

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FSN

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FSN. My date of birth is 1943. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow and lived with my father and my mother nee I can't remember where the family home was. They married on 1942. My dad was from London and he was in the navy. He was posted to Scotland, where he met my mum. They had three children, myself, my brother who was born in 1945, and my sister who was born in 1947.
3. My mum died of TB after was born and my dad couldn't manage to care for us when he was going to sea. I have now learned that my dad was a deserter from the navy at the time he put us into care. My dad had a sister in Easterhouse in Glasgow, who wanted to take but she was not able to take my brother and myself as well. My dad didn't want to separate us, so all three of us went into care, to Smyllum Orphanage.

Smyllum Orphanage 1948 to 1951

4. I was about five-and-a-half years old when my brother, sister, and I went into Smyllum. I can't remember any discussion about where we were going, or the arrangements for our care.
5. My dad took us to Smyllum. I can remember my dad in his uniform, holding [REDACTED] in his arms. I had a lot of anger towards my dad for a lot of years about him putting us in care. I had lost my mum and now I was losing my dad, my whole family.
6. I don't think my dad had much choice about where to put us, but he wanted us to be together.

Routine at Smyllum Orphanage

First day

7. I remember the uniforms of the priests and the nuns. I can remember a nun called Sister ^{FRH} [REDACTED] I think she was quite high up the pecking order. The Mother Superior was the boss but I can't remember her name. I can remember there were some priests too, but I can't remember all of their names. The priest I remember the most, was Father ^{FSX} [REDACTED]
8. Smyllum must have been quite big. There was a lot of grass and many trees. I can remember a big oak tree in the grounds and [REDACTED] and I trying to put our arms right around the tree trunk. Then [REDACTED] and I were split up and put in separate boys' dormitories. [REDACTED] was put in a separate dormitory too. I didn't see them again for the entire two years we were in Smyllum. The only time I can remember the three of us being together was at the farm.

9. Smyllum was a big building, but I can't remember much of the details of it. There were about thirty to forty children at Smyllum, boys and girls. The age range was from babies like [REDACTED] right up to older teenagers. I can't remember anyone explaining the routine to us, or speaking to us about how things worked at the place.
10. I think that for the first couple of days at Smyllum, I couldn't believe what was happening. I was not used to dealing with all the nuns and priests. I didn't know anything about religion. We would have to stand to attention if any of the staff walked past us.

Mornings and bedtime

11. There were twelve children to each dormitory. In my dormitory, there was a boy called [REDACTED] one called [REDACTED] and another called [REDACTED] I was good pals with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and we used to stick up for each other.
12. We got up about seven o'clock in the morning. There would always be a member of staff on what was called the night desk. It would be a nun with a lamp on the desk, doing paperwork or reading. If you got up in the night to go to the toilet, you would get a nasty look from the night desk staff. There would be one member of staff in each dormitory at night. It was these night desk staff who would wake us up in the morning.
13. We would get washed, dressed and stand at the end of our beds. Whoever was on duty would come round and make sure you had cleaned yourself. Then we went off for breakfast.
14. The dormitory I was in was a big massive room. There were individual beds, not bunk beds. We were given a change of bedclothes each Monday. The nuns would throw the fresh bedclothes on your bed and you had to make it.
15. When we went to bed at night, we all had to get into bed from the left hand side, you weren't allowed to get into bed from the right hand side. They had those kind of rules for everything.

16. Everything was timed at Smyllum, even when you went to bed. You would have to recite religious prayers at night. The nuns would complain if they couldn't hear you.

Mealtimes/Food

17. We always ate together, four at a table. We always sat at the same seats at the same table. The nuns would examine our hands before each meal, and if they weren't clean enough, you would get a whack, and get made to wash them again. Then they would serve the meals to us. They just chucked the plates down and we had to eat it, we didn't get given any choice about what to eat.
18. The food was usually fried but there was a limited selection of cereals for breakfast, from which the staff would choose which one to serve. If they decided you were getting Cornflakes, you just had to eat them. There was no question of being able to choose for yourself.
19. If you didn't like the food you were given, you were still made to eat it. That's just the way life was. I remember one boy didn't like carrots, he would push them on to my plate. Some other kids didn't like orange juice and they would spill it on the floor. You would be made to stay at the table until you had finished your food, and everyone else at your table would have to stay too. We all had to leave the table together.
20. If you didn't eat your food, you would get a punishment. You would have to make the sign of the cross or they would make you pray to a statue of Jesus or The Virgin Mary, which was up against a wall, or say five or ten Hail Mary's. They had statues like that all over the place.

Washing/bathing

21. We always had to wash our hands before and after each meal. The nuns would check our hands, and if they weren't cleaned properly, we would get whacked and told to do it again. That happened to me, and I saw it happening to other kids.

22. Father ^{FSX} would sometimes tell the boys to hurry up in the shower, but he would have one boy in there at the end. I didn't see anything happen in the showers because I had been told to get out and get dried, but you could hear things.

Clothing/uniform

23. We wore white trousers and white tops. I think we got a change of clothes on Monday, along with our change of bedding. You didn't have your name on your clothes. I don't think they had individual uniforms for each boy, it was more like one-size-fits-all.

Personal possessions

24. We didn't have any personal possessions. We didn't have any toys, I didn't know what a toy was until I went to Bridge of Weir.

School

25. It wasn't a normal school. The nuns taught us in Smyllum and I don't remember any external teachers coming in to the place.
26. We were all made to feel like dunces. You would be made to stand in a corner if they weren't happy with you. You would have to stay there until they told you to come out.
27. I don't remember anyone praising me for anything at Smyllum. I'm not saying they didn't, but I can't remember it. It wasn't a normal life.
28. You would get hit with a ruler on the back of the hand if you got a question wrong. When you were hit, you would have bruising, at least I did. They would tell the staff on the following shift who had been punished, and where they had been hit. If you were hit on the hand, the nuns on the next shift would ask you how your hand was. It was as if they were making fun of you.

29. The whole place was so regimented, people don't believe how hard, how tough it was. When I joined the army, I was already used to their regime from being at Smyllum. To the nuns, you were just a number. They only used your name if they had to. You were treated worse than a dog.

Chores

30. The nuns would come in with a list of jobs and tell you who was to clean the showers, who was to clean the floors. We used to have to use these big bumpers with a cloth to clean the floors. I think it helped me to learn this routine, when I later joined the army.

Leisure time

31. They didn't have TV at Smyllum, the first time I saw a TV was when I went to my next placement at Bridge of Weir. They didn't have any radios either. They did have a little library, but the nuns would always check to see what you were reading. You might get a chance to read a book for half-an-hour or so.
32. I remember there were big long corridors at Smyllum, or at least they seemed big to me as a child. There were lots of doorways and other hiding places when we were playing. I can remember [REDACTED] and me fighting over a doorway for a hiding place.
33. There wasn't much leisure time. [REDACTED] and I would play outside amongst the big oak trees. You might have got an hour here and there, but we were usually doing stuff. They had everything timed.
34. There were no school sports days or anything like that. There was nothing outside the regimented system that they had. There was never any recognition for your achievements.

Religious instruction

35. There were set times for prayers, 9 am and 6 pm. We would have to pray to a statue of The Virgin Mary or Jesus. The nuns would say the prayer and we would have to repeat it, which would be for fifteen or twenty minutes. I remember being down at prayer for a punishment, with [REDACTED]. We were praying in front of a statue, and he started laughing, so he got more punishment for that the next night. Another time, we were both misbehaving, and we had to do extra Holy Communion as a result.
36. Sunday was a very religious day. On Sunday, we had two services. We had one each day Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday as I remember.
37. The nuns each had their own areas where they would take you for religious instruction, to a particular statue or place. The children would be made to get up on a chair in front of the crucifix and kiss God's feet. Father FSX [REDACTED] would sometimes turn up at wherever you had been sent for punishment to do prayers. He would have been told who was sent for punishment and where they would be.
38. Father FSX [REDACTED] had about five or six boys from the home as choirboys. It was always the same boys, and they would be singing during the service. I wasn't in the choir as my singing wasn't good enough.
39. I did not follow religion as a result of my time at Smyllum. I was never given any religious medals at Smyllum.
40. Smyllum really changed my life. As an adult, I can now see that some of the nuns seemed to get a kick out of the way they treated the children. There was never any love and affection from any of the staff at Smyllum.

Trips/Holidays

41. I can't remember ever going out of Smyllum on a trip or anything.

Birthdays and Christmas

42. Christmas was just marked in terms of religious services. There were more religious services than usual. There were no Christmas presents on Christmas morning. There was no celebration of your birthday at Smyllum. You weren't treated as a normal child, you were an orphan.

Visits/Inspections

43. I didn't see my sister [REDACTED] at Smyllum. I did ask to see her, but the nuns always had an answer for you. They would say, "We will see what we can do." But the next day, they would just change the subject.
44. The nuns would tell me I didn't have a mum and dad, even though I got to see my dad. The nuns would have made a good Mrs Hitler.
45. I can remember people coming round to Smyllum. I would ask strangers, couples if they were there to take me away. The nuns would say to them not to take me, to take another child.
46. I remember my dad came up to see us at Smyllum. I have since learned from my records that he was sometimes given funds to come and visit us, but he didn't. I remember my father was a big tall man with wavy hair. He brought us a bag of oranges. I thought it was great, but a priest took the oranges off us. I can't remember my dad ever saying to us at Smyllum that he was sorry about putting us in care, that he didn't have a choice because mum had died. That's just the way it was I suppose.
47. I can remember my Aunt [REDACTED] did come up to see us a couple of times, but I can't remember any closeness with her. I found out later in life that there were other family members, but they didn't want to know us. There was a common misconception that kids in care were bad.

Healthcare

48. If we needed any health care, they would bring someone in from outside if it was something major, but usually if something was wrong, the nuns would just put a plaster on you. I can remember suffering injuries at Smyllum, just with boys being boys, and the nuns didn't bother to treat the injuries. I was usually too scared to ask for any medical treatment that I might need.
49. We were given Castor Oil every Saturday. They used the same spoon for all of us.

Running away

50. I didn't run away from Smyllum, but I thought about it. The trouble was, there was nowhere to run to.

Bed Wetting

51. If boys wet the bed, at two or three in the morning, the nun on night duty would shout at them. The nuns would be angry, shouting things like, "What the hell have you done that for?" They would make the boy strip the bed. You would hear it happening to other boys, everyone would wake up with all the commotion, and they would see who had wet the bed. That's the way it was.
52. They would make the boy who wet the bed pray to God Almighty for wetting the bed. Then they would make the boy go for a shower. The washing area was not far from the dormitory. Some kids wet the bed more regularly than others did. I was hit on the side of my head for this at least twice, mainly by Sister FRH
53. A lot of the nuns showed hatred towards the kids. I'm not saying they were all like that though. Sometimes they would whack the kid who wet the bed. I didn't see it but I could hear it.

Abuse at Smyllum

54. I remember one time when [REDACTED] and I were playing. [REDACTED] tripped on the stairs and caught his hand in the bannister. He bruised and badly injured his hand trying to save himself from falling. They went mad with him, he got hell for that. I don't think he got any medical treatment.
55. Usually when you had done something wrong, the nuns would send you to Father [REDACTED] FSX's office. He was a tall guy with ginger hair. He was built like a rugby player, but taller. He was around about 35 years old. When he came in, the boys were really frightened of him. He was massive, and he seemed to get pleasure of being in authority over the boys.
56. If I was getting punished, there might be three or four other boys there too. We would have to pray to a statue. Father [REDACTED] FSX would sometimes come along to watch us, because he would know in advance who was going to be there for punishment.
57. Whenever Father [REDACTED] FSX came along, you would be in fear. This was someone you should have felt respect for, but all I could think was, "How am I going to get out of here?"
58. You would get whacked with a belt as punishment, for whatever you had done wrong. Father [REDACTED] FSX would belt us, and the nuns used belts too. Whenever you got whacked with the belt, it was never anywhere where it would show. They would hit the top of your arms, your thighs, and your backside.
59. When boys got taken to Father [REDACTED] FSX's room, he would only take one boy at a time. You couldn't see what was happening, but you could hear it from outside the door. It wasn't just a question of someone getting whacked with a belt and screaming out, we knew what that sounded like. It sounded like they were getting abused. I remember my friend [REDACTED] being in the room and I had to stand outside, standing to attention. I could hear him getting abused.

60. Sister **FRH** sometimes went in to the room with Father **FSX**. Based on the noises I could hear, I think Sister **FRH** was involved in sexual abuse in that room, as well as Father **FSX**. When she came out, she would be saying to the child who had been in, "You naughty boy." She was trying to give the impression the child had done something wrong, that they were at fault. We were all afraid when Sister **FRH** was on duty.
61. When Father **FSX** took a boy into his room, there was always a nun standing guard outside, so no one could get in. It wasn't just Sister **FRH** there were other nuns who did it too. The nun who was standing guard would have been able to hear what Father **FSX** was doing.
62. When I was in Father **FSX**'s office, he would belt me whilst getting me to give him oral sex. He would order me to do things to him down below, when he was hitting me. He would perform acts of abuse on me too. That happened to me a couple of times, and it happened to other boys too. He was a big man and I was scared. He was getting pleasure out of what he was doing. It is a horrible memory to have, of a grown man doing that to me, when I was just a child.
63. After being in Father **FSX**'s office, the boy would get sent to the showers. You would hear stories from other boys, and I saw boys crying from what he had done to them. Sometimes, he would hold one boy back in the showers, on his own. I didn't get held back in the showers, but my friend **██████████** did. He got whacked.
64. When you were in the showers, you would see the injuries of other boys. They would have heavy bruising on the thighs and on the backside. We were supervised in the showers, either by Father **FSX** or a couple of the nuns.
65. I can still hear the noise of someone being hit with an old-fashioned belt, and sometimes the sounds of the sexual abuse.

Reporting of abuse at Smyllum

66. I didn't tell any of the other boys at Smyllum about the abuse I suffered. I didn't tell any of the other nuns either. I believe there were sexual relationships between some nuns and Father **FSX** Sister **FRH** was one of these, I can't remember other names. It's just with hindsight, the way they looked at one another especially when Father **FSX** was abusing a boy.

Leaving Smyllum

67. I remember getting in a minibus at Smyllum and going to Glasgow. **██████████** and **██████████** were still at Smyllum. There were a couple of nuns in the minibus. I can remember we went to George Square, and then we went to John's Street, to a clothing store. Then we went back to the minibus and I was taken off to my next care home. I just went on my own, not with my siblings.
68. I wasn't told in advance that I was moving on. I dare say there was some discussion amongst the nuns and priests, but I wasn't told. I didn't get the opportunity to say goodbye to my friends **██████████** and **██████████** It was just a case of being there one minute, and the next minute, I was gone. They just took me to Gryffe Children's home.
69. I don't remember anyone praising me for anything at Smyllum. I'm not saying they didn't, but I can't remember it. It wasn't a normal life.
70. Smyllum completely changed my life. I have no good memories from Smyllum, it was always fear, and everything was tough. My time in Smyllum was tougher than my time in the army, in Londonderry.

Gryffe House Children's home, Bridge of Weir 1951 to 1953

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Gryffe Children's home

91. I think it was the council, the powers that be, that decided to move me on again. There was a man in his early sixties, I can't remember his name, he was something to do with the corporation. I saw him a few times. He told me I was moving to a family. I asked what was happening about my brother and sister. He said they were going somewhere else but I was not told where. I think I was moved on my own because that's how children's homes were run at the time. I had become more relaxed, for want of a better word, at Gryffe House. That disappeared when I got told I was moving on. I was just told, "Get in the van." Secondary Institutions - to be published later

FRM-SPO family, foster placement, 1953 to 1955

Routine at FRM-SPO family foster placement

92. FRM-SPO were farmers. They lived at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a working farm, it still is.
93. FRM-SPO had an adult son. He worked in a hotel. That's probably why we went there because there were only two adults to work the farm. [REDACTED] was fine, she had grey hair.

94. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were with me at that placement, they arrived after me. All three of us went to [REDACTED]. It was the first time the three of us had been together since before Smyllum. [REDACTED] was eight years old, it was like I was a stranger to him. I was ten, having been born in 1943, [REDACTED] was born in 1945. I was at [REDACTED] for two years.

Mealtimes/Food

95. The food was basic. Bread was the basic thing we ate. They did have meatballs or faggots sometimes.
96. Sunday was a luxury, we would get a slice of jam roly-poly or a slice of cake. We only got that on a Sunday.

Washing/bathing

97. We had a bath on a Saturday. [REDACTED] would bath us. There was no hot water. We had to boil a kettle on the old black stove. [REDACTED] had a bath first, then [REDACTED] and then me because I was the oldest. It was the same water for all three of us.

Clothing/uniform

98. Our clothing was just whatever they chucked at us. I remember going to school in a V-neck jumper. It had one long sleeve and the other was cut short. For footwear, we only had wellies at [REDACTED]. It was embarrassing in the summer months when other children were going around in shoes.

School

99. I remember the school in [REDACTED]. I enjoyed school, not so much for the schooling, more for the contact with other children. I made friends with a local boy, [REDACTED].
100. I can't remember the name of my teacher, she had probably passed-on now. There was only one teacher at the school. Myself, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all in the same

class. I went to school in [REDACTED] I missed a lot of school due to working on the farm. I remember [REDACTED] asking me why I hadn't been to school one week and I told him I was working on the farm. I think my teacher knew too. It's the way it was in rural communities at the time.

101. I remember the local priest would take photographs of the class. I felt uncomfortable. I was not used to photographs and I wondered what was going on that he had to take a photograph. It was a peculiar thing because I was not from a family that took photographs. Also, it felt uncomfortable because it was a priest taking the photographs.

Chores

102. Me and [REDACTED] used to go across a field to get fresh drinking water from a well. It was about twelve minutes' walk each way. We did it before school and after school, rain or shine.
103. We would have to milk the cows daily. We had to dig up the potatoes and cauliflowers. That's why I missed school so much. They had a great big field, from the farmhouse down to the beach. We would sometimes have a wash down at the beach when we were working.
104. Me and [REDACTED] would get sent up to the local shop for groceries. They had food in tins there. Sometimes [REDACTED] would give us a biscuit for going. Once I got a penny for getting the shopping. It was like a gold bar. I could spend it on gobstoppers and other sweets. Simple things like cakes, biscuits, and sweets were a luxury.

Leisure time

105. The three of us [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and me, being together is a happy memory. I learned to ride a bike at [REDACTED] Me and [REDACTED] found an old frame and a couple of wheels. It was not much of a bike, it had no handlebars or front tyre but to me it was luxury.

106. It was a happy time for me, because [REDACTED] was happy. I remember teaching [REDACTED] how to milk a cow. She loved one of the cows, she called it Blondie. I have happy memories of the cows. We would squirt milk at each other. There was a wee dog, [REDACTED] loved it. The three of us being together is a happy memory.
107. We didn't really get time to play, but we made our own games. We played rounders using a stick. I still have a mark on my foot from being injured after standing on a dog's bone playing rounders. There was no television.
108. My friend from school, [REDACTED] invited me over to his house for tea a couple of times but it never happened because I was working on the farm. We were hardly ever off the farm. The three of us missed out on a lot of luxuries because of other people.

Religious instruction

109. There was a lot of religion in [REDACTED] There was a church at [REDACTED] but I felt uncomfortable around the priest. That was probably because of Smyllum. It felt very strange as a child, having to talk to a statue and it was not talking back. I would try to make excuses for not turning up. Me and [REDACTED] got shouted at for not going to church a couple of times. My punishment for not going to church would be to go back to church at 6.00 pm and genuflect to all the statues. As a kid I didn't know what all the statues were for.
110. I did have to go to confession at [REDACTED] but I never spoke about what happened at the [FRM-SPO] farm. I only went to confession a couple of times.

Birthdays and Christmas

111. I never celebrated my birthday as a child. It wasn't until I was an adult that I realised about people doing that.

112. Christmas was just a normal day at the FRM-SPO farm. I was thirteen or fourteen years old before I realised what Christmas presents were all about. I still find Christmas difficult now. I was never shown love or toys as a child.

Healthcare

113. There were no luxuries like doctors. I don't think there was a doctor in the village.

Abuse at FRM-SPO family foster placement

114. I remember ██████ cut her foot on the pet dog's bone. I tried to console her. I took her to the farmer, Mr FRM ██████ I got a bollocking from him. He said I shouldn't be playing, I should be working. I was made to dig potatoes as a punishment. I had just been trying to help my sister.
115. FRM ██████ sometimes came home drunk. He was a big farmer. He would whack ██████ in front of us. I tried to stop him. He hit me too and I got bruises on my face. I was assaulted this way two or three times a month. I can't remember if he hit me with his hand. He hit me with whatever was available, such as his bicycle pump.
116. FRM ██████ seemed to have a lot of bad feelings towards ██████ because they had taken on three children. Even the local police officer said we shouldn't be on that farm. I saw him talking to FRM ██████ sometimes and you could kind of tell what they were talking about based on their expressions and I then read about it later in my records. He had a few run-ins with FRM ██████. I can't remember the police being at the farm but they probably were. FRM ██████ and ██████ would cover things up. I missed a lot of school because of FRM ██████ both due to having visible injuries and because he had me working on the farm, doing the work of a grown man.
117. FRM ██████ never really spoke to us properly. He seemed to resent us being there. There was one time he hit all three of us. Me and ██████ were in bed. ██████ was in

a separate bed. I tried to protect [REDACTED] She was crying and she had wet the bed. She wet the bed when FRM [REDACTED] started shouting, before he hit us.

118. FRM [REDACTED] would hit us and the next day it was like it never happened. FRM [REDACTED] was a handful, he was very overpowering and often drunk. He was violent when he was drunk. [REDACTED] was aware of him hitting us, she was there but she was in fear. I think she was on edge by the time it got to the weekend. I think she lived in fear of him. She was an adult and was in fear of him. We were just children.
119. I'm not saying that FRM [REDACTED] didn't abuse [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] and I weren't around. I felt uncomfortable about that, but I didn't see anything. She was in the same bedroom as me and [REDACTED] Sometimes she would see FRM [REDACTED] and just pee herself.
120. I believe something sexual may have happened but [REDACTED] never said anything. I would love to turn the clock back and prove that FRM [REDACTED] did, to prove that he was the start of [REDACTED]'s problems in life. She had always had a horrible life because of men. I have always felt uncomfortable about it.
121. We would get abuse at school for being orphans, we got that at the FRM-SPO farm too, from the [REDACTED] family on the next farm. I got into fights with the [REDACTED] son at school and on the farm. I gave him a black eye for calling me an orphan. His mother came up and spoke to FRM-SPO [REDACTED] about it. The [REDACTED] said they didn't want me or my siblings across on their land for any reason. As punishment, the FRM-SPO [REDACTED] kept me off school for a couple of days, working on the farm.

Leaving FRM-SPO [REDACTED] family foster placement

122. I left [REDACTED] on my own, I went to Anniesland. Mr Marshall, the man in the suit, took me away from [REDACTED] I got in the bus without [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I asked where my brother and sister were. I don't know why I got moved from [REDACTED] I wasn't told. Mr

Marshall took me to get clothes at John Street before going to the [FSU-SPO]. He picked out some clothes that he thought would fit me.

123. It seemed like myself, [redacted] and [redacted] were just getting to know each other. The adults seemed to take great delight in moving one or two of us. I think that's just the way councils were run. It seemed like they thought, "These kids are too happy. Let's move him on."
124. I left [redacted] and went to the [FSU-SPO] in Anniesland, Glasgow. I think [redacted] and [redacted] stayed at [redacted] for a few weeks, then got moved on to somewhere else. I felt so uncomfortable for my sister.

**The [FSU-SPO] family, foster placement, [redacted] Anniesland, Glasgow
1955 to 1956**

125. I was sent to stay with [FSU-SPO]. They had two daughters. The [FSU-SPO] were both in their sixties. I was at the [FSU-SPO] house for over eighteen months.
126. I was on my own at Anniesland, I had been split up from [redacted] and [redacted] after leaving [FRM-SPO] family. They had a son called [redacted] who worked as airport security. [redacted]'s girlfriend [redacted] was there too. They had two daughters, [redacted] and [redacted] who didn't live with them, but popped in. I got on fine with the [FSU-SPO] daughter [redacted]. She was 21 years old.
127. Mrs [redacted] was a nice woman, I felt very relaxed around her. She did some voluntary work. It was [FSU] who was the problem. He had worked but was retired. I don't know if the [FSU-SPO] fostered children before or after me.
128. Like a lot of homes, the [FSU-SPO] gave a false impression of what things were like when you arrived but I felt more secure being in a family. I had never really been in a family unit before. I thought I was coming from hell on [redacted] to heaven with the [FSU-SPO] family in Anniesland but it wasn't like that.

**Routine at [FSU-SPO] family foster placement, [REDACTED] Anniesland,
Glasgow**

First day

129. I was met by the [FSU-SPO] family. It was a nice house. They had a TV in the front room that you had to put 50p in the back to make it work. I used to make excuses to go and have a bath when soaps were on the TV because they showed family life.

Mealtimes/Food

130. Mrs [REDACTED] would ask about which foods I liked, and then she would make those meals. She asked if I liked mince and tatties. I said yes and she made it for me. The three of us would sit and have a family meal together.
131. I tried to live a normal life at Anniesland but my situation was affecting me. I was losing weight, people were commenting on it. Mrs [REDACTED] would give me a plateful of food and I would leave half of it.

School

132. I went to Knightswood School. I got on alright for a little while. I got some abuse from some other kids because I was fostered.

Leisure time

133. I would hang about with other local kids. The [FSU-SPO] let me go out and eventually I got my own key. Sometimes Mrs [REDACTED] would give me ten pence, which was a fortune to me. I remember going to the park and having a kick-about.

134. I got to know other kids round about by hanging about a nearby café. When they heard I was at the [FSU-SPO] they said, "Oh, you must be an orphan." I couldn't sit in the café and explain my family situation to those kids. I used to go to the cinema at Anniesland to get away from it all. I felt unwanted.
135. I tried to keep occupied at weekends. I used to hate the weekends because it meant Monday was coming round. If it hadn't been for the abuse [FSU] perpetrated on a Monday, Anniesland would have been great.

Religious instruction

136. When I was at Anniesland there was a priest that ran the local football team. I played as goalkeeper in the team. If you didn't go to church he went mad. I went out on Sunday and pretended to go to church. I didn't want to go to church because of the abuse I suffered at Smyllum. A couple of weeks later he asked where I was that Sunday, he went mad at me. Then he dropped me from the team. I was punished by the [FSU-SPO] for not going to church. I got grounded and wasn't allowed to watch T.V. or go to the movies.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

137. During my whole time at Anniesland, as far as I remember, I didn't have any contact with [] and [] I didn't want to lose contact with them but I didn't know where they were.
138. I got letters from my aunt and I went to see her a couple of times at Easterhouse. My aunt told me about my dad. She had originally told me both my parents were killed in a car crash. I tried to talk to my aunt about my dad, but she didn't want to know. She then told me he had deserted from the navy. She thought he may have ended up in London.

Running away

139. A couple of times I didn't come home on time, even though I had a key. When I did go in, they shouted at me. I came back once about 1.00 am. The lights were on in the front room. I didn't want to go in because of fear. It was raining and I was soaking but it was still better than going in. I made up a story that I had been out with a girl. Mrs ██████ said she would talk to me about it the next day but I didn't tell her what ██████ FSU was doing to me. I didn't want to destroy their family. She probably wouldn't have believed me anyway.

Bed Wetting

140. I wet the bed at the ██████ FSU-SPO I had bad dreams. I would tell Mrs ██████ and she was fine about it but I was embarrassed. I don't think she told ██████ FSU about it.

Abuse at The ██████ FSU-SPO family foster placement

141. I can remember ██████ FSU being in bed with me but I can't remember how old I was. He always got hammered on whisky on a Monday night. I can remember hearing Mrs ██████ shouting at him that he wasn't getting to sleep with her. I remember him smelling of whisky and body odour. He would get me to masturbate him. A couple of times he put his penis between my buttocks. He didn't put it in my anus but it was horrible.
142. My life got destroyed by ██████ FSU I thought I was getting away from all that by getting away from the priests and ██████ FSU was a civilian. I was on a high when I thought I had got away from the sexual abuse at Smyllum and then my world came crashing down again.
143. ██████ FSU was drunk when he abused me but I don't blame the drink. He must have thought about what he was going to do to me before he got drunk. It was like going from someone who was nice, to someone being a monster. He would come in when I

was getting washed and offer to wash my back for me. FSU's sexual abuse of me usually took place on a Monday. The next day, he would act like nothing had happened.

144. I liked Anniesland as an area. I tried to have a normal life but the abuse was affecting me. I don't think Mrs [REDACTED] knew what was going on.

Reporting of abuse at The FSU-SPO family foster placement

145. I never mentioned the abuse by FSU to anyone. Mrs [REDACTED] was a lovely lady but I never spoke to her about the abuse. I couldn't talk about it with the kids I hung about with at the café. I just wanted to stay away from the area.

Leaving The FSU-SPO family foster placement

146. One day I was with Mrs [REDACTED] and I started crying. She asked me what was wrong. I couldn't tell her what FSU was doing, I just said I wasn't happy staying with them. She contacted Glasgow City Council and arranged for me to be moved. Mrs [REDACTED] wasn't happy about it. I couldn't get away from there quick enough. My life had been destroyed.
147. I went to stay with my aunt for a couple of days, I can't remember where I went to after that. I must have been somewhere but I can't remember.

Life after being in care

148. When I left care, I wanted to get as far away as possible. It was nothing against Scotland, but I wanted to get far away from the places I had been in care. They had a careers talk at school and that's when I said I wanted to join the Merchant Navy. I left school at fifteen years of age, and I worked in a metal works in Maryhill, Glasgow. I

joined the Merchant Navy when I was sixteen. It was the best thing I ever did. After I left the Merchant Navy I joined the army.

The Merchant Navy 1959 to 1966

149. Wherever I was living at after the [FSU-SPO] house, the letter came in saying I was accepted for the Merchant Navy. I remember the people I was staying with were quite annoyed because I hadn't mentioned that I had applied. I told my work in Maryhill I was leaving. I had six weeks training in Gravesend.
150. When I joined the Merchant Navy it changed my life completely. It was great. I spent about six and a half years from 16 to 23 working on ships, a 32,000 tonne passenger liner and a 36,000 tonne one. I worked on cruise ships all over the West Indies, Bermuda, and the U.S.A. I went to New York. We got the same food as the passengers. It took me a long time to adjust to being with normal people.
151. I remember the Chief Steward saying that I and other junior staff should start saving. I got a bank account organised by the company so that I didn't get my wages, they went into an account. I was able to do this because we got all our food and accommodation on board the ship. I got promoted to serve at the Captain's table.
152. Some guys on the ship were gay. I was wary to begin with because I had been abused by men, but I got to know them and they were okay. I became relaxed around them.
153. On my first leave I went back to the [FSU-SPO]s in Anniesland for a couple of days. I didn't have anywhere else to go. The ship I was working on was being refitted in Belfast for 63 days, so I couldn't stay on the ship. I had some photographs of my travels to show the [FSU-SPO] [FSU] cut up the photographs. I don't know why he did it. I can't remember confronting [FSU] about the abuse. The rest of the [FSU-SPO] family were fine but I felt uncomfortable after a couple of days. I didn't confront [FSU] about the abuse he subjected me to. I can't remember where I went next but I never went back to Anniesland after that.

The Army, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1967 to 1982

154. I left the Merchant Navy in 1967, I was feeling a bit restless. I decided to join the army. I joined up at the recruitment office on Sauchiehall Street with two of my mates, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We went to Aberdeen to do our training. It took twenty weeks. I was in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders regiment but I was seconded to the Royal Scots for nineteen months. I was stationed in Greece, Norway, and Northern Ireland.
155. At my passing-out parade my Sergeant said one of my relatives was there. It was my aunt [REDACTED] from Easterhouse. I hadn't seen her or had letters from her in years but she spoke to me as if we had been in regular contact.
156. When I joined the army it was a home. I felt very comfortable with the other guys. I had the kind of fun I should have had as a child.
157. I had several tours of Northern Ireland when I was in the army. We were based in Londonderry, and every time we went there, there was someone who didn't come back alive. I remember one of my friends in the army, [REDACTED]. He was killed in Londonderry. I sometimes wish that I was the one who didn't come back, that he had come back instead. I now wonder if I was not wanting to be alive because of my childhood.
158. We didn't get proper rest and recuperation in the army, we would get two days leave but by the time I flew from Belfast to Edinburgh that was the first day done. I would have to fly back the next day.
159. When I was in Northern Ireland, I did have some problems due to thoughts from my childhood. There was one time, around 3.00 am, I was out on patrol and I started thinking about my time at Smyllum. I pictured Father [REDACTED] FSX I remembered his dog collar and the belt he used to beat us. One of the other guys I was on patrol with asked if I was Okay. I said I was just thinking about the street we were on, as the Black Watch

had lost a couple of guys there. I didn't tell any of my mates in the army about the abuse I suffered as a child and about not caring if I died.

160. When I was in Derry in 1971 at one point we had to sleep on the street for nine days because there was not enough room for all the troops. I had a camp bed and a poncho. There was one guy on guard at one end of the street, and another guy at the other end.
161. My friend [REDACTED] was killed on [REDACTED] 1972 in [REDACTED] along with four others. I was asleep when this happened as I had done my patrol. It was a 500 pound bomb that blew up their Saracen vehicle. Every tour we lost guys. My first tour was due to finish on 29 December. On Boxing Day three guys got killed going across a bridge in Derry. That's why I don't like Boxing Day. The next tour on Boxing Day we took heavy machine gun fire at the base. We were about to go on patrol at the time. It took a lot of years for me to stop hearing that gun.
162. I was in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for sixteen years. Then I spent two years in the Territorial Army. I grew my hair longer and had a beard. Then I got a job as a court worker at [REDACTED] Magistrate's Court. I was there for 22 years until I retired.

Siblings, family, and relationships

163. After I left [REDACTED], it was years before I saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] again. When I look back I suppose I could have checked in on them more, but I was young.
164. My brother [REDACTED] died when he was 21. He died in a bus crash in Bolton. My brother had been out drinking to celebrate the end of his apprenticeship and he stepped out in front of a bus and was killed. I was in the army, in Aberdeen, doing my training. I was told about his death very bluntly. My Sergeant asked if I had a brother called [REDACTED]. I told him that I did, and he said, "Not anymore." He told me what had happened and I had to go to Bolton to identify [REDACTED]'s body. I felt so sorry for the bus driver. He had been driving for years without any accidents. He was a couple of years

away from retirement, and [REDACTED] walks in front of his bus. There was an inquiry, the driver had to go to court, and he was in a hell of a state. It was such a shame for the driver.

165. My sister [REDACTED] now lives in Galashiels. I speak to her on the phone every Monday, and I went to visit her last September. She lives in a house for people with special needs. She has bi-polar disorder and has had great difficulty in life, due to her experiences in care. I only found out what happened to [REDACTED] about ten years ago. I haven't told her that I was coming to the Inquiry, she wouldn't understand. She is happy in her own way. When she speaks to me on the phone, she always asks about my dog. I had a dog years ago, but in [REDACTED]'s mind, the dog is still alive now. It makes me happy to know that she is being well looked after. I feel guilty about not being there for [REDACTED] when I was in the army in Northern Ireland and elsewhere but I have been able to do more to help her in recent years. We have had a much better relationship with one another in the last three years. I am supporting her in this Inquiry.
166. I found it difficult to find out information about my dad in later life. When I would speak to my Aunt [REDACTED] if I mentioned my dad she would just clam up. It was very difficult to get any information.
167. I finally married and had a family. I was married to my wife [REDACTED] for fourteen years. My relationship with my wife ended because of problems arising from my time serving in Northern Ireland. I had flashbacks when I was on leave. My wife died in 2005. I have two children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My son lives in Swindon, my daughter lives in Plymouth. I did have contact with my kids after my divorce from [REDACTED]. I haven't told them about the abuse I suffered in childhood. I had had no relationship with my daughter for the last two years as she is a drug addict. I have tried to help her, I got her into rehab twice. Her partner [REDACTED] is worse than [REDACTED] with drugs. I think he is pushing them on to her. I have tried to get her to go back to rehab but she won't, so I have had to back off. I am now back in text and phone contact with [REDACTED] since I have been healing from my past and I am very happy when she tells me she loves me and I can tell her too.

168. My friend [REDACTED] that I have known for forty years, for the past ten years we have been going to the football. I can now give him a hug when we meet at the football, but before I would have shaken his hand. [REDACTED]'s family have shown me real love and affection. His two daughters send me Christmas cards and Father's Day cards. They treat me as a second dad. I feel comfortable with them. [REDACTED] has a couple of medical problems so his daughters talk to me about their concerns.
169. About 2004 I found a piece of paper saying that my dad was a deserter from the navy. I was so embarrassed and annoyed. My dad had come to see me in Smyllum but then he backed off. I think that his desertion might have been why he backed off from seeing me at Smyllum. I hated my dad for a long time because of what my siblings and I went through in care. I hated him more when I found out about his desertion. He had abandoned his family, and when he found a new family in the navy, he deserted them as well.
170. When I was fifty years old, in 2007, a woman asked me if I was ^{FSN} [REDACTED] I said yes and she said that my dad was in a care home in Northampton. I told her that my dad had been dead for years. I was told that both my parents had been killed in car accident. I found out later that my mum had died at the age of nineteen from T.B. after giving birth to my sister [REDACTED] When the woman told me my father was in a home in Northampton she asked if I wanted to see him. I went to see him but we didn't have a good relationship before he died. We only had a couple of hours together and I had lost love for him many years ago. My family had told me he was dead and I had come to accept that. When he died I didn't go to the funeral service. He left me a pair of shoes but I just gave them to a charity shop.

Reporting abuse

171. I never told my wife, my kids, or anyone about the abuse I suffered in childhood, not until I spoke to my Counsellor, Lorna. I just learned to live with it.

Impact

172. I felt that I missed out on a lot of education. I should have been at school at [REDACTED] but I was working on a farm. Even in later years at Knightswood I felt I was the orphan, I was behind other pupils. I love history, even now but I could never pick up algebra and things like that. The schools I was in couldn't wait for me to catch up. I did stay behind for extra lessons but it didn't help. I didn't feel comfortable in life and that affected my education. I think I learned the most in [REDACTED] because the teacher would focus attention on me.
173. In my life in general I have missed out on a hell of a lot. Things like going for a walk with your family, or going to the cinema. My whole life since I was five years old has been taken off me because I was never settled. It is very upsetting to think about. It wasn't until middle age that I began to understand many things in life, like Christmas.
174. I never got a chance to bond with my brother and sister. I still find it difficult to get close to people. I feel my sister [REDACTED] has had a terrible life because of me. I am her big brother but I wasn't there for her. We were never around each other long enough. It affected my ability to form relationships with women, that was very difficult. I never had any formal sex education. I am glad I can be there for my sister now.
175. I have found it difficult being around the families of my friends. I would get embarrassed because I wasn't used to displays of love and affection. I had no experience of that type of behaviour for the first twenty years of my life.
176. I had a friend in the army called [REDACTED] He had four daughters. He would visit me and bring his girls. They would sit on my knee but I didn't know how to react to them because I had never been shown love and affection as a child.
177. [REDACTED] was the same, he had two boys. I didn't like them sitting on my knee because I didn't know how to handle it. I was embarrassed. For the first twenty years of my life I had no love, affection, or toys.

178. I completely lost faith in religion from when I was a young boy. In the army it was in my service book that I was agnostic. I didn't go to church but the army were crafty, they made me stand guard outside the church.
179. In care, I was brought up Catholic because my mum and dad were Catholic. I didn't have any choice. I don't like churches but one that I did go into was from the eighth century, I was more interested in the history of the place. I did try to work with a local charity for support but I only went twice because they had a massive crucifix in their place.
180. I have felt suicidal in the past. Years ago my dog saved me from taking my own life. I was going to jump off a bridge. I remember thinking, "Who's going to take care of the dog if I jump?" My friend [REDACTED] from the army thought it was because of our time in Northern Ireland but then I told him about my childhood.
181. I have trouble sleeping, I find it difficult to relax. I have flashbacks about my childhood and Northern Ireland too. I used to get flashbacks on a Monday, because of [REDACTED] FSU [REDACTED]. The flashbacks come on really quickly. I can be laughing and smiling one minute, and the next it just hits me.
182. I started running years ago. I started doing half-marathons when I was still working. I broke my ankle and had to take nine months off work. Years later when I was out running I came to a bridge and I couldn't cross it. I had to leave the guys I was running with. I thought about [REDACTED] getting blown up crossing the bridge in [REDACTED]. I spoke to a therapist after that and that was the start of me unwinding about what has happened in my life. I started speaking to my Counsellor, Lorna, in 2017.
183. From speaking to Lorna, I have learned a lot about my problems and how to deal with them. I do have nightmares about my time in care since I started seeking help about my time in childhood. These nightmares are much less now.
184. Lorna previously recommended an exercise to me, where I would face an empty chair and imagine my one of my abusers sitting in the chair, and I told them about the impact

their behaviour had on me. That did help me, but I really wish I could face my abusers for real, and let them know what they did to me.

185. I have been diagnosed as suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. That actually gave me a good feeling, one of relief. Now I know why I have some of the problems I do. I have been working with Combat Stress, dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from my time in the army. I disclosed to them the abuse I suffered as a child. The counselling I get through Combat Stress has been brilliant. It is my own fault I didn't go earlier.
186. The issues I am dealing with from Northern Ireland have resurfaced recently because of all the talk about Brexit. The news reports are full of reports about Northern Ireland, the Good Friday agreement, and about soldiers being prosecuted.
187. I go out for walks to deal with stress. I went out for a walk about nine months ago and I saw a priest. I felt very uncomfortable for a couple of days after that, like I needed to protect myself. It is the same when I see nuns. I run to stay well.
188. For a long time I couldn't handle looking at photographs either of my family or my comrades from my tours of Northern Ireland, but I have learned to deal with that. I stopped a lot of medication in March 2017.

Records


189. I wrote to Birthlink and got some details about my time in care. They have information regarding [REDACTED] too. My hope is that information can be shared with [REDACTED] but she no longer has the capacity to request the information herself. I am in touch with my sister's care team and am advocating strongly on her behalf. I would like her situation to be assessed by the Inquiry team even if she cannot give a statement. I have asked her care team to apply to the Scottish Government Redress Scheme.

Lessons to be learned

190. In Combat Stress in Surrey they have a room for us to sit in and be alone. Maybe someone would come in and make a cup of tea or just chat about stuff. I think something like that would be good for people dealing with the effects of abuse in care. Maybe a drop-in centre.

Other information

191. I have felt a big sense of relief by talking to the Inquiry staff.
192. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... 

Dated..... 12th November 19.....