

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GWZ

Support person present: None

1. My name is GWZ. I briefly changed my name to GWZ but I no longer use that middle name. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My father was and my mother was. When I was born we lived at, Glasgow. My mum and dad split up when I was two. I believe my mother moved for a short time to the Gorbals, Glasgow, and then to, Cowcaddens, Glasgow. I have no memories before the age of four. I was living with my mother and two brothers, who is eight years older than me and who is five years older than me. We left Cowcaddens when I was eight. We move to, Cadder, Glasgow.
3. When I was about four or five years old my mum's new boyfriend came into our lives. He was not the nicest of men. I vaguely remember a lot of alcohol, arguing, and fighting between him and my mother. There was an air of tension in the house. worked on and off. He was a steel erector to trade. My mum never worked at that time. My mother was always a highly strung emotional woman. I don't remember my mother drinking to begin with, it was just. Later I found out that my mother was abusing drugs but I don't know if it had started at that stage. I think my mum tried to do everything that she could for my brothers and I but what got in the way was her relationship with.

4. My psychologist has diagnosed me with attachment issues. I also have a diagnosis of Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and alcohol and drug issues. As a child I was looking for attention, as any child would. I found it quite painful that this bully [REDACTED] was controlling everything. He only ever physically chastised me once but verbally he would destroy us. He would say that we weren't good enough and we weren't helping our mother, that was his favourite comment. He was frightening, he was like a Sergeant Major. That's how he approached his role as a parent.
5. The police were often called to my mother's house because of violence by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] In the 1980's he was eventually jailed for between three and six months for a serious assault on my mother. That involved a broken jaw.
6. When I was about five or six, my mother became pregnant. I don't remember any discussion about a new brother or sister coming along, I didn't notice that she was pregnant but she disappeared to have my sister. I slept with my two brothers in one bed. [REDACTED] shouted for one of us to go through to his bedroom as my mother wasn't there. I was trusting when I maybe shouldn't have been. I went through and got into bed. It became intimate, [REDACTED] was cuddling me which wasn't normal. He was hairy and had a manly smell, I felt uncomfortable. I don't know exactly what happened in that bed.
7. My mother came back with my sister [REDACTED]. She had a difficult forceps birth and she cried for weeks. Living in Cowcaddens I remember my mother telling me to go out and play. I found it difficult to make friends, I don't think I even tried. I had my brothers and we all went to the same school, St Joseph's Primary School, Raglan Street.
8. At the age of five or six I also started to suffer from [REDACTED] I was put on heavy medication. I spent most of my early life on my own, medicated to suppress the [REDACTED] I don't know if that impeded my development. I don't think I was doing very well at school. That was partly due to difficulties with my eyesight. This was the 1960's and glasses weren't readily available and it would have been one more thing to draw attention to yourself and the risk of bullying.

9. I didn't see my father when I was living in Cowcaddens. I didn't know him. After my parents broke up when I was two there were no cards or anything. I eventually sought him out when I was about seven or eight years old. In reality, I was being sent to see him to get money. He wasn't making any financial contribution to us and couldn't be relied upon. He was always spoken of by [REDACTED] as being a terrible person. [REDACTED] would always tell us he was the one providing for us.
10. I started to get a reputation in the family as being a wanderer. That's what [REDACTED] called me. I would walk everywhere. I remember following an Orange Walk to Govan and then getting a hiding from my mother. It wasn't anything to do with religious bigotry, it was because I had disappeared for such a long time. It registered with me that it was a way to get attention as a child. I used walking as a way of de-stressing but it was to cost me dearly.
11. The only other outlet I had was my grandparents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. If I could get home early on a Friday afternoon then I could get bus fare from my mother to go to my grandparents. It was a totally different environment. They weren't lovey-dovey, they were calm, and they were just there for me. They were great. There was a calmness in that house when you walked in. You could sleep. I would stay with them at weekends and I would go back on Monday morning from Springburn to Cowcaddens.
12. The next school I went to was St Agnes'. St Agnes' was a good school but we had a crazy headmistress, Miss [REDACTED]. She was totally domineering. She was passive aggressive, she would draw you in and then hit you with something. On Friday afternoons the teachers would get a break and Miss [REDACTED] took classes. She had all these children as young as six sitting on a wooden floor. I enjoyed school and to begin with I was a good attender but that changed.
13. Things were not getting any better at home. [REDACTED] was a lot more affluent. There was a lot of work related to oil. There was a lot more money coming into the house but none of it was diverted to myself or my siblings. I started running away, not wandering. It started in 1966, when I was around the age of ten. It was the height of

summer, it was very light. I passed this man on the pavement and he spoke to me. I ended up back in his flat on [REDACTED]. He had greyish hair, he was around fifty years old. His flat is still there, I have been past it a number of times but I can't remember the address. My mum had told me to be wary of strange men but I thought she just meant vagrants, not people with houses. There was some talk of where I wanted to sleep and if I wanted him to sleep in the bed or on the couch. That confused me because it was his house. We both ended up in the bed and he raped me. I didn't know what was happening. In the morning I got dressed and was grateful I hadn't been killed.

14. It had been noticed that I was away overnight but my mother didn't notice that anything had happened to me. I think the police found me but I wasn't medically examined, I think they and my mother were just happy that I had been found. The bleeding from my anus eventually stopped.
15. When you are a young child and you get to the age of about seven, religion becomes different. Priest talk about sin and the fires of hell. People talked in derogatory terms about gay people. I felt I had this secret and I didn't have the words to talk about it.
16. I started running away more and more. It became a habit, I would run away every two or three months. I ran away to one of the west-coast seaside resorts, I think it was Ayr. I had been given some money to pay a bill but ran away to the coast. I was at the seaside and took my shoes off. I went into a bathing hut. There was a hole in the wall and I became aware of somebody watching me. A man then burst into the bathing hut and raped me. Afterwards I was numb, I suppressed my emotions and that is something that has stayed with me. It became much easier to cope with things by suppressing them. I was found by the police in an amusement arcade. I was taken by the police to meet my brother and he took me home. That's when my involvement with social workers began.
17. One day, I was awoken by my mother and told to get dressed. I didn't know where I was going, I thought I was going to see a social worker. At that time, the Sheriff Court was just behind George Square and that's where we went. I believe it later became

the Children's court. I found myself in this court and I didn't know what was going on. I was told I had to see a social worker who said all the running away wasn't on and something would have to be done about it.

18. The Sheriff or whoever he was, he was wearing a wig, said that I would have to go to a special school. I understood a special school to be for children with disabilities. I knew I had [REDACTED] but cognitively I was alright. I couldn't understand what was going on. I had told the social workers that the reason I was running away was because of my family environment, the arguments and the beatings my mother was getting from [REDACTED]. However, I didn't tell them about the sexual abuse I had suffered when I had been on the run.
19. The solution to my running away and playing truant from school was to send me to St John Bosco's. I was taken downstairs in the court and placed in a cell. I was twelve years old and I just lost it, I couldn't suppress my feelings anymore. I was facing my mother through the cell bars and the man responsible for all our troubles was standing behind her, although I couldn't say that to her at the time.

St John Bosco's School, Aberdour [REDACTED] 1968 to [REDACTED] 1970

20. I was twelve years old when I got sent to St John Bosco's. The social workers took me from the Sheriff Court cells straight there. I think Father LUF [REDACTED] might have come too. Father LUF [REDACTED] was a great man. I think he was like SNR [REDACTED] St John Bosco's [REDACTED].
21. Something did need to be done about me running away from home because I could have ended up being killed. I was told that I was out of parental control, but it was really my parents that were out of control. St John Bosco's was seen as the solution but the manner in which I was taken there and my time at St John Bosco's was not an effective solution to the problem. It was just moving the problem from Glasgow to Aberdour. I didn't know Aberdour whereas I knew my way around Glasgow. I wasn't

asked about going to St John Bosco's but to be honest, once I got over the shock I think I was quite pleased to get away from home.

Routine at St John Bosco's

First day

22. St John Bosco's sits at the top of a hill. When you got to the top of the hill you saw this huge big mansion. In the school buildings you had a library, classrooms, the refectory and the kitchen where they cooked the meals. Upstairs was the laundry. The mansion had an office on the first floor for the rector and I think there was accommodation for the priests. The dormitories were on the second floor. To the right of the mansion there were some green huts which were the school buildings. The huts contained toilets and a library. There was a fence, but I don't think it was to keep us in, it was to stop footballs going all the way down the hill.
23. Father ^{LOB} was ^{SNR}. As well as Father ^{LUF} there was Brother ^{LNB} who I believe became a priest when I was there. There was Brother ^{IHU}, and Brother ^{LMW}. There was a Priest who was the Confessor but I can't remember his name, we didn't really spend any time with him. The Rector was an old man in his seventies or eighties. I can't remember his name but he was famous for taking snuff.
24. There was a female nurse, I can't remember her name. She was about sixty. She administered my medication and dealt with skinned knees etc.
25. There were about 45 boys at St John Bosco's. The age range was from about eight to about fifteen years of age. We were divided into three houses, St Andrew's, St Mungo's and another saint. I remember two brothers, the brothers. One of them was about the same age as me and the other was younger, about eight years old. The other boy I particularly remember was ^{KNI}.

Mornings and bedtime

26. While I was there, a new building was built with dormitories but up until then we slept in dormitories in the main building on the second floor. There were about six in each dormitory, with about six dormitories in total.
27. You were woken up by a bell in the morning. That would be around 7.00 am. You had a wash and went downstairs. We had cleaning duties cleaning and polishing floors or dusting. We had the radio on and were left alone to get on with our work. I think it was prayers first and then breakfast.
28. We would be in bed for 10.00 pm, with lights-out at 10.30 pm. There was an area sectioned off with wooden panels and that's where the priest who was on duty would sleep. There was one priest on duty at night for the whole building.

Mealtimes/Food

29. There were three square meals a day whereas food was an issue at home. The food was good. We ate in the refectory in one of the green huts. You could sit where you liked but you would tend to find your spot with three or four other people. We had things like pie, chips, and beans for dinner. We would get some supper before we went to bed. There was no choice about the food. You either ate it or you had nothing. I found the food quite good except for Friday afternoon when we had greasy fish.
30. If you didn't eat your food, you weren't hit or anything but you might get a bad mark against you and that could stop you getting home on weekend leave, at least that's the impression you were given. It was like a carrot and stick system.

Washing/bathing

We had a shower in the evenings, before bed. You wouldn't get a shower every night, they would tell you when you had to have your shower. It was private sectioned-off showers, not communal. At all times, you had to protect your modesty. When you were

undressing, you would have a towel round you when you dropped your underpants or when you put your pyjamas on. Showers would be supervised by a Priest or a Brother. They would stand in the general area but they would give you your privacy. I had no impression that we were being watched inappropriately.

Clothing/uniform

31. When I arrived, Father LUF gave me new clothes and shoes. I hadn't ever had new clothes, our clothes came from Paddy's Market, a flea market in Glasgow. He explained the set up to me. They didn't have a uniform as such at St John Bosco's, it was a bit of a muddle. It was a blazer or jacket, short trousers, and a shirt. Your clothes were laundered every week and if you needed something new there was no problem.
32. The clothing and footwear were reasonable, it was a standard they had come up with. I used to wear ties all the time, I liked to look smart. You wore these clothes during school time and leisure time, there wasn't a change of clothes apart from gym and playing football when we had football strips.

School

33. School started at 10.00 am or 10.30 am. We then had lunch, had a play, and then back to school until about 3.30 pm.
34. The priests taught us. I don't remember many subjects. I don't remember maths and English. I'm not aware if the priests had any teaching qualifications, they probably didn't. It may have been as much as they could offer but it ill-prepared me for school after leaving St John Bosco's.

Leisure time

35. The evenings would be taken up by hobbies, board-games, or football. I believe the ethos was keeping the boys occupied from the minute they got up until they went to bed. There was a television but it wasn't freely available. They monitored which

programmes we could watch. I remember the Priests took us to the pictures once and it was a film called, "Anne of a Thousand Days." It had some quite intimate scenes between a man and a woman and the Priests were a bit uncomfortable about that. They wouldn't deliberately expose us to material they didn't think was proper for us.

36. There was a Brother who had a workshop in the basement of the mansion, I can't remember his name. He would get old engines and parts of motors to fix. That was very therapeutic, getting spanners and taking things apart. You were forever cutting your fingers on screwdrivers but it was just minor injuries.
37. There was a play area at the back of the green huts and they had a stage for a show at Christmas. There were pool tables and table-tennis tables. There were benefactors who would donate toys, like Scalextric. It really excited us to get a hold of things like that. You didn't get individual gifts from the benefactors that you were allowed to keep. The only things we could keep ourselves were things that we won as prizes.

Chores

38. You had a particular room to clean, most of us were in the green huts, but you might have to clean the church. It was up to the person handing out the mops etc. You got a little bit of pocket money for doing chores. We also had to build a road in the walled garden. That started with breaking large rocks with sledgehammers which I didn't think was appropriate for boys as young as nine or ten years old to be doing. We were not supervised when we had to build the road. The gardener would hand out the tools in the morning and then leave for a couple of hours.

Religious instruction

39. I was an altar boy. I was interested in my faith. I would now describe myself as a lapsed Catholic, but at St John Bosco's I took comfort in my faith because the boy who bullied me wasn't at church. It was another way for me to escape his clutches. I was quite religious for my age given the environment. It might surprise people to know that at St John Bosco's if you talked about God or Jesus, you would be ridiculed by your peers.

40. You had to go to Mass on Sunday, it was compulsory. There was Mass every day at noon and you could choose to go to that. In the evenings, before bed, we would have a service in the church. That service took about 45 minutes. There would be a talk from the Priest, an inspirational story.
41. We had to say Grace before each meal, that was part of the routine. There was a Confessor at the school. It wasn't compulsory to see him but if you are supposed to take Holy Communion, you are supposed to do so with a clean slate so you were encouraged to see the Confessor.

Trips/Holidays

42. We went on trips to Aberdeen or Inverurie. We went up on a bus for a week. We stayed in a school that was empty for the holidays. A dormitory was arranged for us and these ladies came in and fed us. There was also another holiday with LRM [REDACTED]
43. There was a period where we went to Rosyth Naval Base to use their swimming pool. We had day trips down to the beach at Aberdour but we weren't allowed in Aberdour village. That's all I can remember outside of St John Bosco's.
44. There was also the opportunity to have an extended holiday at home, which was about a week as well. You normally got home every fourth weekend unless you had black marks against your name, that would stop you from getting home.

Birthdays and Christmas

45. We went home for Christmas but not for an extended period, I can't remember how long it was for. They had a Christmas tree in St John Bosco's but there wasn't a lot else. There were more religious things going on at Christmas.
46. They did mark your birthday, you got a cake and could invite your closest friends and you were given a huge amount of sugary treats. Also on the Saint's day for your house,

you would get a big feast, in the evening when the boys in the other houses were off doing their hobbies. They would get their feast on their Saint's day.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

47. I got notes from my mum and I wrote to my mum every week. I didn't write to anyone else, I had no reason to. I didn't have access to a phone.
48. We had a sports day once a year and all families were invited along. The sports day was followed by prize-giving and a show of some kind, like a pantomime or something. I enjoyed those. Although I was a very withdrawn boy I enjoyed being in the shows.
49. I don't remember any social work involvement after I got sent to St John Bosco's, or after I left. My last memory of a social worker was of the one who took me to St John Bosco's.
50. I can't remember any school inspections, we would have been prepped for that. The only time we were prepped was when Father ^{LRM} [REDACTED] came to the school. I believe he was [REDACTED] at the time.

Healthcare

51. There was a nurse at St John Bosco's and I saw her because of [REDACTED]. They would never get outside help when I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There was no-one looking after me when I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The nurse would check on me in the dormitory but I didn't have any direct individual care. No-one was checking to see if I was [REDACTED]. This was the 1960's and I think the difficulties came from a lack of knowledge rather than failing to apply knowledge.
52. There were outbreaks of head-lice and scabies and the staff would deal with that. One of the Priests would administer the cream or whatever treatment was required. Those

things could sometimes take quite a while to clear up. We got inoculations for Chickenpox.

53. I don't remember if we saw a dentist. There was a psychologist who came, I can't remember his name but he was the only psychologist I spoke to at St John Bosco's. He asked me how I was feeling about the place and I told him about the bullying and everything else. At that time, I was also receiving notes from my mother which were worrying. She would speak about her poor health. The psychologist went through me like a ton of bricks. He said, "Cheer up. I have never met a boy like you before."

Running away

54. I did try to run away with KNI. We stole a bike from a neighbour who was a teacher at the school. We got as far as Dalgetty Bay. We walked off the beach path up onto the main road and there was Brother LNB and the school van. We got into a lot of trouble for that. The issue was the stealing of the bike was serious in addition to running away. I think I got a black mark for that.
55. It just became an exciting idea to try and run away from St John Bosco's. I also wanted to escape bullying.

Discipline

56. The ultimate sanction at St John Bosco's was getting the belt from Father LOB. Father LOB could get intensely angry at us, but he never went over the score. In all the time I was at St John Bosco's I never witnessed or heard about any boy getting the belt. I never witnessed any violence between Priests and boys. I'm not saying it didn't happen but it wasn't the culture there. Occasionally boys would have melt-downs, get into serious fights. Priests would have to separate them but that was it.
57. The black mark system that would stop you getting home was the main form of discipline. The majority of the boys wanted to go home most of the time so the carrot

and the stick system worked well. The only times I didn't want to go home was if I had witnessed drinking and fighting on my previous home visit.

Bed Wetting

58. There was a problem with bed wetting and with boys soiling their underwear. At bedtime, your underwear would be inspected and if it was soiled you were given a scrubbing brush and made to clean it in the toilets. We were told that the laundry ladies were not prepared to deal with soiled underwear.
59. In terms of punishment for soiling your underwear, it was the embarrassment of being sent to clean your underwear that was the punishment because it was all in front of the other boys.
60. It was before my time there but I was told that Brother ^{LMW} would go round the dormitories at night and feel if the boys had wet the beds by feeling the sheets. There were complaints that he was touching the boys.
61. Some of the boys complained about Brother ^{LMW} to Father ^{LOB}. They would be given a haversack full of bricks and made to march around the playground outside the green huts because of making such an outrageous claim. I never saw any physical punishment for wetting the bed when I was at St John Bosco's. It was again the embarrassment of stripping the wet sheets in the morning and having a rubber sheet. I didn't suffer from bed wetting but I could understand the embarrassment of the boys' who did because I was embarrassed about my epilepsy.

Abuse at St John Bosco's

62. It was not long after I went to St John Bosco's, maybe six months, it was announced by Father ^{LOB} that Father ^{LRM} was coming to St John Bosco's. I

think he was [REDACTED] at the time, he certainly hadn't been [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We were told to be on our best behaviour, that he was a very important man. He was coming for some religious festival. I was very struck by him. I wouldn't have known the word charisma at the time but he seemed very holy. He had chocolates with him so I thought it was great. I was in class and a Priest or a Brother came and got me and said I was going to meet Father LRM [REDACTED] I hadn't asked for this and I was the only one who was taken out to meet Father LRM [REDACTED]

63. I was taken into what I believe was the Rector's room on the first floor of the main building. There was a large ornate desk with two chairs facing each other. He inquired about how I was. I talked to him about my mother and my treatment at St John Bosco's. Towards the end of the conversation he drew me towards him. He was wearing a cassock, with his legs apart but he wasn't exposing himself. He put his hand on the small of my back to draw me towards him between his legs. I was very embarrassed. My body language changed, I turned away and put my back against his thighs but he continued to talk to me. He brought out a pamphlet or book. On one side was a diagram of the female anatomy, and on the other side was the male anatomy with the penis and testes. I didn't know what this was all about. He then started speaking about cleanliness and hygiene. He said that if I pulled my foreskin back when washing, that this would help to keep my penis clean. I didn't understand why he was talking like this.
64. I had three meetings with Father LRM [REDACTED] about six months apart. At his next meeting with me, Father LRM [REDACTED] suggested that I come down to England for a holiday. I was quite excited about that, but in order to do that I wouldn't have been able to have my normal trip home in the summer but I wasn't bothered about that because I felt I was being given special treatment. Father LOB [REDACTED] called me into his office and he advised me in the strongest possible terms to think about not going. He explained to me that it would be upsetting to my mother if I went to England in the summer holidays rather than seeing her. I was angry with my mother, so I said I wanted to go to England.

65. I went on the holiday to England. It was in a car with Father LRM a boy who was an orphan and used to be a pupil at St John Bosco's, he was about 22 years old. There was another boy but I'm not sure if he was from St John Bosco's or St Ninian's. We went to Carlisle, Bolton, Bedford, and the Salesian order of St John Bosco college in Battersea, London. We were treated like royalty, the food was amazing.
66. I and the other young boy were given rooms of our own. It was suggested that we go to the Science Museum but the older boy, who was living in London with Father LRM, suggested that we go to Battersea funfair. We had a great time and when we went back to the college I ended up in the orphan boys' accommodation. He was just another boy, not a Priest, and we were talking normally. He coerced me into masturbating him. I kept my sexuality under wraps at that time, I was only realising that I was homosexual. In the circumstances, it was wrong what he did but I didn't feel traumatised by it.
67. Looking back over all the sexual assaults I have suffered in my life, none has confused me as much as what Father LRM did at that meeting in St John Bosco's. Father LRM didn't do anything to me on the trip to London.
68. There was a bully who I believe was called . He was from Barra. He was a bully from the day I arrived until the day I left. Every positive memory I have of St John Bosco's evaporates when I think of him. I have two toes stuck together on each foot and I got bullied about that. had a side-kick but I can't remember his name.
69. Brother LNB was a very popular Brother with the boys. He was funny, he would joke with you, but I think there was a darker side to Brother LNB. Everyone noticed that Brother LNB always hung about with KNI KNI told me that he was indulging in a sexual relationship with Brother LNB, although he didn't use those words to describe it. I was emerging as a gay man but I didn't have any relations with other boys at that time. I think KNI was gay too.

70. What happened with myself and Brother LNB was that one day we were playing football. At half-time Brother LNB was lying on the ground in front of me. He was almost in a foetal position. He turned his head towards me and started to circle his finger around his anus, over his shorts. He was looking directly at me when he was doing this and I became very embarrassed. I turned away and that was the end of that. I didn't tell anyone about what he was doing, I was embarrassed. I remember that incident because it was unusual, it wasn't a normal way for him to have behaved.
71. On one occasion we were in the swimming pool. I wasn't allowed in the deep end of the pool because of [REDACTED]. I was in the shallow end and [REDACTED] sat on me, I was trapped underwater. I had to be helped from the pool by another boy called [REDACTED], he was an older larger boy. I can't remember his second name. The outcome of that were that [REDACTED] got a good conduct mark which could help him get out of St John Bosco's. I remember everyone congratulating him for the good conduct mark but nobody was bothered about me.
72. On another occasion I was getting bullied by another boy. Brother IHU saw us but to him, he witnessed what appeared to be me and this other boy fighting in the playground. He got boxing gloves and me and this other boy were taken into one of the huts for a boxing match. This was a bad idea as I [REDACTED]. Although I didn't go into [REDACTED] I could have and I was in a bad way. They should have taken me to hospital to get checked out but they didn't. I was nominated the winner of the fight despite the bruises all over my face and the fact that the other boy wasn't marked. I think it was intended to boost my self-esteem but there seemed to be panic that this had happened. Brother IHU left soon after that. I don't know exactly how soon after but I got the impression that it was because of the boxing match that he left.

Reporting of abuse at St John Bosco's

73. I told Father LUF and Father LOB that I was being bullied. Whether it was verbal or physical bullying it was your word against the boy doing the bullying. Bullying wasn't taken seriously until it became serious, like the boxing match incident.

Leaving St John Bosco's

74. Father **LOB** organised my release date. It was a normal thing, boys left because there would be other new boys who required to attend St John Bosco's. I went into his office and he signed off on my release. Father **LUF** was the one who did the work to result in my release. He was a great guy. He got in touch with my mother in Glasgow to make sure it was alright for me to go home when they planned. I got home, but things were worse than before I went to St John Bosco's.

Life after being in care

75. I was fourteen, back in Glasgow, and attending St Augustine's Secondary school. I couldn't cope. I had come from a closed community of a few boys, to 1500 kids in north Glasgow. Between the noise and the undisciplined environment, I couldn't handle it. My response was to start skipping school again. I would get my bus fare for school and either take the bus somewhere or walk into the city centre and spend my bus fare. I was called in to discuss my truancy. I said that I couldn't cope in the class I was in so they moved me up a class. I was struggling there, because the boys in the class were two years ahead of me and I started truanting again. Because I hadn't been there from the start of the school year, I wasn't missed.
76. I left school without any qualifications, I didn't even go to the last day of term. My parents weren't really bothered, there were so many other issues with drugs and alcohol going on in the family at that time. My mother was taking pills. To make matters worse, I started having a sexual relationship with my stepfather . I was very frightened of but he was a very good looking man, he was about 35 years old at that time. I know my homosexuality was established in my mind by that time but I don't know what I was thinking of.
77. My sisters were wetting the bed and the beds weren't getting replaced. You couldn't go into the room because of the smell of urine. My brother had taken to drink and my brother had taken to hard drugs, morphine. That's how life was at .

█████ By this time, my mother was drinking Carlsberg Special Brew. She would be found in the street unconscious. She had a number of suicide attempts with ██████
█████ She became an embarrassment to her children. She ended up in a mental hospital getting electro-shock treatment.

78. I decided enough was enough. It had been the wrong decision for me to come back into the family home. It was a toxic environment for me and I became depressed. Instead of going to school, I was going into Glasgow city centre and that's where I started being a male prostitute. I was fourteen and aware that some men looked at me in an unusual way. The city centre at that time was a cesspit, there were a number of places where homosexual men met boys, usually where there were public toilets. There were different areas where girls would hang out to meet men.
79. I experimented with drugs but I was mainly drinking alcohol. It made me feel much better than my normal depressed state, but I didn't realise the consequences of drinking. I continued with prostitution, being taken advantage of by men who were telling me what I wanted to hear. I was striving to join in the gay scene. ██████, a friend of mine I had met in the city centre, suggested we go to London.
80. We hitch-hiked to London. I was fifteen and had no feelings of guilt about leaving my family behind, I had had enough. ██████ met a man who took him in. I met ██████, a paedophile, who picked me up in a place called Playland, in the west end. He lived in Richmond. His wife was in South Africa and he had flats attached to his house which he rented out. That was my cover, that I was renting one of his flats. He completely turned my head, taking me shopping to Harrods. He bought me satin jackets, ostrich shoes, jewellery, everything I wanted. I was eating steak every night but there was a price to pay. He was abusing me sexually in some of the most disgusting ways including sado-masochism and some things I don't want to go into. He used to talk to me about very young children and how he would groom them to do the things he wanted. I later found out that he was jailed for four or five years for molesting very young children.

81. I didn't register for benefits in London because I was afraid I would get caught as being a fifteen year old runaway and would be sent home to Glasgow. I did get caught one time with my friend [REDACTED]. We got caught shoplifting and when the police realised my age I was sent back to Glasgow on a plane accompanied by a social worker. I had never been on a plane before, I thought it was so exciting. When I got out of court, I phoned [REDACTED] who booked a ticket for me to go back to London on a sleeper train. I don't know if it would raise any eyebrows now if a fifteen year old was travelling alone, but I think it should have back in the 1970's.
82. I contracted Syphilis in London when I was seventeen years old. I attended St Steven's Hospital for injections of Penicillin. I didn't know anything about venereal diseases. I think it's a miracle I survived given my lifestyle.
83. When [REDACTED] got sick of me, he threw me out and I was on the streets in London. I was then either living with a gay guy I had met on the scene, or I was working as a street prostitute. I gravitated towards the music scene. There were a number of gay men in music management and I met a number of famous people. I experimented with LSD, Heroin, and amphetamines. That lifestyle went on for four or five years during which time there were various sexual assaults but at the time I just considered that normal. I started becoming more careful about who I would allow myself to be picked up by.
84. About 1975 or 1976, I returned to Glasgow. I didn't stay in my family home, I got a flat in [REDACTED] I managed to get myself a job as a barman. I wasn't a chronic alcoholic at that stage but I was never far from alcohol. I was still using alcohol as a crutch.
85. My mother died in 1979 from a massive heart attack. It was because of her drink and drug abuse. I moved back into the family home when my mother died to try and support my sisters. My step-father moved in with my mother's sister a week after my mother died and I was thrown out of the house. From there I drifted around to Edinburgh, York, and then back to Glasgow. Basically it was a life of alcoholism.

86. I was never in a normal relationship, I don't deal with rejection or someone being angry with me. It was easier to be isolated, it was safer to be alone. I have only had one real relationship which was when I lived in Edinburgh. I thought it was what I had always yearned for but it became toxic. My partner was cheating on me and getting himself into all sorts of trouble with the people he was picking up. That destroyed my trust in people again. I was hurt by what he did to me but even more hurt that I had allowed him to do it to me. I found out later that he had killed himself. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
87. I think it would be unreasonable to lay all of the responsibility for my problems at the door of St John Bosco's but the solution to my childhood problems that was offered at St John Bosco's didn't help to address my problems, it made things worse. There was really nobody at St John Bosco's that I could talk to about my problems.
88. My brother [REDACTED] committed suicide [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] took an [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. My biological father died locked in his house in [REDACTED]. My sisters have been scarred by our experience as children. [REDACTED] is very stoic, [REDACTED] is very flighty, and [REDACTED] I find very aggressive. She is very like our step-father and we clash, we have never got on. I am in contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but I am no longer in contact with [REDACTED].

Impact

89. All of my life I have suppressed my emotions and feelings. That is how I cope. The behaviour of Father ^{LRM} [REDACTED] was confusing to me at the time and it has continued to confuse me throughout my adult life. When I saw him in Edinburgh with Pope John Paul II I remembered my experiences with Father ^{LRM} [REDACTED] and this left me feeling further confused. I knew there was something not right about what he did. The Catholic Church does not teach sex education and I did not understand the book that he had at that meeting. I feel guilty about what happened. To this day I don't know if he was trying to be loving or what. He seemed so dazzling at the time, but it caused me to doubt my religion. I now describe myself as a lapsed Catholic.

90. My health has never been that great. I have not [REDACTED] since around 2017 but I suffer from Diverticulitis. The surgeons are not willing to operate because of my general health. I suffered a heart attack in 2006.
91. I think my mental health has been bad from very early days. At St John Bosco's, the bullying and anxiety was constant. It was like going from a frying pan at home into a fire. The impact of that anxiety as a child, together with my medical condition was that I was depressed but I don't think they ever recognised depression or that it was something that should be addressed. Although I saw a psychologist at St John Bosco's they were really only concerned with our physical welfare. Their solution was just to get us to go out and play so I suffered from depression for a long time.
92. I did address my alcohol problem. I have attended Alcoholics Anonymous. I was sober for thirteen years but had a slip on a trip to Benidorm and started drinking again for three years but I stopped again about 2018.
93. I have suffered from depression for most of my life both as a child and as an adult. In the past I have been treated with Prozac, Seroxat, and Fluoxetine which I have not responded well to. The system of talking to the psychologists and psychiatrists in the NHS doesn't seem to be working because you talk to one person, then the next month it's someone different. It's difficult to feel that things are being dealt with properly or you were being believed.
94. I have had great help from Future Pathways and The Anchor which is a trauma service. I am dealing with a psychologist who deals with trauma, child abuse, and all the issues I am dealing with. I am always dealing with the same person and that is helping a lot. I always blamed myself for my issues as a child. I was depressed, I was homosexual, and I was running away. There was a feeling of guilt that I was responsible for causing my problems but with the work I am doing now, I feel I am heading in the right direction. I feel my sense of isolation is getting better, I am going out more often.

95. I think about my time at St John Bosco's a lot. Some things they did well, some things not so well. The doubts I felt about the behaviour of Father LRM [REDACTED] have troubled me.

Reporting of Abuse

96. I spoke to the police about the abuse I suffered but I have some issues about the way they dealt with my statement. They were only interested in speaking about abuse at St John Bosco's, not the abuse I suffered when I was running away from home.

Records

97. The only record I have been able to obtain is a letter I got confirming my admission to St John Bosco's on [REDACTED] 1968 and that I was no longer required to attend to the school on [REDACTED] 1970. It is signed by a Reverend Mervyn Williams, trustee of St John Bosco's. That letter was dated 17 October 2019.
98. There was an accompanying letter from Birthlink saying that they had other records but I am not very happy with Birthlink because they have not maintained good communications with me. I have been left for months at a time without knowing what was happening about my inquiries into my records. It was very frustrating because I knew there must be records somewhere but all they came back to me with was the letter from Reverend Williams. Birthlink told me the courts have no records about me, nor do the social work department of what would have been Glasgow Corporation at the time.

Lessons to be learned

99. I think we have to remember that children are children. They are innocent but people have been taking advantage of them. Being a Catholic it is outrageous to learn about

the abuse that has gone on, the perpetrators being moved, and the denials. That has a terrible effect on the victims of abuse. The Catholic church and the media have tried to blame abuse on people being alcoholics. I was an alcoholic and a junkie, but I wasn't born like that. They were problems that I acquired. I believe it was because of the abuse that I suffered.

100. I was put into care but there was a lack of care. I think we should do more to educate the people involved in child care. I know there is more being done now but there are still issues such as funding.
101. I have heard Pope Francis speaking about abuse but I think he should prostrate himself before a group of survivors to make the apology real. I think there needs to be a profound apology to the survivors of abuse, not only from the Catholic Church but from the state. There has to be an admission that they got it wrong.

Other information

102. 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 GWZ

Dated 5-3-2020