

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

LHI

Support person present: No

1. My name is [REDACTED] LHI. I was known as Brother [REDACTED] LHI briefly, for about a year at the age of sixteen. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Background**

2. I joined the Christian Brothers on [REDACTED] 1962 at the age of fourteen. In those days, it wasn't unusual for kids to join the priesthood and religious orders at an early age.
3. I was brought up in in Lochgelly in Fife. We were a working class family. My dad was a coal miner and we weren't terribly well off. There were eight children in the family. In those days, joining a religious order was regarded as a very good thing for young people to do. Parents were very proud of their children if they made that choice. So much has changed now.
4. I started off at a place called Ledsham, which is quite near Birkenhead. I was there for two years, from the age of fourteen. It was called a juniorate and it was where all the young boys went when they joined up. When I went there, there were 63 kids from all over Britain posted there. I think the youngest boys were thirteen and the ages ranged up to sixteen, although boys might stay on until seventeen if they were struggling with their O'levels. I did my O'levels there. At age sixteen, I then went down to a place called Toddington, which is about ten miles from Cheltenham.

5. When I got to Toddington, I put what was called a habit on and became Brother LHI. Back then, when you joined a religious order and became a novice, you took a new name. When I joined the novitiate at the age of sixteen, I briefly became Brother LHI. I was known as that for about a year. The Vatican Council then came in and the rules were changed. We were able to go back to our original names if we so chose.
6. I was at Toddington for two and a bit years. The place then went on fire. Apparently, it was on the BBC 9 o'clock news at the time. As a result of the fire, we all had to go back to Ledsham for a year. Toddington was rebuilt and refurbished. I returned and did my A-levels there. I received my first grown-up posting at the age of nineteen. I was sent to Crosby, near Liverpool. I taught in a boys' grammar school (St. Mary's College). I was there for three years. Having just completed my A-levels, I found myself teaching Latin to twelve, thirteen and fourteen year olds.
7. At the age of 22, I was posted to Falkland. I had been thinking about leaving the Christian Brothers towards the end of my three years at St. Mary's College. I think it was for that reason that I was posted nearer to home, to try and persuade me to stay. I had eleven very happy months at Falkland, at the conclusion of which I decided not to leave the Christian Brothers. I was then posted to a place called Maynooth, near Dublin. I studied the first year of an arts degree at the university there. It was at that stage, at the age of 24, that I left the Christian Brothers. I had taken one set of temporary vows, which lasted for three years. I was therefore able to leave without any problem.
8. I completed a degree course at St. Andrew's University, after which I also completed a postgraduate youth and community course at Moray House in Edinburgh. I was thereafter employed by the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh as a warden in an alcoholic hostel for men. After a year, the hostel closed for economic reasons, at which stage I decided to head south again. I got a job briefly in a bar near Chester before starting work in a local children's home as a residential worker. After a year or two there, my partner and I moved to Sheffield and I started work in a reception unit run by Sheffield Social Services for young boys and girls, aged twelve to sixteen. I then

started working in intermediate treatment, initially running intensive groups for young people as an alternative to a custodial sentence. My final job was in the youth offending team in [REDACTED] where I spent approximately fifteen years initially advising social workers on the production of pre-sentence reports and thereafter producing those reports myself as a member of a dedicated team. That involved working in both the local youth and Crown courts. I retired for medical reasons at the age of 57.

### **St. Ninian's School, Falkland**

9. I was posted to St. Ninian's by the provincial, who oversaw the whole province of Scotland, England and Wales. The provincial's surname was O'Brien. There were only two places run by the Christian Brothers in Scotland, Scotus Academy in Edinburgh and St. Ninian's in Falkland. Both are now closed. I can't remember whether I was told I was being posted to St. Ninian's or whether I got a letter, but it wasn't done face to face by the provincial.
10. I finished up at St. Mary's in Crosby for the English school holidays, round about [REDACTED] 1970. I think I arrived at St. Ninian's a week or two after the term had started in August, so I could have a little break. I seem to recall that the kids were already there when I arrived, so I wasn't part of the admission or settling in process.
11. St. Ninian's was a List D, residential school. There were about thirty boys of high school age. Most of them were thirteen, fourteen and fifteen, although I think there may have been a couple who had turned sixteen. I think there was only one twelve year old. Most of the boys came from Glasgow. I hadn't received any training in either teaching or social work at that stage, but I think some of the boys had been posted there by the courts and some were there because they had no parents. I'm not sure which path those kids took to end up there. It was my first experience of anything like that. I assume local authorities paid for children to attend St. Ninian's, but I don't know. I don't remember any children leaving or arriving when I was there. It was a very stable group.

12. I never really thought about what I wanted to do. I didn't really know much about the set-up at St. Ninian's or the kids there before I arrived. At that age, I was young and enthusiastic and probably somewhat over-confident that I could work anywhere and make a good go of it. St. Ninian's was a grand and imposing country house, just up the road from Falkland Palace. When I was thirteen, a Christian Brother came to speak to the kids at my school. His job was to go around various schools in Britain, trying to persuade kids to join the Brothers. He came up to my family home and met my parents. He took my parents, myself and a couple of my little sisters down to Falkland, so I'd actually seen St. Ninian's at the age of thirteen. I didn't meet any of the kids or the Brothers, but enjoyed looking round the place.
13. I have a vague recollection of the layout. You entered St. Ninian's by a set of steps. There was a great big hallway when you walked in. It was quite grand with ornate ceilings and had large rooms going off it. The kids' dormitories were on the right-hand side. I can't remember how you got to the kitchens. I think there were only three classrooms, which were dotted around. It must have been built on three levels because I think there was a downstairs area where the kids went to eat. There was a staircase to the first floor, but I can't remember what was upstairs.

#### *Staff*

14. The staff remained the same throughout my time at St. Ninian's. There were five Brothers at the school, including me. The [SNR] was called [BHD] He was probably around fifty years old. There was Brother [LHC] He was very elderly, in his seventies, and I think he had actually [REDACTED] He was a lovely man. There was Brother [LNA] and Brother [MBV] [LNA] was twenty years older and [MBV] ten years older than me. There was a Mr [BHB] I can't remember which. He lived in Falkland village and came up to do [REDACTED] He was the only other teacher. There was no matron or seamstress when I was there. The only woman there worked in the kitchen. I can't remember her name, but she was very good with the kids. She had no remit with them, but she was friendly and cheerful.

We were there to look after the youngsters, first and foremost. All of the Brothers had that role. We were also there to teach them. Brother **LHC** was a bit too old to do very much, so I don't think he got involved with the kids at all, except for supervising the boys at mealtimes. He was also the bursar. If anybody needed money for anything, Brother **LHC** provided it. I was delegated to teach geography, art and music.

15. I have already mentioned my lack of training in education and social work. I think I had, however, been identified as having a talent for teaching. It is perhaps for that reason that I was originally asked to work in the boys' grammar school in Liverpool and also to teach those various subjects in St. Ninian's. I don't recall any form of guidance or syllabus to teach the subjects. However, because of the level of ability of most of the children, I was able to perform the task without too much difficulty.
16. The school was divided into two houses, Ramsay and Stewart, mainly for the purposes of sport. I was given the job of being in charge of one of the houses. I think I was housemaster of Ramsay House. **LNA** was housemaster of the other.
17. As already mentioned, Brother **BHD** was **SNR**. However, I cannot recall receiving any line management. At the time, this did not in any way upset me. In point of fact, I remember feeling really proud of myself for being able to do all these "grown-up" jobs at such a young age.

## **Routine St. Ninian's**

### *Mornings and bedtime*

18. I can't remember the layout of the dormitories, but found myself looking after approximately half of the young people at night time. Brother **LNA** looked after the remainder. There might have been eight dormitories with three or four kids in each. On that basis, I would have looked after four of those at night time, about half the kids. **LNA** looked after the other four dormitories. I had a single room bang in the middle of the kids' rooms. I think it was a long corridor, possibly L-shaped. There must

have been ten rooms and [REDACTED] LNA's room was at his end, mine at my end. I think the rooms might have been separated in terms of the two houses, Ramsay and Stewart. I don't think they were divided by age.

19. We were supposed to get up at 6 o'clock and say prayers. I think the boys got up between 7 and 7.30 o'clock. I don't think I got the kids up. I think a bell was rung, but I don't who rang it. I think they all had little jobs all over the place, because we didn't have cleaners coming in. They did sweeping, cleaning and making their own beds. They did their jobs after breakfast and then the school day started at about 9 o'clock.
20. I think we started to tuck the kids in around 9 o'clock on a school night. It didn't change as they got older, they were all treated the same. When I arrived in Falkland, I installed small speakers in the children's bedrooms. I was then able to lull the kids to sleep at night with the top twenty, which played from a little tape recorder at the side of my bed. I think the boys must've had wardrobes and drawers to keep their clothes in, but I can't recall the layout of the bedrooms.
21. I don't remember ever being woken up at night to deal with any problem. I think I would have remembered that, had that happened. The boys were free to get up and go to the toilet at night, if they needed to do so. There must have been toilets in the corridor, near the bedrooms.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

22. I didn't eat meals with the boys. The brothers had a small, cosy little dining room. I remember that you could ring a bell and the cook would put plates onto a two level thing, which you would pull up a chimney sort of thing. The kids ate in a dining room. Brother [REDACTED] LHC used to supervise the meals. I'm not sure whether the boys ate the same food as the Brothers or what the regime was at mealtimes. I cannot recall the quality of the meals. I suspect the boys did eat the food because the cook was very popular with them. I don't think she would have been if the food had been poor.

*Washing / bathing*

I can't remember whether the boys had sinks in their rooms. I can vaguely remember there were toilets, so they didn't have to leave the dormitory area to go to the loo. I must have played an active role in making sure the boys washed themselves, but I can't remember anything about that. I certainly had a wash-basin in my room. The brothers would obviously have had their own separate washing facilities.

*Clothing / uniform*

I've no idea where the boys' clothes came from or how they were laundered. There may have been a laundry downstairs, where the kitchen area was. I can't remember the children wearing any sort of uniform. I think they may have worn some sort of top. It may have been crimson coloured. I do remember that some of the Brothers took the boys out to buy new clothes at least once. I think it was Brother LNA or Brother MBV or both of them. I think they were supposed to look special for going home.

*School*

23. I think Brother LNA was a science and maths teacher. Brother MBV taught English and was the sports master. Brother BHD taught something, but I'm not sure what it was. It was either religious studies or history. The children were very disadvantaged. Their educational attainment was obviously at a very low level. Although they were thirteen, fourteen, fifteen years old, most of them were probably operating at a level a few years below that. That's not to say that they didn't have ability, but because of what had happened to them the teaching had to be very basic. When I was there, none of the boys sat O'Grades or any external exams.
24. The educational side of things was perhaps not paramount, given that the Brothers were tasked with being in loco parentis and therefore were looking after every aspect of the young person's upbringing. The older Brothers were professionally qualified. I obviously never saw them in action in the classroom, but assume that they were

thoroughly competent. My own approach to the educational side of things was to provide the kids with as much fun as possible.

25. I don't remember the boys ever getting homework. When I arrived at the school, there were three or four cellos. I took them into a music shop in Kirkcaldy and swapped them for half a dozen guitars. I used to encouraged the kids to learn to play guitar and recorder in the evening. It wasn't so much homework as an evening hobby.
26. I think the afternoons tended to be for sport-dominated. We had direct access to quite a big estate and a sizable sports ground, the size of two football pitches. Football was the game there. As already mentioned, Brother MBV tended to organise most of the sports events, which also involved regular cross country running. The two houses played each other at various sports. MBV was always the referee. The boys didn't play against other schools while I was stationed there.
27. Most of the academic subjects would have been covered in the mornings. I occasionally - in terms of geography lessons - used to take the kids away in the minibus. We had a fifteen seater minibus so I would be able to take fourteen boys out to explore various points of interest nearby. I remember taking them to Anstruther, where, with the owner's permission, they climbed onto a fishing vessel. I also took them to Loch Leven and showed them where Mary Queen of Scots was briefly accommodated. The Forth Road Bridge had not been opened long and we went to see that too. It was a slightly unconventional way to teach geography, but the kids enjoyed it and so did I.

#### *Leisure time*

28. In the evening, the boys had leisure activities. I think they had their own room with table tennis and maybe a pool table. At least one of the Brothers would be hovering around, possibly in the room with them. The boys were always supervised. If they were outside the building, there would have been a brother with them.



29. I can't remember whether there was a television. If they did have one, they wouldn't have been able to turn it on whenever they liked. There was certainly a record player. One of the things I did shortly after arriving was to knock together a radiogram in Mr BHB's room. I built a stereo and put it in the boys' games room so they could play music. Some kind music shop used to send the top twenty 45" records for free, so the kids always used to have a pile up-to-date records.
30. I can't remember if there was a library. I like to think the boys were encouraged to read, but their standard of literacy was generally very poor. I don't remember what reading material was available to them.

#### *Trips / Holidays*

31. The boys didn't go on overnight trips or holidays with the school while I was there. Those who had homes to go to were occasionally allowed to visit their family or relatives. It can't have been every weekend. I can't remember which kids got to go home or the frequency. I think all the senior Brothers interacted with social workers and parents, but I didn't. There were holidays at Christmas and Easter. I've no recollection of those holidays, but I think the boys would go home if they had somewhere to go to.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

32. That particular Christmas (1970), I took the boys down to Falkland Palace Chapel where we put on a Christmas carol concert for the village. It was the first time that had happened. I read somewhere that whoever took over from me the following year continued that practice. I can't remember any Christmas decorations or a Christmas tree. I think most of the kids must've gone home for Christmas. I vaguely remember that the Brothers and I used to travel down to one of our houses in the Liverpool area and meet up with our confreres. I think the Christmas period that I was at St. Ninian's, I went to St. Edward's College in Liverpool and possibly to St. Joseph's Stoke-on-Trent.

*Visits / Inspections / Review of care*

33. I don't remember ever meeting either a social worker or a parent during my time in Falkland. I'm also not aware of family members coming to visit the boys. It could have happened, but there wasn't a culture for it.
34. I obviously - as a trainee brother - wasn't part of the referral set-up, so I had little idea how the boys got there. I certainly didn't read any social work records. You would have expected there to have been regular case conferences, reviewing the boys' progress or otherwise. I don't recall anything like that happening. I think I would remember if those had taken place, given my role with the boys.
35. I have no recollection of any inspection while I was at St. Ninian's nor of being asked to be involved in anything like that. It may be that the Christian Brothers themselves performed inspections, but I don't remember that taking place the several months that I was there.
36. St. Ninian's was fairly isolated. The only two people I can remember visiting are MCS, who was taking photographs, and a guy who played for the Scotland Football team. He came to play five-asides with the kids for an hour. I think his name was Asa Hartford. I don't know why he came up to the school, but I think Brother MBV must've invited him. I don't know whether either of those gentlemen came back again, but I don't remember meeting either of them again. The visits could have occurred on some sort of sports day.

*Access to children*

37. All of the Brothers had complete access to the boys. It was generally individually, whether it be teaching or sports training. Mr BHB had access to the children too, as did the cook. All of those people could have been with the kids without anybody else being around.

*Healthcare*

38. I can only guess that the village doctor would have been called if there had been a health problem. I can't remember any such incidents nor any ambulance turning up at any time. Neither have I any recollection of any child having to go to hospital for any reason. I can't even recall any of them being sick. There must have been occasions when a child was ill and we would have told them they could stay in their bed for the day, but in all honesty I can't remember anything like that. There should have been a book to record such things, but I certainly never made any entry into it. If there had been any serious health problems, I would have got one of the older brothers to help. There were no deaths while I was at St. Ninian's. I can't remember anything about dental care.

*Religious instruction*

39. I can only assume that there was some religious instruction. If there was, Brother BHD would have provided it. We had a chapel on site. A priest came to say Mass every day, but the kids only attended on a Sunday. It was expected that they would, all of them being Catholic, as far as I'm aware. Other than that, there was no expectation on the boys as far as religion was concerned.

*Siblings*

40. There was definitely one set of brothers that I can remember. There could have been more. I think the brothers that I remember might have been called [REDACTED] They weren't discouraged from having contact with each other. I think they were both in the same house, but I don't know whether they shared a dormitory.

*Pocket money*

41. I don't know whether the boys got pocket money. I don't remember any of them being fined if they misbehaved. That would seem to suggest that if they did get any money, it came from the local authority. If the boys did receive money from wherever, it was

probably given to them before they went home for weekend leave. I can't remember there being any sort of tuck shop so there was nothing for them to spend money on within the building.

#### *Running away*

42. I have a vague recollection that on a few occasions one or more children ran away. They were generally picked up by the local police and brought back within a few hours. I didn't have any dealings with the boys on their return. They were dealt with by the older Brothers, but I can't remember what sanctions were imposed. It may well be that they were made to stand in the big hall, but I can't remember witnessing that.

#### *Bed Wetting*

43. I remember breathing a huge sigh of relief that none of the kids I looked after at night wet the bed. I didn't have any of that to deal with. I can remember that there was a bed wetter in the other section. I recall a discussion about one young kid who was a chronic bed wetter. I think he wet the bed most nights. There was no discussion about how bed wetting was dealt with. Common sense would suggest the sheets would require changing and that the boy would need clean pyjamas, but I was never present to have to deal with that situation.

#### *Discharge of children*

44. I don't remember any children leaving St. Ninian's while I was there. I don't know what the process was, but there was no need for a child to be removed during that period. I didn't have any contact with St. Ninian's after I left, so I don't know how long they tended to stay. If the children had any training for leaving the school, it would have come from Mr [REDACTED] BHB I don't remember a careers officer coming in. None of the Brothers were really qualified to teach those kind of life skills.

*Discipline*

45. I don't remember corporal punishment ever being discussed at St. Ninian's. I didn't own or use a belt. I think there was a strap on the premises, but I don't know how often it was used. I never saw it being used. I suspect some of the children were occasionally punished by the use of a belt, but I never saw it happening.
46. The kids at Falkland were very well behaved, albeit there wasn't much scope for misbehaviour. Even though I was only 22, the kids were very good with me and didn't give me a hard time. As previously suggested, they never misbehaved during the night or gave me any cause for concern. It was a well-oiled, well-behaved situation, including at night.
47. One of the biggest punishments was losing entitlement to weekend leave. I think running away was regarded as the greatest crime that they could commit. The kids were under no illusion about what was expected of them. My recollection is that most of the time they adhered to those expectations. The kids were generally happy and well looked after and punishment was infrequent. If there was a discipline book, I didn't know about it.

**Abuse at St. Ninian's**

48. I have no recollection of ever having witnessed any of the children being abused during my time at St. Ninian's nor did any of the children ever approach me about any such abuse.

*Allegations by Frank McCue*

49. The name Frank McCue rings the most distant of bells, but I couldn't put a face to the name. I certainly did not abuse Frank McCue or any other child.
50. I understand that he has stated:

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

I've no recollection of that at all. I would have to query his saying that this occurred on "the first night he was in the dorm", bearing in mind – as I've already pointed out – that I don't think I'd arrived at Falkland at that stage. I worked out that this would have been the period when the kids had arrived, but I hadn't.

51. I wouldn't have thought that the passage of time has affected my recollection about that alleged incident. I can't explain why Frank McCue has said this.

52. Frank McCue has also stated:

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

That incident did not happen while I was at St. Ninian's. Brother LMZ took over from me when I left to go to Ireland so we were never there at the same time, not even for one day. Brother MCY wasn't there either during my spell. Frank does use the word "possibly". I wasn't there with those people and I never saw anything like that happening.

*Allegations by MKM*

53. I have no recollection of a boy by the name MKM That doesn't mean to say that he wasn't at St. Ninian's when I was there, I just can't remember him. I did not abuse MKM.

54. MKM has stated that:

*"Brother LHI had a habit of bouncing little boys on his lap. Again it is only with hindsight that I now realise how inappropriate this behaviour towards young boys was."*

I wasn't really the bouncing on knee type of person, especially with fourteen, fifteen year old kids. I totally agree with him that it would be inappropriate behaviour and I've no recollection of ever behaving like that. I wouldn't have thought that the passage of time has affected my recollection of that. It may have been said because he's confusing me with somebody else. I think there were only two young kids, maybe thirteen year olds, within the larger group that I was looking after. Just before the boys went to bed, they'd all assemble in my bedroom. We'd have a ten or fifteen minute chat. They'd all then head off to their bedrooms and I'd put the music on. I'd disappear and join up with the older brothers in our sitting room and watch a bit of television or whatever. When I eventually went to bed, which might be half ten, eleven o'clock, I'd go to my room and have a listen to make sure there wasn't a sound coming from any of the boys' bedrooms. That was the regime. All the boys would be in my bedroom for ten or fifteen minutes before they went to their own, but I've no recollection of bouncing any of them on my knee. I think MKM must be confused.

*Allegations by David Sharp*

55. I remember David Sharp as a result of seeing his name in the newspapers for the past three years and all the things that he's said. I've worked out that he must be the bed wetter that I referred to earlier. He was in Brother LNA's dormitory and in his Ramsay sports group. I don't remember ever speaking to him, although I must have been teaching him and so on. I did not abuse David Sharp.

56. I understand that David Sharp has stated:

*"I got a phone call a few years ago from a guy who told me I was taken out of the home by Brother [LHI] and another person, and that the other person was not always Brother [LNA]. He told me I was taken by Brother [LHI] and another priest to this man's mother-in-law's house. Two people have mentioned Brother [LHI] to me in recent years, but I have no recollection of him. I am quite convinced it is not true. I don't know if he was abusing me. I don't want to guess. My truth is hard enough."*

I never ever met any of the kids' parents, never mind mothers-in-law. It makes no sense to me whatsoever. I never visited any kid's home, either on my own or with anybody else. I think they all lived in the Glasgow area. It's definitely not me that went to the that house with some other Brother. I never went with another Brother to anybody's house at any time. I don't know what the two people who have phoned David Sharp have said about me. I'm 100% sure it has nothing to do with me whatsoever. The passage of time has definitely not affected my recollection about this. I'd love to know why it's been said. David Sharp sounds like he's not quite convinced about it. I don't know what to say, other than no such thing happened.

#### *Other Brothers and staff with allegations*

57. I understand that allegations have been made against other Brothers and staff who may have been at St. Ninian's at the same time as me. I wasn't aware of any abuse taking place by anyone or towards anyone during my time there. Brother [BHD], Brother [LNA], Brother [MBV] and Mr [BHB] were there at the same time as me. Mr [BHB] would have been 45, 50 years old.
58. I think Brother [BHD], Brother [MBV] and Brother [LNA] had the interests of the children very much at heart, as did I. I thought that they provided the children with a high, consistent standard of care. After I left both Falkland and eventually the Christian Brothers, I chose to go on and work in residential work with Sheffield City Council. I then moved into social work and became a youth offending officer. I worked face to face with kids in groups and laterally as a court officer providing reports for both youth and Crown courts. One of the reasons that I chose this particular career was because I was so impressed by what I saw at Falkland.



59. I got on extremely well with my colleagues. In fact, just before I left to go to Maynooth University I actually went on holiday with Brother MBV and Brother LNA. They seemed to have a great ability to get the kids to function in a positive way. I didn't see either of them hitting or abusing the kids at any time.
60. Brother BHD and I arrived in Falkland at the same time as I did, although he started a week or two before me. I had met him briefly in when we were both posted in various Liverpool schools. I didn't ever see or hear him abusing children.
61. I'd forgotten about MCS until his name was mentioned. I met him once. He was either something to do with table tennis or something to do with [REDACTED] or possibly both. I've got a vague recollection of having met him from just before I moved on. That would be the time that I already mentioned when we were staging some sort of sports day for the kids. MCS was there and I think he was [REDACTED] although I don't know why. All five Brothers were there and all the kids. That was the only time I met MCS. He was quite a young lad, probably about the same age as myself.
62. Brother LMZ I think, took over from me as the [REDACTED] teacher. Brother MCY had been in Falkland for some years before me. He wasn't there the year I was, but he returned after I left.
63. Over my time at St. Ninian's, I saw no abuse whatsoever, either physical or sexual. I'm sure that the passage of time hasn't affected my recollection of that. I do, however, acknowledge that certain things have escaped my memory. For example, I used to know the names of all the kids and now I can hardly remember any of their them.
64. I tend to keep an eye on all the newspapers, including the Scottish papers. I've read online about various allegations relating to St. Ninian's. I saw things in the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] about various allegations against LNA. I think MBV [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I read that two guys were locked up, but I never met either of them. All I know is what I've read in the newspapers.

### Leaving St. Ninian's

65. At the end of the summer term, prior to going to Maynooth University, I spent some time with my parents. As I already mentioned, I then went on holiday to Gibraltar with Brother MBV and Brother LNA for a week to ten days. When I returned, it was time to head over to Ireland and meet up with the brothers in my new community in Maynooth.

### Reporting of Abuse

66. If a child had concerns or was unhappy, I hope he could have spoken to me. No child ever did raise any such concerns with me. I also hope they all had social workers or someone overseeing their care. I would expect that person would be someone that the child could confide in if he had any reason to complain or feel concerned. If there was something going on that I didn't like or was confused about, I would probably have spoken to Brother LNA or Brother MBV. I was also very fond of LHC. He kept a fatherly eye on me as well as the boys. Having said that, he never sat me down and asked how I was getting on. It was just assumed that I was okay.
67. I have never previously been the subject of any complaints about my conduct. I've never been asked to provide a statement to the police in relation to St. Ninian's. When [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and that was the last I heard of it. I think it was a couple of years ago. It's the only time I've been asked to answer any questions about my time at St. Ninian's.

## Records

68. I was never asked to keep any written records during my time at St. Ninian's. Not having been trained, this didn't occur to me as being necessary. I didn't do any of those things. I guess they should have been done by someone and hopefully they were.

## Final thoughts

69. I've been asked to explain why I did not see abuse and I was not aware of any abuse, given the information the Inquiry has obtained. I was never present while any abuse took place, that's all I can say. As I have made clear in several previous sections, I did not witness anything that gave me cause for concern. The reason I did not witness any abuse is that no such event occurred in my presence.
70. I understand that the purpose of the Inquiry is to make recommendations so that nothing like this ever happens again. It's reassuring that the whole childcare scene is now so much more professional, accountable and satisfactory than it then was and that young people are both able and encouraged to make complaints, as and when. When I left the order at the age of 24, only one of the 63 boys who had been at Ledsham training with me remained in the order. It's also a good thing that young people are no longer encouraged to leave their families at an early age to join any kind of movement.
71. 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.

LHI

Signed..

Dated.....

25 June 2019