

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Brother ^{MBU} [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is ^{MBU} [REDACTED] My date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1927. I am 90 years old. Since I joined the De La Salle Institute I have been known as Brother ^{MBU} [REDACTED] My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Early life and Education

2. I was born in County Sligo in Ireland. I attended and was educated at the De La Salle Brothers school in Ireland at Ballyshannon in Donegal. I completed Junior Novitiate and the canonical year at Castletown, County Laois I then went to Mallow in Cork, where I completed my scholasticate year. I remained in Ireland until 1946 when I completed my studies and moved to England.
3. I arrived in England in 1946 where I had to sit the English qualifications because at that time there were two real possibilities. One was going to Cambridge University and the other was to travel to the Far East with the De la Salle Brothers.
4. At the time a decision was made for me by a doctor from Reading who felt that I was run down after all the studies. It was decided that I would go to Barskimming House in Mauchline, Ayrshire. This was a temporary Approved School. The building was owned by Lord Strathclyde. It was known as St Mungo's and was a temporary school between 1942 and 1957.
5. Although I was a brother of the De La Salle Institute I didn't make my commitment until I was 25 years old in 1952.

1948 - 1949 St Mungo's Temporary Approved School, Mauchline, Ayrshire.

6. St Mungo's was a temporary Approved School. It opened in 1942 as an Approved School. It closed in 1957.
7. This was the first school that I was to work at. When I arrived it consisted of the big house and some wooden huts which acted as classrooms. They were partitioned off and there was a stove in the middle. There was a long avenue up to the house and in the grounds there were playing fields. It was quite isolated and the nearest town was Mauchline.
8. When I arrived there was one head teacher who was a Brother. Two Brothers were teachers and there was a lay teacher. There was also a man who taught woodwork and I recall that he lived nearby.
9. I remember when the Brothers first arrived at the school it was not fit for purpose. Showers and toilets were built to accommodate the large number of boys. I do recall that the family who owned the house were pleased that it was the De la Salle Institute that took over the house and not the army.
10. There were about 80 boys attending the school. They were all aged between eight and fourteen years old. My job was to be the "Prefect" which meant that I was responsible for looking after the children after school hours. It often meant that I was looking after 80 children on my own.
11. I recall taking all eighty pupils to the cinema one day. They all had to behave as they were going to be allowed to go back the next week. I was young because I remember the girl in the kiosk at the cinema asking me if there was a master with the group. I had to explain that I was the teacher. There was one older boy with us at this time. He kept getting into trouble and there was nowhere else to put him so he just remained with us at the school.

12. I remember that the school had a very good football team who played matches against other schools and were very successful. We also had some very good boxers who went on to represent Ayrshire. They were trained by a local man who was a miner.
13. All the boys came to St Mungo's direct from the juvenile courts. They would arrive with an escort and we didn't get much information on their backgrounds. They would arrive with a slip of paper containing their name address, date of birth and previous convictions. When they arrived there was a need to assess their scholastic ability in order to place them in the classroom that best reflected their ability.

Routine at St Mungos 1948 - 1949

14. The boys would get up in the morning to a cooked breakfast. They would then be required to do some housework and then attend classes. There would be a break in the morning when the boys would get a sandwich and something to drink. Lunch would be 12:30 pm and school restarted at 2pm. There was a break in the afternoon where more sandwiches were served. School finished at 4pm. There would be a break before the evening meal.
15. In the evening we had activities which were supervised by the staff. Then it would be showers, supper and off to bed. This was supervised by the staff and Matron would look after the younger boys. Mr Slaven the lay teacher would have gone home by that time. I was on duty 24 hours as were the other Brothers. Once everyone was in bed the boys were looked after by the night care officer.
16. The night care officer would deal with the bed wetters and kept the boilers going. There were different size dormitories for the boys and they were sorted into rooms according to age with the same age groups in each room.
17. I did not hold a teaching qualification at this time but was receiving informal training on how to deal with the boys from the other Brothers at the school. I think that during my spell at St Mungo's I was being assessed for my suitability to work with children who had specific problems.

18. There was a lot of networking amongst the Brothers who would identify a Brother who had the ability to work with problem children. If in their opinion if you had the correct mind set you would then receive the necessary training.

Staff at St Mungo's 1948 - 1949

19. The staff at the school at this time were Brother MJG who was SNR His surname was MJG Brother George who came from Bolton and Brother Donard who had the surname O'Callaghan. The lay teacher was Michael Slaven who came from Glasgow who stayed during the week and went home at the weekend. There was a woodwork teacher whose name was James Wilson who resided in Mauchline.
20. The Brothers all lived in the school and there was also a Matron who "lived in". Matron was called zEIU. She was very efficient and way ahead of her time. She prepared the food menus a month in advance and also taught first aid classes. The position of matron title changed in the 1960's and changed to catering supervisor
21. There were also cooks, cleaning staff and a seamstress who all worked at the school and also lived on the premises. There was a night care officer who would be on duty through the night to deal with any issues.
22. I also recall that there was a Chaplain who lived in the stables at the school. He had the nickname "instep" as that is what he shouted at the boys when they were playing football in the yard. He was quite eccentric. When St Mungo's closed he went on to stay at St Ninian's, Gartmore.

Records kept at St Mungo's 1948 – 1949

23. All paper records of the boy's details along with the punishment book and other paper records were kept in the Headmaster's office.

Discipline at St Mungo's 1948 – 1949

24. There were special arrangements for punishment. There had to be a report of any punishment with signatures of all the parties describing the reason for the punishment along with what the punishment was. The punishment then had to be included in the quarterly report to the Scottish Office.
25. The details were kept in the punishment book. The punishment given was always the tawse which could be administered to the person's hand or posterior. It wasn't used very often. It could only be administered by the senior staff.
26. The main offences that justified the use of the tawse were insolence in the classrooms, bullying, and absconding.

Inspections at St Mungo's 1948 1949

27. I have very vivid memories of the inspection system for Approved Schools. We were allocated a man called John MacPherson who had sole responsibility for all inspections of Approved Schools in Scotland. He would arrive at the school both announced and unannounced on regular occasions.
28. Mr MacPherson inspected all aspects of the school. He would do the likes of inspecting footwear and spoke to the children in their classrooms about their experiences in the school.
29. There were also welfare officers assigned to the school. The welfare officers would appear in court on behalf of the boys. They were also regular visitors at the school.
30. You would also get representatives of the local authorities who placed the boys in the school coming to visit the boys and looking at how they were being treated.

31. There was also the Board of Managers who were regular visitors to the school. There was a monthly Board of Managers meeting held at the school when all members of the board along with the Headmaster attended the meeting. The Board of Managers were the real bosses.

Complaints made by children at St Mungo's 1948 - 1949

32. The children were all able to make a complaint to the staff at St Mungo's. All the complaints would be dealt with by the Headmaster. In the year I was at St Mungo's I don't remember any complaint going any further than the Headmaster.

Teacher training and teaching experience 1949 - 1955

33. I attended a teacher training college in Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, London between 1949 and 1951. It was a two year course which ended in 1951. I obtained my teachers certificate.
34. My first school assignment was a Secondary Modern school in Stockton- on- Tees. We had some good pupils but a lot of the boys had been through the Approved School system. There were three De La Salle Brothers who worked there on the staff. I remained at the school for three years.
35. In 1954 I moved to a Preparatory school in in Salford. I recall I had 46 pupils in my class which was hard work but I was there to help them get through the exam for secondary school. I taught at the school for one year when I was approached to return to St Mungo's in Scotland to work again with Brother MJG I think that he was influential in getting me moved there.

St Mungo's Approved School 1955 - 1957

36. In 1955 I returned to St Mungo's as a teacher. Brother MJG was SNR and there was an extra member of staff. The routine had not changed since the last time I

was there. I was to remain at St Mungo's for two years until 1957 when the school closed. It was only ever a temporary Approved School.

37. At this time the school was governed by a Board of Managers. The Headmaster had to report to this Board which had been appointed by the Archdiocese of Glasgow. There would be a mixture of people on the Board including lawyers and priests
38. Not all the meetings were held at the school. Some were held in Glasgow.
39. The main role of the Board of Managers was to oversee the running of the school. They would be responsible for vetting the staff and making the staff appointments. The domestic staff would be hired by the Matron. The structure of management was the same in all the De La Salle schools that I worked in.
40. One of the duties of one of the members of the Board was to deal with the correspondence received from the Scottish Office. This often resulted in the correspondence falling behind and the communication being very slow. In some cases the Headmaster would be the Correspondent.

Role at St Mungo's 1955 – 1957

41. I returned to St Mungo's as a general teacher. At this time there were two persons filling the role I previously had as prefect at the school. There was no change to the method of punishment or inspections and John MacPherson was still visiting.
42. The number of boys attending school was being run down as the school was only temporary and due to close. There was to be a replacement school at Kilmalcolm. I was told that I would be moved to St Ninian's School in Gartmore, near Stirling.

1957 – 1967 St Ninian's School, Gartmore, near Stirling

43. St Ninian's School in Gartmore had previously been called Slatefield School and had been based off the Gallowgate in Glasgow. At one time it was based at Kilconnell in Ayrshire and also Cambusbarron in Stirlingshire. It then moved to its base at Gartmore.
44. I arrived at St Ninian's Gartmore as an extra teacher. The name was changed from Slatefield to St Ninian's at the time I arrived there. I recall that Brother **MJG** who had been **SNR** at St Mungo's went to Nantwich in Cheshire. I don't know what happened to the other Brothers from St Mungo's.
45. The school was in a big house called Gartmore House which was owned by the Cunninghame – Graham family. It was a similar size to St Mungo's. It was then sold to the Clan Shipping Line. The Archdiocese from Glasgow then purchased the house. There was a small cemetery in the grounds owned by the Cunninghame – Graham family and the Brothers tended the graves.

Staff at St Ninian's, Gartmore 1957 – 1967

46. **SNR** at St Ninian's was called Brother **GEC**. **SNR** was Brother **MCA**. Brother Michael Bogue was a teacher and he was a cockney from London. There was also a Brother Anthony who worked in the office. Brother Anthony was very deaf. The Prefect was Brother **MJO**.
47. All the staff with the exception of **MJO** had teaching qualifications. There was also a matron and domestic staff. I remember that a lot of the domestic staff came from the Isle of Barra and all spoke Gaelic.

Routine at St Ninian's, Gartmore 1957 – 1967

48. There were about 80 pupils at Gartmore and it was a tight fit to get them all comfortable in the premises. I remember that we were so full that we learned that one of the boys

had all their family in Oldham. We managed to make arrangements to reunite him with his family members and within ten days we got him moved to a home in Oldham. That created a bit more space. There were boys from all over Scotland. They were all nominal Catholic children. I recall there were some from Inverness and the Scottish Islands. The average age of the boys was fourteen which was older than St Mungo's although you could still get an eight year old. The average length of stay was about eighteen months.

49. There was a Sheriff in Stirling who would sentence boys and if they re-offended he would start the sentence at the beginning cancelling out any other time they might have already served. I don't think that we paid attention to the length of sentence handed out to the boys. I remember one boy who was from the Raploch estate in Stirling. He was only about seven when he was causing a lot of trouble in the area. He was aware that the authorities could do little to him as he was under eight. When he became eight he was sent to St Ninian's and when the court escort got lost and couldn't find St Ninian's it was the small boy who directed them.
50. There were more varied activities for the boys at St Ninian's. This included pony riding and cycling. A gymnasium was built and a football pitch created.
51. The dormitories were quite small and there were about four boys to each dormitory. The duty staff including some Brothers would help get the boys up in the morning and put them to bed at night.
52. It was a very happy place and I recall a boy from Dundee who's first question was "where are the ponies". It was accepted by the staff that the boys could go home at the weekend although some of the boys would stay.

Visits and Inspections at St Ninian's, Gartmore 1957 – 1967.

53. There was a visiting Sunday when they opened up the Back Bull public house nearby and laid on tea and cakes. St Ninian's was 25 miles from Glasgow where most of the

boys came from and was quite hard to get to. We were about the same distance from Stirling.

54. There was a visiting psychologist called Janet Hassan who worked for the Scottish Office and was based in Edinburgh. She would come to St Ninian's and have one- to-one meetings with the boys. I think she would do a report on each of the boys individually. I think that she visited a lot of the Approved Schools in Scotland.
55. John McPherson continued to make inspections of St Ninian's. I also remember another psychologist called Petrie he also worked for the Scottish Office. We also had regular visits from Welfare Officers.

Religious education at St Ninian's

56. We had a very good relationship with the Catholic Pre-Seminary College at Buchlyvie and the priests from there would call at the school and say mass. The college students would also come to the school and speak to the pupils and the younger ones would interact with them and play music with them. The Priests acted as Chaplains to the school.

Schooling at St Ninian's, Gartmore 1957 – 1967

57. We had a very good remedial teacher at St Ninian's who was quite hard on the children. A lot of the boys came from special schools. As a result of his hard work he managed to get some of the children re-classified which enabled them to attend normal stream schools when they returned home. I remember that he also got them to write in italic script. At the school different teachers would teach different subjects.
58. The school was very active in sport and we played in a local football league. We had a very strong team. We also had cross country competitions with other schools.

Holidays

59. We had similar holidays to most other schools. The boys from St Joseph's in Tranent would go to a berry picking camp. We went to St Joseph's in Tranent to stay as they had better facilities. The boys would go home during the school holidays.

Leaving St Ninian's Gartmore in 1967

60. I SNR [REDACTED] at St Ninian's in 1961. SNR [REDACTED] was MCA [REDACTED] MCA [REDACTED] and he was very sickly and I was really SNR [REDACTED]. In 1967 I was asked to [REDACTED] my post at St Ninian's in Gartmore as there was a [REDACTED] man coming to [REDACTED] as SNR [REDACTED]. I think that he felt that I had too much influence on the SNR [REDACTED]. SNR [REDACTED] was GSU [REDACTED]. I was asked to move to Springboig St John's Boys Senior Approved School, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow.

St John's Senior Approved School, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow 1967 - 1969

61. This was a school for older boys some of whom had jobs. It was established in 1936 and situated in the Springboig area of Glasgow. The residents were aged sixteen or seventeen. The De La Salle Brothers left the school in 1969.
62. It was a very difficult place to be as a lot of the boys were gang members and there was a gang culture. I was a teacher there but a lot of the boys were out working. There were about 60 boys and I remember that they had a gardening teacher. The dormitories held about 10 boys in each dorm.
63. The school was manned by a lot of lay people who are the unsung heroes of these schools. When some staff including Brothers went they stayed on and were the continuity. They stayed on until they retired.

Staff at St John's Senior Approved School, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow. 1967 -1969

64. The head teacher was Brother Celestine Fisher. The other Brothers teaching there were MDC [REDACTED] HOZ [REDACTED] and Aloysius Broadly. Brother Aloysius was from Glasgow. There was also lay staff who worked at the school.

Discipline at St John's Senior Approved School, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow 1967 - 1969

65. I don't recall any physical discipline. I assume that there were records kept. Most of the discipline was the removal of privileges like home leave being cancelled.
66. The school was very rough some of the boys were involved with the gangs in Glasgow. I can tell you that one of the woodwork instructor was nailed by the boys to his classroom floor through his clothing.

Routine at St John's Senior Approved School, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow 1967 – 1969

67. The routine was very similar to other Approved Schools run by the De La Salle Brothers although these were older boys and there was not the same level of supervision. It was a very tough place to work and most of my time was spent supervising the working boys.

Leaving St John's Senior Approved School, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow 1967 – 1969

68. In 1969 I left St John's to do a master's degree at Stirling University in sociology and psychology.

Master's Degree Sociology and Psychology at Stirling University 1969 – 1972

69. When I arrived at Stirling University it was a building site and quite new. I initially stayed at St John's in Springboig and travelled to the university every day. I ended up staying at Gartmore where I used to help out with the sports at weekends.
70. I completed my degree in 1972 and was then sent in September 1972 to St Joseph's Approved School in Tranent, East Lothian. I was appointed by the Board of Managers of St Joseph's to teach there.

St Joseph's Approved School, Tranent, East Lothian 1972 – 1992.

71. I moved to St Joseph's in September 1972. I SNR [REDACTED] in 1979 SNR [REDACTED] in 1984. St Joseph's was a massive change from where I had been before. The units of children were much smaller with more staff. The pioneering introduction of the Children's Hearings made a large difference to the procedures. The introduction of residential social workers also made a difference in caring for young people. Each child in the school was allocated a key worker.
72. I also remember how the boys came to visit St Joseph's on a day visit to see if they would fit in first. They usually came with their parents and social worker. They might make several visits before they were placed at the school.
73. St Joseph's was firstly funded by the Scottish Office then in the 1980's the funds came from the Social Work Department of Lothian Regional Council.
74. I have shown you today a copy of my contract of employment which I had when I was SNR [REDACTED] at St Joseph's and I will be able to provide you with a photocopy today. It shows how I was appointed by the Board of Management.

75. The school itself was a large house divided up into small units. There was an art room, a woodwork hall, a metalwork hall and a large gymnasium. There was a play barn which was also used by the local population. It was all designed to give the children more individual attention.
76. The residential social workers were heavily involved with the children and it took a while for a trust to be built between the teachers and the residential social workers.
77. I recall that we also had some of the children playing in local school pipe bands. We still hear from some of these children who were involved with the pipe bands.

**Management and changes in management at St Joseph's, Tranent, East Lothian
1972 – 1992**

78. The school was governed by a Board of Management who sat regularly and had frequent meetings with the staff and children. The Board was made up of people from all walks of life including a priest and a doctor. The chairman of the Board for a lot of the time was a man called Jimmy Docherty and one of the active members was Lady June Hamilton-Douglas.
79. When the running of the school became the responsibility of the Lothian Region the Board of Managers became a limited company which was something to do with the liability they had. If I needed advice or direction the Board of Management were always available as they were local people. I used to get legal advice from Tom Campbell who also served on the Board of Management.
80. The local Provincial of the De La Sale Institute would also be consulted about some matters for his advice but my line managers when I was ^{SNR} [REDACTED] at the school were the Board of Management.
81. The Brothers had different roles in the school and could be answerable to a lay person if they held a higher post in the school management structure. There was always a Headmaster who was a Brother.

82. All the staff appointed to work at St Joseph's were appointed by the Board of Management and this included the lay staff. When I was SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] I would also be on the staff interview panel.
83. The salaries of the Brothers and the lay staff were initially paid by the Scottish Office when they ran the List D Schools as they were now known. They were then run by the Lothian Region Council Social Work Department who took over responsibility for the running of the schools.
84. The responsibility for the day to day care of the children was jointly shared between the Brothers and the lay staff employed at the school.
85. As far as the De La Salle Institute was concerned SNR [REDACTED] of the local school was also the Director of the Community. This changed when Brother MJG [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] I was appointed as Director as it was felt that the SNR [REDACTED] had too much power and it needed to be devolved.
86. When I first arrived at St Joseph's the school was operated by the Scottish Office. When I SNR [REDACTED] the Scottish Office pulled out and we were run by Lothian District Council. We were not part of the education department but fell under social work. This happened very suddenly.
87. This had quite an impact on the school as we had to change and fit into the Social Work pattern of working. We became classed as a "residential home with education on the premises".
88. In 1972 there were 60 plus children. The age range was between fourteen and sixteen although there were some older children on occasions. In the 1980's the numbers were falling off and were down to 50 plus. In the 1970's the school changed its title from "Approved" to a List D school.

89. When I first went to St Joseph's we were getting a lot of local boys who stayed at the school but attended their local schools which could be Ross High School or another school in Prestonpans. The decisions were made by the Children's Panel and we accommodated the boys. We also had a "day unit" at the school where we would get boys from local places like Dalkeith and Craigmillar. We had a very good leader who was very charismatic. They would attend St Joseph's for schooling and we had very low truancy rates.
90. When we were taken over by Lothian Regional Council there were three List D Schools in the Lothian area. There was only one List D School for girls. There was a campaigner who was on our Board of Management called Lady June Douglas-Hamilton who was very active in trying to keep all the schools open.
91. It was eventually decided that St Joseph's and Wellington School, Penicuik, would continue to operate as the only List D Schools in Lothian Region and the Dr Guthrie's School for Girls would close.
92. In 1985 St Joseph's was asked if it could take girls at the school. Some girls came to St Joseph's as residents. They had their own unit and joined the boys in the classroom. There were also day girls that attended classes. I think that the board of governors at St Joseph's felt that this could be the future of St Joseph's as numbers were falling. It was also appreciated that extra measures would need to be put into place to deal with the change.
93. I do recall that the chairman of the board of governors Jimmy Docherty was keen that we got things right as having disturbed adolescent boys and girls at the same place could be a recipe for more problems.
94. There was a decision made by the Catholic Hierarchy in Glasgow that all the Catholic run List D schools in Scotland would come under a Management Board that was to be set up in Scotland and that they would influence which boys went to which school. We had very few Catholic children in St Joseph's. It didn't make sense for us to become part of this board so we declined as most of the Catholic schools were in the west of

Scotland. I was then invited by the Archbishop in Edinburgh to represent him on this new board.

Routine at St Joseph's List D School, Tranent, East Lothian 1972 -1992

Residential staff and lay staff at St Joseph's List D School Tranent, East Lothian 1972 – 1992

95. When I first arrived at St Joseph's the Brothers in the community were, SNR [REDACTED] Brother MJG [REDACTED] myself, Brother MJF [REDACTED], Brother Cuthbert Nolan and Brother Benedict Murphy. I ended up working with Brother MJG [REDACTED] for 39 years of my working life. There were house parents who were also resident in the units. Brother MJG [REDACTED] and I stayed in the school building while the other Brothers lived in staff accommodation attached to the units. When I arrived SNR [REDACTED] was Brother MJF [REDACTED].
96. Each unit had house parents attached to it. These were qualified residential social workers. There were four units in total two that held twenty boys and two that housed thirty boys although the units were never full.
97. The lay staff who worked at the school and were either qualified social workers, instructors or teachers. They worked only at the school. Most of the social workers were female.
98. All the Brothers apart from Brother Benedict had teaching qualifications. Brother Benedict had a social work qualification but not a full CQSW. He had a whole lot of electronic gadgets which he used to entertain the boys with. He had a machine called "the tickler" which he used to give the boys a small electric shock from it. The boys used to queue to get a shock. This was later portrayed in the press as an instrument of torture which was just nonsense.
99. There was on-going training provided to the staff who worked at St Joseph's. When I first arrived at St Joseph's the training was provided by the local authority social work department. The training included how to properly restrain children.

100. When the girls came and I ^{SNR} [REDACTED] in 1984 the structure was [REDACTED] had two ^{SNR} [REDACTED] one for education and one for care. Frank Rochhford dealt with education and ^{MJL} [REDACTED] dealt with the care side. There were also leaders in each unit. The care team were responsible for maintaining all records.
101. As ^{SNR} [REDACTED] I had a very good relationship with the Headmaster of Wellington List D School. I had regular meetings with him to discuss mutual issues amongst the pupils. My other duties as ^{SNR} [REDACTED] included [REDACTED] monthly meetings [REDACTED] and the weekly social work meetings. We also had a lot of visitors that I had to deal with.
102. There was no formal appraisal system for staff apart from the weekly meetings with staff and Brian Livingston of the Social Work Department. New members of staff were supervised by more senior members of staff. There was also conversations with the pupils about their key workers.
103. If there were complaints against members of staff the Headmaster would deal with the complaint initially. Some of the issues were dealt with at the weekly meeting and if necessary the managers would be involved.
104. Like any other school the staff came and went over the twenty years that I worked there although a lot of the lay staff were very dedicated to the school. I remember that Brother ^{MJG} [REDACTED] and I were accused of spoiling the children in our care. Brother ^{MJG} [REDACTED] was well liked in the local community.
105. There were often siblings at the school and I remember the [REDACTED] boys who were twins. I think that the choice if they were kept together was their own and we would do our best to organise it. Over the years I have had children of former pupils also attend the school.

Discipline amongst pupils and staff

106. When SNR [REDACTED] at the school all corporal punishment was stopped. It was a decision made by the school and was not forced on us by the Lothian Regional Council. We didn't make any fuss about this decision as no one missed it. Instead I introduced a system of marks for good and bad behaviour and if the marks were bad the children could be deprived of some home leave, but that was a last resort.
107. Previously there was corporal punishment used very occasionally at St Joseph's and personally in the twenty years that I was there I had to use it once on a boy from Baillieston and I can remember that well.
108. We didn't make quarter year returns as we did under the Scottish Office because all issues were discussed at the weekly meetings with the social workers and Brian Livingston.
109. I do recall an incident when a very troubled girl who came from Aberdeen to the school made an allegation against one of the key workers for touching her on her knee or something like that. I had to go to his house with Brian Livingston [REDACTED] had to suspend him till we had completed enquiries into the allegation. The very next day the girl told us that it was simply not true and she had made it up. She had a long history of doing this.
110. There was a night member of staff who was accused of being over aggressive with one of the boys. The boy complained to the unit manager and then the complaint was passed on to me to deal with. I took the complaint to Brian Livingston and then it was passed on to the then Deputy Director of Social Work Les McEwan. It ended up as a verbal warning. The complaint was taken very seriously.

Religious instruction at St Joseph's

111. There was a local priest from Prestonpans who would call at the school and say Mass and speak to the children. We didn't have a dedicated chaplain although we did have a chapel. Some of the local people would attend the chapel at the weekend when the boys were on weekend leave.

Visits/Inspections

112. In 1972 when I arrived at the school we were inspected by a man called John Murphy. He was from the Scottish Office and was employed by the Department of Education. He lived in Stirling. He would call at the school six times a year to inspect. John Murphy was instrumental in getting more staff and also completing the transition from the Scottish Office to the Lothian Regional Social Work Department.
113. Brian Livingston was the Lothian Region Inspector. He came on the scene when we were taken over by Lothian Region. He would come to the school every Friday for a meeting with senior teaching staff. He would also meet with the children and generally wander around the school. There were records of each child kept by the Social Work Department at the Scottish Office and also in the Headmasters office at the school.
114. There were no policy documents or handbooks for the schools. The De la Salle Brothers were only working at these schools and not responsible for the records. The Scottish Office should have records of the quarterly reports, the register of pupils and the inspectorate reports.
115. You would get verbal feedback and suggestions before the inspection teams left. They were very helpful to us as far as health and safety were concerned. I remember we also had to submit menus of the food that the boys were eating as there was a food inspector.
116. There was an annual visit from LRM [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] in Scotland. He was also [REDACTED] of the Board of Managers.

Medical care/psychological support

117. There was a psychologist called Christine Wilson who worked for the Scottish Office Education Department and was a frequent visitor at St Joseph's. I recall that her father was the Headmaster at Loaningdale School. Christine would meet the children and wander round the unit. She was present when there were case conferences about the children. She would liaise with the key workers. She was there when the school was governed by the Scottish Office and Lothian Regional Council.

**Allegations of abuse at St Mungo's, St Ninian's and St Joseph's schools. 1948
1992**

118. I was not aware of any abuse when I worked at the different schools for the De La Salle Institute. I was made aware of the allegations of abuse in later years after I had left.
119. I do recall a particular incident when I was at St Ninian's school when a child reported to me that he had been slapped in the face by one of the Brothers. I took the complaint to the Headmaster and there was an enquiry by the Board of management. The Brother received a verbal warning.
120. There was an unwritten rule that you should never be alone with any of the children attending the schools. This was emphasised on regular occasions. I remember that one of the lay staff who was convicted of abuse contacted me afterwards asking me how he could clear his name.
121. I know that there were occasions when it couldn't be helped that you were on your own with the children like when they had run away and they had to be collected in the middle of the night at the local police station. There just wasn't the staff available.
122. I am aware that there have been some convictions that happened on my watch for which I must apologise. I regret that they ever happened.

123. I know that Brother Benedict was convicted for abuse when he was at St Ninian's, Gartmore between 1960 and 1969 and also at St Joseph's, Tranent between 1970 and early 1990's. I was also at these homes at the same time and knew him. I remember when he first came to St Ninian's, Gartmore he had no training and he was sent on a social work course.
124. There were also two lay members of staff who were at St Ninian's, Gartmore who were convicted of abuse for which I was appalled. I also know that Brother Benedict had to deal with very large numbers of boys and I can easily understand someone like him losing his temper.
125. The first I knew about the abuse was when I got a telephone call from another Brother to tell me about Brother Benedict. I didn't believe that it happened and I still don't. The reason I say this is because I knew the person involved and I don't believe he could do that. This is my own personal view. I didn't believe that there was a failure in the systems when we were responsible for the children in our care.
126. I do agree that if all the allegations against the staff members which ended up in convictions were true then we did as individuals indeed fail in our duties to protect the children in our care.

Reporting of abuse by the children and the procedures.

127. In the 1970's if a complaint was made by any of the children it was dealt with by the Board of Managers and action would be taken to investigate the allegation.
128. In the 1980's if a complaint was made by one of the children the complaint initially would be dealt with by the Headmaster and if necessary there would be a suspension of the member of staff until an enquiry could be carried out.

Leaving St Joseph's List D School, Tranent 1992

129. I [REDACTED] in 1992 and [REDACTED]. I was [REDACTED] and the school was [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] who SNR [REDACTED]. The rest of the staff stayed on at the St Joseph's. I received my teacher's pension when I retired.
130. There was a gradual decline in the members of the De La Salle Institute. In the 1960's there were 16,000 Brothers and in the 1990's the numbers were down to 4,000 in 77 different countries.
131. The buildings at St Joseph's List D School was owned by the Archdiocese of Edinburgh and when I was there it was leased to firstly the Scottish Office and latterly Lothian Regional Council. The lease was for 19 years and 364 days as you couldn't go over 20 years. I now believe that St Joseph's has been sold to East Lothian Council. I think that there might still be a unit there that is still receiving children called The Pathway Resource Centre.
132. I also know that Musselburgh High School also make use of the facilities for some of their children that have been excluded from school.

Life after leaving St Joseph's List D School, Tranent.

133. When I retired from teaching I went to Kenya where I stayed with the Brothers until 1998 when I returned to Eccles in Manchester. I was with the De la Salle Brothers in Kenya and did some teaching with student Brothers who were learning English. I acted as Bursar and I also collected the water from the nearby well until we got our own bore hole.
134. I then joined the Brother's congregation in Coatbridge returning to Scotland. The Brothers had been in Scotland for a hundred years between 1914 and 2014. The Community had a hostel for truants and supported older boys who were living in flats in Glasgow.

Records

135. When I was SNR [redacted] at St Joseph's List D School, Tranent there was a record for every child which was kept in the Headmasters office. There was also records maintained by the Social Work Department of Lothian Regional Council. I left the files at the school when I left in 1992. I assume that the social work department will still have their records.

Other information

136. There were a number of former pupils of the schools who came back to visit. I still get telephone calls from a man who is now in his 70's and was in St Mungo's in Mauchline. I am also still in touch with the family of a Belgian boy who was evacuated to St Joseph's during the war. He learned the art of shoemaking when he was in care and continued his profession in later life. He died but his sister kept in touch and when she passed away the sister's daughter kept up contact.

137. 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..... MBU [redacted]

Dated..... 22 - 10 - 2018