

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MGQ

Support person present: No

1. My full name is ^{MGQ} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1970. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I was born in Rinteln, West Germany, as it was then, as my dad, [REDACTED], was stationed in West Germany. He was in the army and was based at the British Army Camp in Gutursloh, West Germany. My dad is now dead but he was from Kilwinning in Scotland. My mum is [REDACTED] and she lives in Plymouth. I have two brothers, [REDACTED] who's 48 and ^{MGR} [REDACTED] who's 46.

Life before going into care

3. We spent about 90% of our childhood in army bases between Germany, Colchester and North Yorkshire. We were schooled in Germany or on the military camps.
4. When I was about six I went to live with my gran in Irvine in Scotland and I attended St Marks Primary School there for about a year. When we reached the age of eight, we all went to St Columba's College in Largs. [REDACTED] went in 1977, I went in 1978 and ^{MGR} [REDACTED] in 1979. I think it was probably gran that wanted that more than my dad, but he agreed and the army contributed towards the fees. I was there for four years, until it closed in 1982.

St. Columba's College, Largs*General*

5. St. Columba's was a Roman Catholic boarding school and was run by the Marist Brothers. Within the grounds there were two main buildings, Landour House and Northfield House. I have a couple of photographs and I've drawn some pictures of the buildings at St. Columba's and I've handed those over to the Inquiry. The boys all stayed in Landour House and we were educated on the ground floor at Northfield House. The monks stayed on the first floor at Northfield House and we were never meant to be up there.
6. Landour House had bedrooms and the shower room on the first floor. Above that on the second floor were more bedrooms, the washrooms with a bath in it. There was about five bedrooms in total and about four kids to each one. I think the bedrooms were meant to be divided up according to age group, but that wasn't always the case. I do remember an older Spanish boy, who was about fifteen and was there to learn English, being in one room.
7. There was a brother, Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED], who slept in one of the rooms on the top floor. Later, there was also a Brother ^{MID} [REDACTED] and another brother who stayed there.
8. In Landour House there was also the kitchen and pantry, the dining room, lockers, that we never used much, a billiard room, a TV room and a prayer room. We only said prayers in that prayer room a few times and it would always have been with the brothers. It was then made into the brothers dining room and we didn't pray there after that.
9. There was also a room the boys called the 'punishment room' in Landour House. That was where boys got taken when they did something wrong. I wasn't in there very often but I did hear screaming and shouting from in there.

10. There were also day pupils at St. Columba's, not many, but there were local Italian families, the [REDACTED] was one, and then there were about twenty boarders. The boys I remember from St. Columba's are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. That reduced to only a handful from about 1981/82.
11. I thought Brother Germanus was the ^{SNR}[REDACTED] but on my school reports it said it was Brother ^{MNO}[REDACTED] I don't think I ever met Brother ^{MNO}[REDACTED]. The place was supposed to try and prepare you for being a priest but Brother Arthur was the only one you could feel comfortable around. He arrived after the death of Aldo Morone in 1980.

First Day

12. I remember I didn't want to go, and I was holding on to my mum's arm saying I didn't want to go. I remember seeing all these blokes wearing long robes walking about the place giving me funny looks. I was saying to my brother, [REDACTED], that the place looked evil and I just didn't want to stay there. [REDACTED] was pulling at my arm to take me in and I was shouting out saying I didn't want to go in as I thought the place was evil.
13. It was only men allowed upstairs so when we went in to Landour House, mum wasn't allowed to go in and I had to say goodbye outside. I remember her being driven off and I was chasing after her car along Greenock Road. I remember seeing her looking back and waving, the red lights disappearing and walking back to the school.
14. The kids were very welcoming but I have a specific memory of Brother Germanus sitting playing a mouth organ and looking at me. I didn't like it. He just seemed to look at me in an odd manner. Since leaving St. Columba's I have discovered Brother Germanus to be a David McKell, who is dead now.

15. I remember Brother Germanus came into the room and stood in the doorway. He shouted at another boy, he called him evil or something, the boy was just lying on a bed in the room. I couldn't understand why the boy was evil. I was lying on my bed and I pulled my covers up to my face. The boy was saying he hadn't done anything but Brother Germanus wasn't having it and he dragged the kid from his bed by his arm. The kid landed on the ground and Brother Germanus started dragging him by the leg and the kid clonked his head off something. The boy was taken out to the shower room and he was punching out and screaming as he was dragged away. Actually, that might not have been on my first night but it was certainly very soon after I arrived.
16. I was shitting myself, it was terrifying, I jumped out my bed and started running round the bedroom. I didn't know what was happening and I heard other boys shouting at me to get back into bed. I did get back in my bed then I heard another brother shouting "what have you done to this poor child?". I think that was Brother MJZ but I can't be certain. I saw the boy come back in and I'll always remember he'd shit himself and it was all down his leg. I don't know what had happened, if they'd been smacking him or what they'd done to that boy but it made him shit himself.
17. Looking back I think Brother Germanus had been raping that boy. The boy was about eleven or twelve. I ran upstairs and jumped straight into my brother bed every night for about two weeks after that.

Routine

Mornings and bedtime

18. Everything felt fast paced, we were up around 7 o'clock then up to the top floor for washing and the toilet. Then we had breakfast, prayer room and school. I remember the last one out the washroom got a slap from Brother MJZ, he was quite a handy man with his beatings, on your head or wherever.

19. We would shower twice a week, Brother Germanus always seemed to supervise the showers. He would stand at the doorway telling you how to wash and if you didn't do it right he would come and help you. He would hold the towels and if you were the last one out, which you didn't want to be, he would grab you and try to dry you.
20. One day Brother Germanus grabbed my towel off me and started drying me. He started drying my body down, then my hair but then he started drying my bits and he was doing it for ages. He was shaking them up and down and it was starting to hurt, I was so embarrassed and other kids were watching.
21. I wet my bed until after I left St. Columba's, it was so embarrassing. You were punished and they would smack you. I would flip the mattress over to try and cover it up.

Food

22. I remember we weren't allowed in the kitchen at Landour House. We had our meals in the dining room there and the food was awful. I couldn't eat it, it was disgusting but you just ate it. Brother Germanus used to slap me round the side of my face telling me to eat it, then watch me and try to make me sick. I'd be sick and choke on my own vomit but he just kept slapping me. I'd cut off fat from beef and put it on the side of my plate and he would hit me and hit me, again and again, if I didn't eat it.

School / religion

23. I remember we had a school uniform but we only really wore that for school and church, otherwise it was just casual dress. I can't really remember if we always wore a uniform at school.
24. I would say that we were learning but it was nothing like a normal school environment. Nothing like St Marks in Irvine where I went before St. Columba's. I don't remember any exams and I still couldn't read when I left aged twelve.

25. We went to school at Northfield House it was Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] that did much of the teaching. I didn't know ^{AKU} [REDACTED] was his surname until recently when the police were investigating him. In fact I didn't know any of their surnames back then. Brother ^{MNO} [REDACTED] was apparently the [REDACTED] but I think I only saw him once. Brother Arthur also did some teaching. I think there was a Brother ^{MNZ} [REDACTED] as well, he was slim and had a beard and he came to Spain with us on a holiday. I wouldn't have known back then but I doubt any of them were qualified teachers.
26. In fact I remember Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] celebrating having passed some teaching exam as he was all happy and the brothers were saying he could now teach but he'd been teaching us for ages before that. I'm sure that happened with Brother Germanus as well.
27. There was a Spanish brother too, or maybe Brazilian, I can't remember his name but he was really violent. I remember my first day in class there was about ten of us and the Spanish brother, who had gold rings on his fingers, knuckled a boy over the head. He then hauled the boy out his chair and threw him across the floor. The boy smashed his head off an old oil radiator. I thought the boy was dead as he didn't move. He must have knocked him out. That's just the way they were.
28. I can't remember the brother's name but there was one of them, a teacher at school, who would grab you whenever you went near his desk. He grabbed your groin area, or tried to.
29. Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] once threw a duster at me in school and it hit my head. It split open and was bleeding above my right eye. I didn't even know what I had done. I didn't get any first aid or anything for that.
30. I remember at PE we weren't allowed to wear pants under our shorts. We just wore these nylon see through shorts. I once got belted by Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] across the back of my legs for celebrating my brother [REDACTED] scoring a goal at football. It didn't bleed but I had purple marks across my legs and I couldn't sit down. My legs and backside were killing me. I saw that all the time, we just saw it as normal.

31. When we were at school in Northfield House you weren't allowed to go to the toilet on your own. You had to go more than one person at a time. One time I was near the stairs going to the toilet, with another boy, when this old brother appeared and called us over to him. I went over and he grabbed my hand and tried to pull me up the stairs. I started shouting and Brother Arthur came out and shouted at the brother telling him he wasn't supposed to be downstairs when the children were there. Thinking back I do wonder why he wouldn't be allowed downstairs when the children were there and if we were even meant to know they were up there.

32. There was loads of religion, prayers all the time and we went to the church on the main street on the way to Largs. I was also an altar boy in 1979 for a little while.

Holidays, trips and leisure time

33. I don't remember many trips, we never went out much at all. We did go to the circus, I think it was Codonis's Circus, but not much else. I do remember Brother Arthur had a Vauxhall and if we did ever go on a trip we would all pile in the back.

34. We once went on a trip to the seaside and we were in a car park area when my brother, ^{MGR} [REDACTED], stood on the grass. Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] shouted at ^{MGR} [REDACTED] for standing on the grass and punched him right in the face. I remember ^{MGR} [REDACTED] two little feet came up off the floor and he sat up all dazed with blood coming from his mouth. I was looking about for a rock or something that I could hit ^{AKU} [REDACTED] with. I couldn't find one so I didn't do anything but I was really thinking that.

35. We did go on a holiday to Spain one year. We stayed in Barcelona in a school and Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] and Brother ^{MNZ} [REDACTED] the one with the beard, went with us.

36. There was sex abuse on that trip but I didn't realise until later. We slept in a classroom and Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] had a way of making you jealous and actually making you want to sleep next to him. He would ask who wanted to sleep beside him and try to make it sound exciting, that type of thing. I slept beside Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED]

^{AKU} [REDACTED] one night and I went off to play football the next morning and noticed all this white flaky stuff all down my legs. I didn't know what it was but I realise now that he'd been masturbating, the dirty git.

37. There was a play area outside Landour House and we had the TV room and billiard room inside. You were basically allowed to do things unless you'd been bad.
38. Sometimes we went to the swimming pool in Largs with Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]. He was all right, to be fair, but there was one time the swimming attendant came into the changing area and chucked Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED] out saying he had no right to be in there. There was some kind of exchange between them and, I'm not sure but, I think swimming stopped after that.
39. I'm sure Brother Germanus stole my pocket money as well. The boys got wee brown envelopes with 25p or whatever in them and I know my dad handed money in for us but Germanus would ask other boys to share sweets with us and say my dad hadn't given any pocket money.
40. My dad used to give the brothers lots of duty free stuff, things like alcohol and cigarettes, that he would bring back from Germany.
41. I have no recollection of any birthday or Christmas celebrations, certainly nothing that stands out.

Visits/Inspections

42. I don't remember any specific inspections but there must have been something. I remember Brother Arthur talking about how things can't go on any longer and that they need to stop. He would say the place wasn't getting run right and they knew that, so something had to get done. I'm sure he did do something.
43. I don't remember much about healthcare, only really a doctor coming in once or twice.

Running away / discipline

44. I thought of running away but I never knew where to run to. I wouldn't go to my grannies because of how she acted when I told her things about Aldo's death. Some of the bigger boys ran away but most of the time they came back, either with the police or of their own volition.
45. One time we found a glass bottle down by the shore in Largs and we got a piece of paper and a pen and wrote a letter to try and get people to help us. We said we were from St. Columba's and to come and help us. It was actually found near Nardini's, in Largs, and the police came round to St. Columba's and spoke to the brothers, but not to us.
46. There was discipline, but it just depended on the brother. We were usually just hit with whatever they had, usually belted. It would be a belt or ruler across the hand. You didn't have to do much, it could be just for not doing something in school. Sometimes we were lined up and hit just for swearing, it could be anything really.
47. I got the belt once from Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] for fighting with [REDACTED]. He took me up to his bedroom and hit me with it, six of the best, on my hands. It was like one of those things they hit themselves with over their backs for punishing themselves. It had lots of tails more than a normal belt. When I went out, [REDACTED] laughed at me and I said something spiteful back to him. [REDACTED] told on me and ^{AKU} [REDACTED] gave me six more.
48. Fights were actually allowed, the brothers would allow it, Brother Germanus did, if you wanted to challenge another kid, you could just get on with it.

Abuse at St. Columba's

49. I've already mentioned what happened around my first day and the smacks you would get if you were last out the washroom. I have also spoken about Brother

Germanus slapping me and making me sick at mealtimes and other incidents at school and on the holiday to Spain.

50. I was once last out the showers and Brother Germanus grabbed me on the back of my neck with one hand and started fumbling about with his clothing, inside his robes, with his other hand. I was getting really scared so I started screaming "help, help," then he put his hand over my mouth, really tight. I bit him so hard, and he screamed out. Then another brother, I think it was Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED] appeared and told him to get off me and I just sprinted to my bedroom.
51. From that day onwards, after a shower I didn't even dry myself, I just ran straight to my bedroom and got my clothes on.
52. Brother Germanus would also make us do naked exercises. That was in the shower room, he'd stand in front of us and make us exercise. That stopped after Brother Arthur arrived.
53. Brother Germanus was always mocking people and putting them down. Especially my eldest brother, [REDACTED]. I hated the way he always had to put [REDACTED] down and try and make people look like idiots. He was just a horrible person.
54. Brother Germanus once slapped me around the face, in the dining room. My big brother [REDACTED] stood up and shouted at him to leave me alone and Germanus flew at him and attacked him.
55. Boys used to get woken up in their sleep and taken away by Brother Germanus and I used to wonder where they were going. I thought they were being given stuff so I asked if I could be taken. So Brother Germanus took me and another wee boy once to a bedroom across in Northfield House. He opened a bedroom door and told me to go in and just pushed me into the bedroom, closing the door behind me and locking it. I was beginning to get really scared.

56. There was an older brother sitting on the bed and he started coming towards me and grabbing at me. I just went ballistic smashing at the door and screaming 'let me out, let me out'. Brother Germanus opened the door and he had a smile on his face. I ran past him and away to the end of the hallway. Then he took me back across to my room in the other house. I realised then that he was taking the boys over there for the other brothers to do things with.
57. There were brothers who came and stayed at St. Columba's, in Northfield House, who weren't allowed out during the day and only came out at night. You would see them walking about the grounds in pairs, because they had to be shadowed. Maybe six or eight of them at a time. It was like a penance they were serving and they had to be shadowed by other brothers if they'd ever been involved in molesting young children. I think it was something the Pope brought in a long time ago.
58. That's why Brother Germanus did what he did with the kids, taking them across to Northfield House like that. They knew, at St. Columba's, what he was up to and if it hadn't been for Brother Arthur they'd have kept getting away with it.
59. Most nights Brother Germanus would be at the boys' bedsides and his hands would be under the blankets or whatever. I used to wrap myself up in my bed like a mummy, the only bit you could see of me, when I was in my bed, was my mouth.
60. Germanus was always trying to snuggle up to you and kiss you. It wasn't regular with me but he would do it all the time with other boys, in the TV room. He must have been mentally ill or something, there was something wrong with him. We just kept away from him all the time.
61. We used to go long walks into Largs every Sunday and I remember one time, when it was freezing, my hands were so cold when we got back. I was in the TV room and Brother Germanus came up to me and opened his trousers up and told me to stick my hands down inside them to warm them up. I walked out the TV room and I bumped into Brother Arthur so I told him what had happened. I would always go and tell him anything that happened, he was the only one I could tell.

62. Brother Arthur said I must be mistaken and that Germanus must have meant to pop my hands down my own trousers. I went back to the TV room and when we went in, Brother Germanus was sitting there with a boy on his knee and the boy had his hands down Brother Germanus's pants. I went and told Arthur and he came down and went ballistic at Germanus.
63. I once walked in on Brother Germanus and he was dragging my mate [REDACTED] down the side of the bed. I looked at them and I said [REDACTED] but Brother Germanus told me to be quiet and to go away. When they told you to go away you went away. After that [REDACTED] just walked about kicking stones. He used to play football every day but after that he never played football again. One time after I'd left St. Columba's [REDACTED] came to visit me at my house in Colchester but he was like a lifeless kid. Whatever Germanus did to him, in that room that day, it changed him forever.
64. Brother Germanus was a dribbling mess and I actually felt sorry for him even with what he did. He and Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] were the worst and they were living in Landour House with us, so they were literally grooming us all 24/7. Brother Germanus would get drunk and run about tickling us or grabbing us, that was always happening until Brother Arthur arrived, then they would have exchanges and he would stop things.
65. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who was at St. Columba's, he'd been there two or three years before I got there. He used to slap me about a bit and for whatever reason I remember Brother Germanus once gave [REDACTED] a right doing. I remember not long after that Brother Germanus was walking about for a while with a mark on his face, or with his face covered up. I'm sure [REDACTED] and some other lads gave Brother Germanus a doing, in return.
66. I remember Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] once told me that if I helped clear grass and clean the gardens out the front of Northfield House, he'd take me to The Moorings. The Moorings was a place in Largs, for snooker and ice-cream. I thought that was great

and did the job then went for a bath to get washed down and ready to go to Largs. Brother ^{AKU} came into the bathroom, dropped his towel and jumped in the bath with me. I couldn't believe it, what a horrible disgusting sight as well. He was big, fat and disgusting. I was out that bath in a flash. He said that he thought we were going to bath together but I just sprinted to my bedroom.

67. Brother ^{AKU} would set up CB radios to impress the kids and put on horror films to frighten us. We would be frightened to go to bed, so he would cuddle up to some of the boys, get them to sit on his knee or lap and get his thrills from that.
68. I once caught Brother ^{AKU} with a boy in his room. We heard noises from outside and we stormed into the room, just for a laugh. There was a boy on his knees, ^{AKU}, and he was next to Brother ^{AKU} who was standing up in front of him. Brother ^{AKU} turned away and was fiddling with his belt, and I now know what he was up to, but I didn't see anything.
69. Another time I'd gone upstairs to the toilet and I heard noises from behind a door. I opened the door and a boy, ^{MGS} was on the far side of the bed, on his knees. Brother ^{AKU} was in there with him and shouted at me to get out. I didn't see anything that time either.
70. On a third occasion I saw two boys performing a sex act together. That was ^{AKU}, who was on his knees, and ^{AKU} who was standing up. I told Brother ^{AKU} about that but he just tried to normalise it and said it better not get spoken about. I know now that he was covering his tracks because that was what he was making them do.
71. When me and my wee brother ^{MGR} went back for my last year, Brother ^{AKU} put us both in the top bedroom. I remember once being in my bed and hearing a noise at ^{MGR} bed, which was next to mine. I saw Brother ^{AKU} figure moving about then I heard ^{MGR} shouting "what's that, what's that". I sat up and Brother ^{AKU} ran off. We turned the light on and ^{MGR} thought he'd thrown water on him,

but it wasn't water. It didn't smell or feel like water and I know now that Brother ^{AKU} had been masturbating over my brother.

72. There was another brother who was really old, who helped me with my reading. I would sit on his knee and he would snuggle into me when we were reading. Brother Arthur came in once and went mad when he saw what he was up to. That brother was stopped from doing my reading after that.
73. I remember there was a Brother ^{MID} who was kept locked up in one of the bedrooms at Landour House for a while. It was bedroom five on the top floor, I've marked it on the sketch I gave the Inquiry. That was around 1981 and Brother Arthur was the keyholder. I remember Brother ^{MID} was in the Territorial Army at one time. He was locked up in there for weeks sometimes. They would empty out his piss and shit or whatever he'd done after we'd washed and left in the morning.
74. One time me and another boy, it might have been sneaked up to bedroom five and we were looking out the window. You got a great view out to sea on that side of the building. This Brother ^{MID} came in and he took this big Bowie knife out from under his pillow. I was crapping myself, he shouted at us for being in his bedroom and grabbed the other boy. He held the knife to the boys throat and I sprinted downstairs and told Brother Arthur. Brother Arthur came up and sorted things, then he locked Brother ^{MID} back up in the room.
75. I think it was because he shared a room with me, but I'm not too sure if that was at the same time. It might not have been because left after Brother ^{AKU} had interfered with him. came into the room one day and said to me he was going to tell his mum what Brother ^{AKU} was doing to him. I asked if he'd been hitting him but he only said ^{AKU} was a bit of a weirdo. ^{AKU} had been sexually abusing him, I know that now. I went outside and Brother ^{AKU} asked me if had said he was going to tell his mum. I said that he had and I never saw again after that. I know told his mum.

76. There was a brother staying downstairs in Landour House one day, in a room next to the prayer room. He was locked in from the outside. Brother Arthur was away for the day and he gave the key to Brother ^{AKU} [REDACTED] ^{AKU} [REDACTED] then let Brother ^{MID} [REDACTED] the one who had the Bowie knife, out from upstairs and this other brother from the room he was locked in next to the prayer room, downstairs. That brother who was downstairs then attacked a boy. I'd been outside the house with other boys and when we came back in one of the boys had been attacked, I can't remember his name.
77. I remember Brother Arthur saying that those brothers shouldn't have been in Landour House but it was being used because Northfield House was so full up. I believe that's when they went on to buy [REDACTED] in Largs, so they could house all the brothers who'd molested kids. Brendan Geary said to your Inquiry that the Marist Brothers had bought that house because the brothers liked Largs so much. I'm not saying brothers were being hidden away but that house was bought to put the brothers in because of what was happening at the school.
78. When I was an altar boy I was once hit across the face by the local priest at Largs church. I was walking in to the church and two bigger boys behind me were talking, the priest came running up shouting out asking who was talking and then slapped me in the face. I couldn't move my jaw for three days. I don't know his name but I hated him and I stopped being an altar boy after that.
79. There was a time when Brother Germanus wasn't supposed to be in Landour House, and one day he came in drunk and he was chasing us about trying to grab us. Brother Arthur came out the dining room area and told him to get out. Germanus told Arthur he couldn't tell him what to do and took a swing at him but Arthur, and a brother he was with, grabbed Germanus and threw him out.
80. I have to say, it wasn't like every day there was violence, sometimes it was cool and you were happy as pie, it just depended on which brothers were there. If Germanus was about there was usually problems.

81. I wouldn't like to say the whole environment was like that as it wasn't. There were some good people there but they were powerless. Brother Arthur was quite liked in our environment but he wasn't within the whole Marist Brothers environment. He wasn't a Brother Superior at the time, he wasn't that powerful.

Aldo Morone

82. Aldo Morone was a wee boy who arrived at St. Columba's in 1979. Brother Germanus told us that Aldo had been a naughty boy and that he'd come to be sorted out. When Aldo first arrived I think he was too young, he was tiny. He used to kick people and we would always tell him not to.
83. Aldo had his own area to play in at the back of Landour House and we would run round the building to talk to him. I think he had his own area because of insurance, or something like that. He was always being persecuted by Brother Germanus. I once saw Aldo holding his stomach and he told me Brother Germanus had hurt him but then he told me to get lost and just leave him alone.
84. Aldo's [REDACTED] and his step dad was [REDACTED] MFZ. Aldo told me he hated his step-dad. [REDACTED] MFZ later became the [REDACTED] of the Kinharvie Institute in Glasgow and he used to visit St. Columba's. The [REDACTED] Institute provides learning and developmental opportunities for people. It was set up by the Marist Brothers who are now directors of the company.
85. I remember once, when [REDACTED] MFZ turned up at the school, I was outside playing and Aldo was outside as well. The kitchen door swung open and Brother Germanus shouted for Aldo to go in. [REDACTED] MFZ appeared behind Brother Germanus and I remember Aldo saying how much he hated [REDACTED] MFZ. At that time I didn't know who [REDACTED] MFZ was, but Aldo went inside with them.
86. I went round the front and into Landour House to see what was going on and I saw Germanus and [REDACTED] MFZ at the foot of a staircase. They were in some sort of embrace, like they were kissing but they weren't actually kissing. Aldo was standing with them

and ^{MFZ} told him to go upstairs and to get ready. Aldo said he didn't want to but Germanus shouted at him to do what his dad said. ^{MFZ} then stared at me and whispered something to Germanus, but I remember Germanus saying that I wasn't for him and he told me to go outside and play.

87. Later that day, noise went round the school that ^{MFZ} had been thrown out the school because he and Germanus had been found in bed with Aldo.
88. Another time Brother Germanus smashed Aldo in the face, it was in the kitchen in Landour House and he knocked Aldo's glasses off his face. Frank, who cooked in the kitchen with his wife, intervened and told Germanus he couldn't hit a wee boy like that. Frank was mad and saying he didn't know what was wrong with Germanus. Frank and his wife left after that. Frank was a local man who came in to cook, I don't know his surname.
89. One day I was playing with Aldo out the back of Landour House and the kitchen door came flying open. It was Brother Germanus and he shouted at Aldo to get in. I saw Aldo go inside and after a short time I went inside as well. I think I was with ^{MFZ} and we went up to the top floor. As I got near the top I saw Aldo come out a bedroom on the second floor and he fell down some steps and collapsed on the floor. His face was all bleeding.
90. I saw Brother ^{MJZ} screaming at Brother Germanus who was in his bedroom, the same room Aldo just came from. There was a boy who helped hold Aldo up and I went and helped hold Aldo up as well. There were three or four other boys there as well. A brother screamed at us to get downstairs and I let go of Aldo. The brother screamed again so all us boys went down a level.
91. We were told to go to our rooms but we didn't, we just hung about looming to see what was happening with Aldo. Then a doctor turned up and, being noseys, we were trying to see what was happening. We were standing about on the middle floor and I saw the doctor come down the stairs with a brother and they were carrying

Aldo, who had a blanket over his head. We couldn't see Aldo, but it was him, and Brother Germanus was walking behind them with his head down.

92. Later that day we were upstairs in the washroom and I remember seeing blood around the taps of a sink. That was the same washroom they had taken Aldo into.
93. We were away that weekend and when we came back Aldo wasn't there. I asked Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED] about him and I remember I was told Aldo hadn't been very well, that he had something wrong with his stomach. and that he had died. I said it was because Brother Germanus had killed him but I got a telling off for saying that. We all knew Aldo had been killed by Germanus.
94. Aldo was only at St. Columba's for about four or five months. I was at his funeral, I remember it as his mum wasn't even crying, she didn't shed a tear. Aldo told me he hated ^{MFZ} [REDACTED] and that he hated his mum. As an eight year old kid I found that so difficult to understand, why would he hate his mum? What really hurts me is that not a person in the world cared about that kid, not even his own family cared about him.
95. I remember just after Brother Germanus killed Aldo, which is why I came forward to the Inquiry in the first place, I was at the bottom of the stairs and I turned round to Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED] I think it was, and told him I thought we were all going to die in there. He smiled and told me not to be silly and not worry because Brother Arthur would sort it all out.
96. Brother Arthur, who I have spoken about and who was the only decent brother at St. Columba's, was brought in to sort things after Aldo's death. Not just Brother Germanus, all the dirty lot across at Northfield House as well.
97. Brother Germanus went away then as well, but he came back. I remember we were all pissed off when he did come back. We couldn't believe he came back again.

Group visits

98. We sometimes had visits from groups of kids who came with other brothers. They were from Glasgow, I'm sure, and from broken backgrounds or care home establishments. That happened occasionally, but definitely throughout the first two years I was at St. Columba's. It stopped after Brother Arthur arrived.
99. So they would visit, sometimes with boys, when they were on their way to football games or something. I don't remember any names other than ^{MFZ} [REDACTED], who I've already mentioned, he was with them on some occasions.
100. I remember when they once visited, I was in Landour House talking to one of the boys and I asked him if he wanted to go outside and play football. He said he couldn't because he had to go to bed. It was the middle of the afternoon and they'd only just arrived so I couldn't understand why they were going to bed. I remember this brother who came with the kids, who I didn't know, came up to me and took my hand. He told me to go to a bedroom but I said I wasn't going in any bedroom. I was on the first floor and I saw four men in the hallway, in a line, and they all seemed excited. One of the men in the line was ^{MFZ} [REDACTED]. I never went in, I was sent outside by Brother Germanus.
101. The rest of us kids would always be sent out to play when they visited, we'd never be allowed in the house. I know now, thinking back as an adult, that something was definitely going on and Brother Germanus was arranging something with the boys being brought in. Why would they be bringing in boys in the afternoon and telling them they were to go to bed? They were in bedroom two, as I have labelled in my sketch. That was the room some of us boys at St. Columba's called the 'rape room'.

[REDACTED] *brother visits*

102. There was also a group of Marist Brothers that came [REDACTED] once or twice a year. They would stay at Northfield House when they visited. The names I remember from them are Brother [REDACTED] Brother ^{MKA} [REDACTED] Brother [REDACTED] Brother [REDACTED], Brother [REDACTED] and Brother [REDACTED]. Some of them

seemed quite nice and they were probably decent people but as boys we were pointing the finger and saying they were all awful. We knew that just because a brother smiles at you it doesn't mean he's a nice person.

103. I remember Brother ^{MKA} [REDACTED] visiting once, he was a really big bloke and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He came into the billiard room, picked up a snooker cue and stuck the cue up my bum. He was pushing it up between my legs. I ran off with another boy but there was a boy left in there. I remember later on that same day seeing that other boy lying crying underneath the billiard table. He wasn't clothed properly and it was obvious Brother ^{MKA} [REDACTED] or the [REDACTED] brothers had done something to him.

104. Brother ^{MKA} [REDACTED] and some of the others who were visiting from [REDACTED] were definitely doing things to the boys. I know he hurt my brother, [REDACTED], he was upset and ^{MKA} [REDACTED]. Brother ^{MKA} [REDACTED] did something to [REDACTED] but I don't know what it was.

105. Brothe [REDACTED], who had [REDACTED], once grabbed me and tried to pull me into a room. I pulled away and ran to tell Brother Arthur but he told me Brother [REDACTED] was good. I told Brother Arthur I didn't like him and he looked a bit down about that, he didn't say much and nothing happened. It was as if he was worried that Brother [REDACTED] was a weirdo as well.

Leaving St. Columba's for [REDACTED]

106.

[REDACTED]

107.

^{MKB}

^{MKB}

108.

MKB

MKB

MKC

109.

MKD

MKD

110.

Reporting of abuse at St. Columba's

111. I did mention some things to my mum and dad but my dad was a soldier and sometimes I would go back home and I didn't see him. I didn't really see a lot of my dad as a young child.
112. I told my gran but she just got pissed off with me as she saw the brothers as men of god and she was bible mad. She wanted one of us to become a priest, which is why we got sent to that school.
113. We sent letters home but I didn't say or write anything derogatory. I would just say, mum I love you and stuff like that, we didn't want to upset my mum. Me and my older brother, [REDACTED], did that deliberately as we didn't want to upset her. It used to piss me off, to be fair, as I wanted to tell my mum things.

114. Me and my brothers would talk about things but not about sex or the abuse. We used to look on some of the other boys as being soft, the ones who had things happening to them. That's what I'm ashamed about. Kids didn't talk in any details about things, not about sex or the abuse, nothing like that. Although I did tell Brother Arthur about that kind of thing, as I have said, he was the only one you could really trust.
115. I did tell my mum about Aldo but she didn't believe me. I remember pleading with my mum and dad not to send me back for the last year, what with my big brother, [REDACTED] leaving. [REDACTED] said I could manage one more year so I went back with my wee brother ^{MGR} [REDACTED].

Report to police/criminal proceedings

116. I saw a photograph on Facebook of the [REDACTED] Institutes' twenty year birthday celebrations and they put an article online about the Aldo Morone death asking about people being at St. Columba's, so I wanted to help.
117. I have been in contact with the police in relation to the Aldo Morone enquiry, which is on-going. I reported it to a PC Jones at Kilmarnock police office about this time last year. I told him I had been told, at the time, that Aldo had died of a stomach problem and that as far as I knew there had been no police enquiry or anything like that.
118. I have since had further contact with PC Jones and he has told me that the police were not carrying out any further investigation into the death of Aldo Morone, and that he died of natural causes. I don't believe that, I believe Aldo was killed by Brother Germanus.

Life after being in care

119. After Colchester my dad and mum went back to Germany and I went with them. I was about seventeen or eighteen when we returned to England and I went to college in Nuneaton just outside Coventry. Then dad went back to Germany again but I didn't like it in Germany so I stayed in England.
120. My first job was in a slaughter house and then I went into sales. I met my wife, [REDACTED] in 1990 and we've been together ever since. She has three children from a previous relationship and we have three children so we have six children in total and eight grandchildren.
121. In 2013 I had a heart attack and I'm currently not working but, most recently, I was a project manager for a refrigeration and air conditioning company.

Impact

122. I feel I have strict, loving and caring values, not just for ourselves and our family but for people around us as well. That's why I feel ashamed today for some of the stuff that happened in the school. I know I was a little kid but that didn't matter.
123. I remember one time I walked into the bedroom and I was standing at the door and I saw Brother Germanus on a bed, from the back, in front of me. A little boy, who looked half naked, popped his head out from under Germanus and asked me to help him. I just ran off. Germanus told me later that the boy was homesick but he was doing something bad to that little boy. I now know that boy was ^{MGH} [REDACTED]
124. I wouldn't put it all on the Marist Brothers. I came to England and didn't really like English people. It seemed everywhere we went there was bullying about something that separated us, a catholic background, my father being a soldier, the military background. There was always bullying going on.

125. I was probably a bully as well. I can't remember it, but I lashed out so there are probably kids that would say I had hit them. I remember my last school report said I was getting heavy on the sports field, which wasn't like me.
126. I do suffer from sleep paralysis and I try not to reflect on St. Columba's and the abuse. I've not received any counselling other than a little talk to Future Pathways. That all made sense but I don't feel I need anything else.

Records

127. Generally we always got school reports because the Ministry of Defence needed them to show we were being educated. It was at the expense of the Ministry of Defence, so the schools had to produce them. I'm not aware of anything else.

Lessons to be learned

128. It doesn't matter what establishment you're in, they're all the same. If people are in power and they're odd it's a bad thing. Even if they're not odd, they can still get caught up in it. Was Brother ^{AKU} as bad as he was when he was only 24 or did he get caught up in it because of what was going on at St. Columba's? It was rife.
129. The problem is the church's mentality to deal with a lot of it. They can't touch women so if they're homosexuals and reach puberty who are they going to target? It's the children, that's it.
130. Institutions don't work and the worst thing is the government, they want to take kids off people now more than ever. It's like your children don't belong to you anymore, they belong to the country. It's not just little bad monks that have done this, it's the hierarchy. The Marist Brothers are too powerful and they shouldn't have that, but why did my gran think the way she did? It's not just catholic either it happens elsewhere.

- 131. How do you stop people in certain situations. If you open your mouth in this country you're a whistle-blower. Isn't a whistle-blower a good person? Yet they're looked upon as a bad person.
- 132. If we could try and stop sexual abuse, how would we stop it? I'm not sure, possibly bigger sentences or looking to science and removing that part of the human brain. No human rights for paedophiles because they've destroyed a child's life and no access to children.
- 133. Perhaps remove paedophiles from society, they can't be around their target market, they need to be kept apart, they have no place living around us, around children, they just can't be. Even fifty years in jail is no good, they need to be put somewhere on their own, amongst their own.

Other information

- 134. I have provided some documentation to the Inquiry and the police as part of the investigation into the death of Aldo Morone. These include images of the grounds of St. Columba's, Landour House and a group of the boys, including myself, from 1980 and my own hand drawn sketches.
- 135. I definitely believe the brothers that were being housed in the secure rooms at Landour House, some of the rooms in Northfield House and, latterly, at 7 Irvine Road in Largs were all paedophiles who'd received treatment somewhere and had then been sent to St. Columba's to be shadowed. How could they send them to a retreat where there were children under the care of the Marist Brothers.
- 136. 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..... 24.04.2018