Christmas shopping and holidays. These were the two big things in their life that they would save up for.

50. They would get their sweets on a Saturday. They got their pocket money on a Saturday and the ones that were able to manage pocket money would choose how much to take and how much to leave and how much to put back in your purse.

Schooling

51. If they were of school age, the boys went to the school within Smyllum. None of my boys in Roncallie or Sacred Heart were secondary school age.

52. We had contact with the teachers, or we could have, but not very often. If they noticed that one of the children was upset or something I think they would contact us, and vice versa.

53. They had a little bit of homework every night and if they needed help with it they got it. They would do their homework in the play room, where they could sit in a chair to do it.

54. I've been asked if the children were taught any life skills. After 1964 there were three of us at Ogilvie House, me and two staff. We did our own cooking. The children would come in and if we were making cakes they might give the bowl a stir.

Healthcare

55. The medical records were kept in the surgery which is a different building from the house. They would keep a record of their immunisations, because they got all the ordinary immunisations that were prescribed for children of that age. There was a Sister, Sister **FAM** who was always in the surgery and she kept the records.

56. If a child needed to be seen by the doctor you would just take them off by the hand and let them see the doctor. We did that directly, we didn't ask Sister **FAM** to look at the children first.

57. I remember one child having to go to hospital in my time. I cannot remember his name for the life of me but he did because when he came in he had dry patches on his legs. I didn't let the doctor see it. Perhaps I should have but I didn't because I didn't think it was that serious to be honest. I was watching television one night and there was an ad for some cream or something like that at the time. I bought a tube of that and I applied it to the front of this child's legs. I'm not sure if that was the cause, but he had to go into hospital after. He saw the doctor who prescribed him penicillin and the child was allergic to it, which I did not know. I think that was the cause of the trouble, and he was in hospital for 4 days I think.

58. Children would go to the Law Hospital.

59. Children would go to the dentist. They went more often than for an annual check-up if they had toothache or anything like that.

60. All medical matters would be reported to Sister FAM and she would keep a note of them.

Deaths

61. I can remember one boy, I think he was McColl or something like that, who died. We were on holiday when it happened, and he was hurt and he died the following week. We never went to the funeral or anything like that. I don't even know where he was buried. He died in hospital and the day that I think he was being buried arrangements had been made and we were going out for a day trip and so we went so I did not go to the funeral, nor did any of the children in our house.
62. He wasn't from my house. He was an older boy and we really didn't have anything to do with him.
63. I don't remember when this was. I am told that a Francis McColl died on 12 August 1961 and I was at Smyllum then. I think that he must be the boy that I remember. We were on holiday and the older boys did have golf clubs with them. We were at dinner and everything was packed away because we were going home that afternoon. A priest came to see a family from his parish. He was not on holiday with us, he just came to visit the children, and the boys were telling him what a great time they had golfing. He had golf clubs in the back of his car. He gave them to the boys and I presume that he supervised them. However the child got hit, got hit that evening.
64. I think we were in Meigle on that holiday but I could be wrong.
65. I wasn't in Smyllum when Samuel Carr died but I did know him. He was in my group in Sacred Heart for two or three months before I left. I didn't see him again.
66. The name Patricia Meenan doesn't mean anything to me. I did not have any girls.
67. I'm told that Patricia Meenan died after being hit by a car. I did remember that happening but I didn't remember her name. I remember that very well, actually. It was a Monday evening, her mother was supposed to have come on the Sunday and didn't. She ran away that evening and got hit by a car and she died sometime after that. I was at Smyllum at that time but I had nothing to do with that particular house or anything like that. I don't know if the people in charge of her knew that she had run away.
68. There were no deaths among the children that I had responsibility for.
69. I don't know if there was an official procedure to be followed when a child died. I don't remember if support was offered to the other children when a child died. I'm not sure if the children even knew what had happened to Francis McColl.

Religious instruction

70. There probably was religious instruction in the school but we did not really take that back down to the house. I did say night prayers with the children every night, either sitting up or lying down and sometimes in bed. It was only for a short time because they were all catholic children and the parents would be expecting us at least to pray with them for a little while every night and that is what I did.
71. We did have grace before meals. Very often it would be a child that might say it.
72. They attended mass every Sunday. We used to have another religious service in the afternoon but that stopped by the time I left for my training. Maybe it was because the priest couldn't come in the afternoon. I can't remember when it was stopped but it didn't go on forever and it had stopped when I went on my training.
73. It was compulsory. At least, they all came.
74. I didn't ever have confirmation but I think in those days confirmation was only every 3 years. It wasn't every year and I cannot remember any child having confirmation when I was there.

Work

75. The only chore that I would give the children in Roncallie is if they were naughty and they had to be taken out of the group. I would take them with me and I would get them to shine the shoes. It was that kind of chore, sometimes they didn't mind it, sometimes they did. If it was a punishment that was it.
76. The older ones I think had more homework but again if they were misbehaving in the group I would give them a chore. I would be somewhere around to see and I would give them something that I was doing, for example shining the shoes.
77. The children never had to do any laundry. They used to help with the floors because all our floors were polished. They would help maybe to shine the floors, especially around their beds.

Christmas and birthdays

78. Every child had a birthday and every birthday was marked. We would get a cake or we would make a cake. We would have something special for tea. There was nothing terribly major about it. They would also get a card for their birthday.
79. If the children got gifts for their birthday they would get them on their birthday. They would keep their gifts, and that would be the kind of thing they would keep in their lockers.
80. They had lovely Christmases because they got beautiful toys from the Variety Club and people like that. They got lovely gifts so they did have very nice Christmases. They could also keep those gifts in their lockers.
81. I would never take toys or gifts from the children as punishment for misbehaving.

Visitors

82. Anytime anybody came to see a particular child they would see them. Around about Christmas time there was a kind of a day when people seemed to come to visit them. They did have visits, it might be from their own family or it might be from somebody who knew them or was interested in them.
83. Visits from family were not very frequent. Of course they were encouraged but if you don't see the family it is hard to encourage them.
84. The children were not really encouraged to write to their family.
85. I can honestly say I can never remember many letters or any letters coming for the children. If they did come they would get them.
86. If visitors were part of the family, the family would sit together. Visitors would come to the playroom or to the sitting room. In Sacred Heart the visits would be in the playroom, and in Ogilvie we had a sitting room.
87. We didn't have a visitors book.

Inspections

88. I remember one only inspector coming in my time and he was a Senior Social Worker. I don't know where he came from but I presumed it was Lanark but I might be wrong, I don't really know.
89. He visited my unit and I remember his distinctly saying "Well, if we had another World War...". I think he was really referring to the fact that not very many parents were visiting or something to that effect. I can't be definite about it but I think it had to do with the fact that there wasn't a lot of family connections and I can remember him saying if we had another World War that would change. I think he was trying to say that maybe parents would be more aware of the fact that they owed something to their children, I think.
90. The inspector didn't speak to the children. They were at school when he came at about 11 o'clock in the morning. Sister EAL was with him at that time.
91. I never read any report or feedback from that visit. I really can't remember very much about it. I never heard anything and I didn't see anything. I don't think there were recommendation made or anything.
92. That's the only visit from an inspector that I remember.

Review of care/placement

93. We didn't have any case reviews or anything like that. I wasn't invited to submit a report on the progress of any children during my time.

Family

94. Initially siblings were distributed according to what age they were but later we would try and keep them together in family groups. After 1964, the whole family were placed in the unit and no member of that family went anywhere else as far as I know. The families I had staying with me in Ogilvie house didn't go anywhere else.
95. If a house was at capacity, if you already had 24 children out of the 26 you could take, and a family of 4 came in you would just have to stretch the room. Maybe one or two would be placed in a different unit. I can only remember one incident like that and I had to set up an extra bed.

Access to children

96. If a priest visited he would visit the house and he visited everybody in the house, in the playroom or in the sitting room. The priest didn't have access to the children outside because most of the time there would be staff on duty when the children were out They would see who was there and what they were doing and who was with them.
97. We had Seminarians in the summertime for 3 or 4 weeks. They used to come on holidays with us and they used help and play football. Their rector from the college would come before they came so we knew about them. I had the same students for about 4 years, so we knew about them before they came.

Discharge/life after the establishment

98. I cannot remember what happened in relation to the discharge from Smyllum. I don't think it was any set procedure.
99. Sometimes we would have advance notice, sometimes we wouldn't. It would depend on if a child's mother's was in hospital and the child was admitted for a short stay or something like that then we would know when the child would be going home. That is the only time we would really know.
100. I can't remember any of mine going to secondary school. They went to secondary school from Smyllum if they were old enough. I cannot remember them coming to sixteen, seventeen and eighteen 18 and leaving. I can't remember that.

Discipline and punishment

101. In my house, I can't speak for any other house, I used to talk to the children more than anything else. If they were misbehaving in the group I would take them out. I wasn't the only one, the staff would do the same, take them out and give them help or else talk to them. Just help them to see what it was that was happening and how things could be better if they behaved a little bit better.

102. There was never any corporal punishment.
103. I never saw anyone else administering corporal punishment. I have never heard a complaint. I think I ran, I know I ran, a fairly good house and I think the children were very happy in it.
104. No records were kept of disciplining the children.
105. I don't know if the school disciplined the children. I don't think they did because the children never came down and said "I got slapped" or anything like that. The school was small and the only children that went to it were the children from Smyllum.
106. There was no written code of conduct for the children or anything of that sort.
107. If the children started to argue about something or caused a disturbance this may lead to a punishment.
108. The children sometimes complained to me if the others took their things. They would tell you, especially if they were missing their Lego.
109. I've been asked if in any of my time at Smyllum I observed any behaviour that I considered, either at the time or with the benefit of hindsight, was abusive. The answer is absolutely not.
110. I never got any complaints from children either in relation to themselves or anything that happened to any of their friends.
111. I had no inkling, from any source, that there was anything that I would consider abusive taking place within Smyllum.
112. I simply wasn't aware of anything happening. I can't say for definite but I think the children would have said something if there was something wrong and no child ever said there was anything going wrong. Also, one child might tell another and that didn't happen either so I cannot say. The children would tell tales amongst themselves about this, that or the other but it would be something not very serious. Definitely not in the abuse area or anything like that.
113. There would be arguments among the children, I think, rather than fights. Actually the children got on very well together but there would be arguments which may be nothing.
114. If the children were concerned we had 3 staff in the house. They could talk to any of those people. Very often in our house we had students who were doing there CQSW training. I think they would have been able to talk to them possibly as they would be there full-time. No student ever came to me. I never got a complaint from the tutors when they went back because they would have had to report that. I am sure they would say if there was abuse or anything like that going on. I think we would have heard from their tutors if anything like that was happening and we didn't.

*Abuse**Specific allegations*

115. [REDACTED] has alleged that I slapped children. I remember [REDACTED] and I am surprised that he has made these allegations. I think he was about 9 or 10 years of age when he came in. I never considered [REDACTED] to be a troublesome child in any way. I never had any problem with [REDACTED]. I have no recollection of having to discipline him. He makes allegations against a Sister [AFU] I have no knowledge of a Sister [AFU]

116. I have never slapped a child across the face. It is not something that I would do.

117. I don't know why these allegations have been made. I was surprised and I was disappointed that there were allegations against me because I felt that I always acted justly with the children. I was disappointed to learn there were allegations against me.

Allegations against other Sisters or staff

118. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]. I remember [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED]. He did not do any [REDACTED] whilst I was there. When I went to the house in 1964 I came to a house that had just been newly decorated and had new fittings and everything. He probably [REDACTED] but I knew him best as [REDACTED]. In my head that is what I had him down as.

119. [REDACTED] AAI [REDACTED], who wasn't in Smyllum in my time, has said that on one occasion [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] hit him so hard his feet came off the ground. To me, [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was not that kind of a man. From what I knew of him he was a much gentler person. I saw [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] getting on with his work. I didn't interfere. To be honest, I didn't spend much time talking to [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] at any time. He always appeared to me to be a working man and had a job to do and did it, so I can't say anything other than that.

120. [REDACTED] worked on the farm and he drove the tractor. I knew him, he was on the tractor and he used to deliver vegetables to us in the house. I only knew him from the farm.

121. I never knew a [REDACTED] AAO [REDACTED]. I don't remember him at all. He alleges that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] smashed a radio that he had been given as a gift by his father. Then beating him to the point of unconsciousness so that he required to be confined to bed for nearly a fortnight. I have never heard of anything like that happening.

122. [REDACTED] alleges that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] pulled him up by the ear and dropped him on a radiator. He also says that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] placed a child in a bath with San Izal in it which burned the skin. I have never heard of these things

- happening. In relation to the allegation about the bath, I think that's quite unlikely. I don't think [REDACTED] BAC as far as I know, frequented or visited the units. I never ever heard anybody saying that. He had work to do and he went home.
123. [REDACTED] also alleges that [REDACTED] BAC beat children with a belt. I never saw that, and never heard about it. None of my children said he beat them. I did not frequent the other groups, but I did not hear of anything in that nature.
124. I can't explain why these allegations have been made about [REDACTED] BAC but these allegations are very serious. I think a doctor or some medical person would have to have seen these children, and then there would have been a report. The children making these allegations definitely never came to me. As I said I did not frequent the groups anywhere else. I wasn't aware of the children being injured. I didn't ever hear of these things happening.
125. If I had been aware of these injuries, I would have reported them because I would have had to. I also think the doctor would definitely have to be told to record the injuries.
126. [REDACTED] ADF I knew her by name but she was in another house and I didn't really know her. I didn't observe her interacting with the children.
127. Allegations have also been made about her digging into a child's head with a nit comb until they cried, and deliberately soaking children's beds to bring about bed-wetting punishment. I have never heard of these things happening.
128. [REDACTED] ACF I do not know a [REDACTED] ACF, and I have no knowledge of the allegations made against her.
129. [REDACTED] IAQ I remember her. She was an older lady and a very kind lady actually. She used to take a lot of duties in the playground with the older children. I knew her very well because she would chat away but she wasn't a cruel lady by any manner of means. She was very kind in many ways. I had great respect for her, to be honest. I observed her interactions with the children in the playground. She was always very nice to them. I never saw her abusing them or handling them roughly or anything like that.
130. [REDACTED] ACX That name doesn't ring a bell at all.
131. Sister [REDACTED] AFU That name does not mean anything to me.
132. Sister [REDACTED] EAB I do remember Sister [REDACTED] EAB. She was in charge of one of the houses but I don't remember which one. She wasn't there for very long. I didn't see her disciplining the children, or humiliating them.
133. Sister [REDACTED] AGI I remember Sister [REDACTED] AGI. She may have been in charge of St Anthony's, but I am not too sure. The [REDACTED] AAI who has been

mentioned to me could have been in her house because he was that age, but I am not too sure.

134. An allegation has been made that she severely slapped and kicked Samuel Carr before he died. I was not in Smyllum when he died, but I knew Sister [REDACTED] AGI and I don't think it was in her nature to have done that.
135. An allegation has also been made that she took out a child's penis and rubbed it between her fingers. That does not accord with the Sister [REDACTED] AGI that I knew. I don't think that she would have done that.
136. **Sister** [REDACTED] EAA I remember Sister [REDACTED] EAA She was headmistress at the school. I never heard any complaints about her. An allegation has been made that she beat a child with a cane and a strap over a bath, but she never bathed the children. She never had anything to do with them out of the school. She is said to have belted the children, but none of my children ever came down to tell me anything like this had happened at school. I don't think these things did happen. I think I would have heard if they had.
137. **Sister** [REDACTED] AEG I knew Sister [REDACTED] AEG She was in Roncallie House. I did not visit Sister [REDACTED] AEG's house. Anytime that I saw her out with the children they seemed to be fine. I had never heard any child coming to my house to complain about anything which was happening. I was surprised to read the allegations that have been made about her. I wasn't aware of any allegations about her.
138. There are allegations that she beat children with a belt and a clothes brush. If it was anything like that it would mark a child. If the child was marked the doctor would have picked it up because the children saw the doctor. The notes of the doctor's weekly visit would have been kept in the children's medical records, and we would be told. The doctor would tell us; they wouldn't keep it a secret.
139. There are allegations that she punished children for wetting the bed and giving them cold baths. I have no knowledge of any of that.
140. There is an allegation that she remembered some children's birthdays and not others but to my knowledge all children's birthdays were celebrated. I never heard of her keeping the children's things.
141. **Sister** [REDACTED] AEX I remember her, she was the Sister in the nursery. The nursery closed in 1962 or 1963. It was renovated and became Ogilvie House, which I took on in 1964. I knew Sister [REDACTED] AEX for a short time. She only looked after the babies. She had nothing to do with any other group in the house. It was only the babies and when the place closed Sister [REDACTED] AEX left Smyllum. I don't know where she was placed or anything like that but she did not stay on at Smyllum after that.
142. There is an allegation that Sister [REDACTED] AEX forced a child to lick her vagina, while forcing another child to sexually abuse the first child. Sister [REDACTED] AEX never had

anything to do with any child older than about 4 or 5, and I have never heard an allegation of this sort, against anybody.

143. **Sister** [BAQ?] I cannot place a **Sister** [BAQ?]. The allegation that she attacked a child as punishment for running away does not mean anything to me. I didn't know of children being punished for running away. I didn't experience that myself because I didn't have children running away. I think when they came back they just fitted back in to where they ran from.
144. **Sister** [EAD]. I remember **Sister** [EAD]. She had the older boys in the place. She was very good to them. Otherwise I cannot remember an awful lot about them but I think they stayed up much later than anybody else's children and that sort of thing, I think they got extra treats.
145. I didn't observe her caring for the children. I never saw her throwing a child down the stairs or beating them with a knife handle.
146. **Sister** [AGD]. **Sister** [AGD] arrived towards the end of my time at Smyllum and I didn't know her for long. I didn't see her abuse children. I knew about the child who ran away and was hit by a car but she did not run from **Sister** [AGD]'s house. She ran from, I think, **Sister** [AEG]'s house. I don't know if **Sister** [AGD] went with her.
147. There is an allegation that she forced a child to kiss **Sister** [AGD]'s feet on a daily basis. I have never heard that.
148. **Sister** [IAC]. That's not a name that means anything to me.
149. **Sister** [BAH]. I remember a **Sister** [BAH] but I only remember her for about 5 minutes. She was changed when I went to Smyllum in 1963 and she went to Tollcross as far as I can remember. I think it was her group I moved into, the 7-11 year olds. But I did not know her. I never observed her with the children, and I never heard any allegations.
150. **Sister** [AHO]. I knew **Sister** [AHO] she had a group in Roncallie House. She was there when I was in Ogilvie House.
151. I didn't ever observe her interacting with the children. There are allegations that she beat children but I didn't see that happening. I didn't hear about it.
152. **Sister** [FAM]. **Sister** [FAM] was the nurse. She was an elderly lady and she really didn't have anything to do with the children. She was as kind as anything to them because the children went to **Sister** [FAM] to see the doctor or to see the nurse. That was the only contact that **Sister** [FAM] had with the children. There is an allegation that she beat a child to the extent that hearing damage was caused, but definitely not.
153. **Sister** [HBP]. I do not know a **Sister** [HBP].

154. Sister **AGB** I have never heard of her within our community, so I don't think she was in our order.
155. **AAI** has made allegations about unnamed nuns. He has alleged beatings by Sisters and staff including slapping, punching and kicking. He has alleged beatings using a cane. He has alleged that children had wet sheets put around them and were made to walk up and down the dormitory if they wet the bed. I'm not aware of any of those things happening. I don't know what House **AAI** was in. He has also alleged that children were force fed and locked in a cupboard and again I don't know of that happening.
156. **JAA** has made allegations about unnamed staff and nuns. **JAA** **JAA** has alleged that children were lined up to be smacked. I don't really remember **JAA**. He was not in my house but I think **JAA** used to play with some of the boys that were in our house. I would say I was a name to **JAA** but he wasn't in my house. I can't remember what house he was in. I do remember his name because I think he did come into our house.
157. I never did what he alleges and don't know what the reason would be. I don't understand why he would make an allegation relating to bed-wetting because he didn't live in my house.
158. There is also an allegation that an unnamed nun instructed a male member of staff to beat male children severely with a belt. I never had any male member of staff in my house, and no male staff ever beat my children.
159. There are additional allegations about unnamed nuns. There are allegations that nuns did not allow children to drink after tea if they were known bed-wetters and punished children by beating them when they did wet the bed. Then wrapping wet sheets or clothes about the children. I was not aware of anything like that ever being practised, nor was I aware of children being given cold baths for bed-wetting, pulling children out of bed by the hair for bed-wetting.
160. There is also an allegation that unnamed staff called a child a clatty bitch when she started her period. I have never heard of this happening.
161. I've been asked if nuns served children cold vegetables that were left over from the night before. I didn't hear of that happening, and can't imagine that happening. I didn't hear of nuns forcing children to scrub floors.
162. I have never heard of anyone refusing to let a parent visit because they hadn't pre-booked a visiting time. There was never an occasion as far as I know when a parent had to book a time to come and see their children. If the parent felt they wanted to see the children they saw them. I can't see any parent going away without seeing the child especially if they have come a distance.
163. The name **AAA** does not ring any bells. He has alleged that his hands were hit using a broom handle, and that his fingers were broken as a result. He says that he was taken to hospital. I have no knowledge of these allegations.

164. He alleges that after he had sworn at a nun, as a punishment, he was made to kneel for a whole night beside a nun who had died. None of the nuns died while I was in Smyllum. No one would be made to kneel for a whole night. I wouldn't do it so I wouldn't expect anybody else to do it.
165. An allegation has been made that a 6 year old boy was made to have sex with a female member of staff in the dorm above the first year school. I have never heard that allegation.
166. An allegation has been made by someone who was in Smyllum between 1964 and 1970 about the nun who was in charge of St Kentigern's. The allegation is that the child was severely beaten, punched and kicked to the extent of becoming unconscious. This after he witnessed two nuns, one of whom was the nun in charge of St Kentigern's, in some sort of embrace with each other. I never heard or saw anything about that. I was definitely not aware of any relationships between the Sisters or staff.
167. I never heard any allegations relating to priests at Smyllum. Any priest that was involved with Smyllum was always in the open, there was always people around, they came and said mass and they went away and they definitely did not have anything to do with the children. The children didn't go to confession in Smyllum, they went to the local parish church. The names Father ADB Father AGF or ADC don't mean anything to me.
168. There is an allegation that a priest sexually assaulted a 6 or 7 year old boy in the book room and forced a child to masturbate. I never heard a single thing about these and to be honest I don't even know where the book room was. I did not know there was such a place in Smyllum. We definitely did not have it my house.
169. I have no explanation for why all of these allegations have been made, but I am sad about it. I've been asked if it is possible that there is some truth to these allegations but I was not aware of them, but I doubt it. I cannot remember nearly so well as I used to but I have done the best I can.
170. If the punishments for bed-wetting that are alleged had taken place then I would have considered them wrong, and they could amount to abuse, but I don't think these things happened.

Prior statements

171. I have not given any other statements except to the Order's solicitors. As far as I know, the information that I gave to the Order's solicitors was accurate. As part of my statement in relation to discipline, at paragraph 42 I said "I can't remember if there was any physical discipline to be honest. I am sure there was a slap every now and again but it was never excessive". That does accord with my recollection.

172. I indicated in that statement that I thought Smyllum was a happy place, and I have always thought that Smyllum was a good place to be. It was a happy place, we had freedom and we had lots of space inside the house and outside. I indicated that I thought Smyllum was a loving and caring environment, but not as intimate because of the number of children. That is still my view.
173. I was never aware of any of the children either in my care or generally raising any sort of concerns with me about the care they were receiving. Neither did their parents, neither did the social workers. I have never ever had a complaint from a parent, from a social worker or anybody that the care that the children were getting in our care was anything but reasonable and good. I could only say that.
174. With the benefit of hindsight, there isn't anything looking back now that perhaps I think I ought to have reported.
175. But looking back I am just sorry that our numbers were so big. I think if we had a much smaller group we would have been able to do a lot more and differently.
176. To my knowledge, nothing that we have discussed today has ever been reported to the police. I have never been spoken to by the police.

Records

177. I did not keep any records. Records might have been kept by the Superior, because she frequented the houses. I didn't ever have occasion to have to look at records for any purpose during my time there.
178. The only records that I can remember were kept was their medical records. They were very well kept because they saw the doctor every single week and the nurse came on a Thursday. Any time you needed to see the doctor or there was anything wrong they would see the doctor.
179. I have no idea what might have happened to Smyllum records because I didn't ever go back to Smyllum again after I left until about 2 years ago.

Closing thoughts

180. I can't explain why the Inquiry has received so many allegations given that I had no knowledge of any abuse. The only thing that I can think about is that a group now older people got together and they have talked between themselves. So if one said that I got slap and somebody else would say of course I got a slap as well. I think it could be word of mouth but again I am not at all sure. I think that could be one of the ways that so many were able to come up with similar accusations.
181. I can't explain why people say that they are still suffering as a result of what happened to them in Smyllum.

182. I would like to put on record to say that Smyllum was a happy home. The children were free to come and go and use the space that they had which was a lot. No parent, no social worker nobody with any authority over any children ever report their children not being cared for properly.

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.

EAC

Signed

Date 28th September 2017