

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Elaine MCKENNA

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Elaine McKenna. My maiden surname was Duncan. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before Employment at St Marys Kenmure, Bishopbriggs

2. I was born and brought up in Glasgow. When I left school, I worked in an office. I then joined the Police Cadets and met my husband. Later on I was involved in a car accident and as a result of my injuries I had to leave the Cadets. My husband and I married and we had a son and a daughter. My son passed away five years ago. I lived in Blairdardie in the West End of Glasgow and I worked as a home carer for Drumchapel Social Work Department for about six years.
3. I left school with qualifications. Whilst I was working as a carer, I took Scottish Vocational Qualifications, SVQ's. These are practical qualifications relating to caring for people.
4. My husband and I lived in a police house but by 1998 we had saved enough to buy our own home and we moved to Bishopbriggs. I wanted to move on in my career. My colleague's husband worked in St Mary's and my colleague suggested that I apply for a job there. I went to St Mary's for an interview and I started work at St Mary's on 2nd April 1991 as a residential care officer.

St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs

5. St Mary's is in its own grounds and when I worked there we were in the old building. A new building was built later but I only worked in there for a short time. The old building was horrible. There was a locked door to get in, then the reception, administration, finance and the headmaster's office. Then there were two sets of locked gates, which only a senior or the headmaster had keys for.
6. The locked gates brought you to the main area of the unit. To the right was the blue unit, where I worked. Straight ahead there were steps leading to the school area. To the left was a set of stairs leading to where the children slept. There were three units, blue, yellow and green, with eight children in each. The boys and girls mixed in the units downstairs but their bedrooms were in separate corridors. There was an area with a pool table and table tennis table.
7. The staff had an office where did their changeover and the staff toilets were there. The unit matron had her own room near the kitchen. The children would have to be taken to those areas by a member of staff because the doors to them were locked. There were internal locked doors to every part of the unit, including the children's bedroom doors. The staff had internal keys for use within the unit. There should have been three staff in every unit but this was not always the case.
8. St Mary's also had an open unit which was in a house on the hill. The open unit accommodated eight to ten children. The children would progress from the secure unit to the open unit if they were going back into the community, or they would be housed there if they could manage an open setting. Children often ran away from the open unit.
9. The children would be sent to St Mary's by a court or by social work. The child would have a secure order because they were a danger to others or they were a risk to themselves. Children would be at the unit for different lengths of time. For children at the unit on a social work order, the aim would be to have the child out of secure after about three months but that never happened. The youngest child I worked with was

eleven or twelve years old and the oldest was eighteen. That young man was going on to prison after St Mary's.

10. Bill Duffy was the headmaster. He was in charge of the finances and was manager for the whole school. There was an assistant manager in charge of each unit.
11. Charlotte was the cashier. I think, when I worked at the unit, it cost around £2000 a week to keep a child in the unit. If you needed money for going on an outing or getting clothes for a child, you went to Charlotte with a 'chitty', a note. Every penny was accounted for. Charlotte was very strict with the money. Every unit had a 'kitty', around £15 a week for the unit. The kitty was used if you were getting MacDonald's burgers for a child or taking one to the cinema. Every child had to take a turn in having the kitty spent on them; it wasn't the same child every time.
12. St Mary's was run by the Cora Foundation, which is affiliated to the Catholic Church. The unit was supposed to be run on Christian values and these were included in my contract of employment. I am a catholic, so that appealed to me. Christian values were not adhered to at all.
13. My post at St Mary's was a full-time position. It involved shift work. I worked one weekend every month. Saturday and Sunday were a fourteen hour day. The shift pattern was early, late, early. This meant you would put the children to bed and get them up in the morning, so there was consistency there. When I first started work, because of the shift pattern, I could work fourteen days without a day off. After the fourteen days, you got three days off. An early shift was 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and a late shift was 3:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Then the nightshift would come on at 10:30 pm. If they were short of staff, you would do a nightshift. The nightshift staff were usually the same people all of the time.
14. The system of management of staff was non-existent. The way staff came to work at St Mary's was scary. Once, an artist painting a mural at the Play Barn was asked if he wanted to do a back-shift because we had no staff. My brother-in-law, Brian, who has now passed way, was a taxi driver. He was looking for work other than taxi work so I

asked Jim Connolly if there were any posts. Jim told me to go and pick up Brian and bring him to the unit, which I did. He started on nightshift that night. I knew Brian was alright but he could have been anybody.

15. When I first went to St Mary's, I worked in the Secure Unit. I was off for a year following surgery and when I returned, I went into the Open Unit. An incident occurred in the Open Unit when a girl tried to attack me. As a result of that, I returned to the Secure Unit for a short time before leaving St Mary's for good.

Routine at St Mary's Kenmure Secure Unit

16. I worked in the Blue Unit and when I started work at St Mary's, Hugh Gallagher was the manager and Ian Hamilton was the assistant manager. I worked with [REDACTED] and Jim Hillock. We worked in teams of three. The three of us would decide what was going happen that day and we would have a changeover from the shift before ours.
17. Not long after I started work at St Mary's, I was assaulted by a resident because I was totally out of my depth. I was left in the unit on my own. Another time I was hit on the head with a Hoover because a child didn't want to do their chores. The unit would be all done up and then it would be wrecked, it was an on-going thing.
18. I was very hopeful when I started work at the unit. I thought I was going to make an impact with the children. I thought I would be helping to rehabilitate the young people. There were programmes you could do with young people to highlight where they'd gone wrong, what had triggered things. The reality was that you were left to your own devices. Some staff were good and really cared about the children. They would use their own money to buy things sometimes. Other staff were not good. I knew the unit was secure but I had no idea how the children would be treated. The children had absolutely no rights.

Managing the Children

19. When a child came into the unit, there would be meetings with the child and a programme would be agreed as to what the child was going to do and what they were to aim for. For instance, a lot of young people were taken out of the unit on trips to prepare them for going back into the community. The programme was completely different for each child. The programme was agreed with the senior staff member and the care workers.
20. Some children would be on a home programme, with the aim of getting them back living in the family home. The child was allowed to go on a home leave, accompanied by one or two members of staff. We would go into the family home, sit with the child and their parents and see how the relationship was going. Then we might go out for lunch and back to the unit.
21. Each staff member was the key worker for at least one and sometimes two children. There were some kids who did well. There was a boy who we steered towards college and he became a chef.

Children's Progress Reports

22. Whilst the children were in school, the staff would go to the office and look at the log to see if there were any reports or anything to be done. I would write reports for children going to the Children's Hearing. The reports were about how things were going, how the child was progressing in school and how they were looking after themselves. The report was written with input from the teachers. I would go to Children's Hearings and sometimes to court.
23. The children had input into the reports, they would be looking for a way forward. They would be very vocal. If the children didn't like anything, they would tell you. A lot of the time, what was in the report was what the writer wanted to put in. I don't remember seeing any bad reports. We would go to the Children's Hearing and everything was wonderful.

Record Keeping

24. The general log was a record of which staff members were on shift, whether anything had happened on the shift, whether there were any problems or concerns. There was a record of which children were out of bed, who had showered and who had had breakfast. We recorded any concerns we had about any child. The log was in a ring-binder file. It would be filled in by each shift. The three staff members on a shift would each take a turn in filling in the general log.
25. Each child had an individual log where you wrote down everything that happened with them in a day. The individual logs were kept locked up in the staff office.
26. The senior member of staff had a book where they recorded everything that happened in the unit. The record contained every member of staff who was in the unit, who was out of the unit and where they were, for example at court or a children's panel. There was a record of any restraints used on the children.
27. Before I left my employment at St Mary's, a girl in the open unit tried to attack me. The senior in the unit was called Kath and she had previously worked in the Yellow Unit. The girl was going mad. Three male members of staff were sitting on her. Kath told me to write a report about the girl and gave me the girl's personal records. I thought this was wrong. I didn't know the girl, she'd tried to attack me and I didn't know why. I was being asked to write a report based on what was in a personal record. I went to Mr Duffy and said to him, how could I possibly write the report? I shouldn't have been near the girl. I didn't write the report. I was moved out of the unit by Mr Duffy.
28. When the logs were full, they taken to dead filing. I believe dead filing was in the Good Shepherd where Cora had their base.

Mornings and bedtime

29. The children were all in separate rooms, locked in. There were fancy bars around the window. In the room there was a bed. Some children had a chest of drawers but other children wrecked the drawers and wouldn't have any. The children could put pictures on the wall and were allowed their own personal things in their room.
30. My duties included getting the children into a routine. On a school day we would get the children up at 8 or 8:30 am, when you went on shift. You would make sure they were okay; they had their breakfast and get them into the school. Two female members of staff would go to the girl's corridor and the rest of the staff would go to the boy's corridor. If I was at the boys' corridor, I would stand at the end of the corridor and just make sure everything was okay. Sometimes you helped the children getting ready, directed them, especially the girls. The girls could be a nightmare.
31. The backshift staff put the kids to bed. The latest they could go to bed was midnight. The nightshift staff made sure the kids were in bed and put the lights out.

Mealtimes / Food

32. A lot of the children didn't know how to eat properly. Breakfast would be toast or cereal. At the weekend there was a brunch cooked by the staff or sometimes the cook. Lunch and dinner was cooked in the kitchen and brought into the unit. The food was terrible. Good quality ingredients came into the unit but we used to say Willie Nelson, the cook, could destroy anything. If I was working at the weekends, I would sometimes bring in a big chicken and make chicken curry or make pancakes with the children. The children loved that because they were hungry.
33. Later on, when things changed, the children got more pocket money and they could buy snacks and things for at night. The children were allowed to phone out to order carry-out food to be brought in, if they had money from their pocket money to pay for it. The phone call would be supervised by a member of staff.

Washing / bathing

34. Everything was basic. There was one shower in the living area of the blue unit that the boys would come down to use in the morning. There was no privacy, anyone could walk in the door. The children were all encouraged to have a shower every day, although some didn't choose to. That was their own choice.
35. There was one bath in the whole place, in the girls' corridor. The whole school used that bath. If a boy wanted a bath, he'd have to wait until some point in the day or night when there were no girls in the girls' corridor, to be taken up there by a member of staff. The boy would be locked in the girls' corridor to have a bath. I don't know if that happened very often.

Clothing / uniform

36. In the early days, when children arrived at the unit, the matron would give them a jumper, a pair of pyjamas, a toothbrush and soap. It was very basic. All the kids had the same, there was no choice. Later, the children got money and the staff would take them out to pick their own clothes and toiletries. If the children weren't allowed out, the staff would get those things for them. The school provided a certain amount of things and the rest of the money came from the social work department.
37. The children wore their own clothes. They could put their clothes down to the laundry to be washed. The clean laundry came up to the unit in a big bucket at night and the children would take their clothes out of the bucket for the next day.

School

38. School started at 9:30 am. The bell would go and the children would go up to the school. The teachers were Bill in the woodwork, John McKinstry, Eileen Ruthkin, IFV IFV, the gym teacher, there was an English teacher and a maths teacher and a

teacher who was called "Coach". There was an alarm that the teacher could activate if there was an incident in the school. We often had to run up to help the teachers because the alarm had gone off. It might be because a child was trying to assault the teacher. Sometimes we'd go up to the school to see how the children were doing or to help out.

Personal Possessions

39. There were certain things that the children weren't allowed, like spray aerosols, because of the danger of them inhaling them to get high. Whilst the children were in school, the staff would check the children's rooms to make sure they didn't have anything they shouldn't have. It never ceased to amaze me how the children got things into the unit. Every time a child went out of the unit, they were searched but they still got stuff in.
40. The children were given pocket money. The amount varied, depending on the child's age. I think it was around £5 a week.

Leisure Time

41. At night, the children could play in a big, empty space which was called the 'Play Barn'. They could play games like football and badminton. The physical education teacher, IFV, had sports equipment in there. Each unit had a time to go to the Play Barn.

Trips / Holidays

42. The school had cars and certain young people were allowed out of the unit on a trip, as part of their aim to get back into the community. This could be part of the child's programme, which was agreed when they came into the unit. A child would be allowed out on a trip when their behaviour was good. Usually one staff member would take one child to MacDonald's or to the cinema. If there was more than more one going out, at least two staff members would also go.

43. There were a lot of trips which I wasn't involved in. I went on one trip to Speyside to an outward bound centre for about three days. There was myself, another male member of staff, one of the girls and two boys from the unit. The boys were serving a sentence that meant that they would go on to prison. It was a big risk taking the boys out however the centre was in the middle of nowhere, with nowhere to run away to.
44. We had a great time, cycling, abseiling and canoeing with an instructor. I hadn't abseiled before and said I wasn't going over the side but the children encouraged me to go. That was one of the more pleasant sides of working at the unit. You could see the children's confidence growing, it was great.

Chores

45. The children were responsible for their own unit. There was a rota for which child had to do which chore. The children were to keep the unit, the toilets and their rooms clean. The children had to Hoover the carpets and wash the dishes every day. A lot of children refused to do their chores. A cleaner came in to do the staff areas.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

46. Family visits were encouraged. Families could come and visit the children in the unit whenever they wanted to. A family visit would only be refused if there was something on or problems in the unit. There was a glassed off area where the children and their family could sit and talk.
47. Children could make phone calls but these would be supervised. Staff would dial the number.
48. Staff members would take children out on home visits to see their family. Usually there was one member of staff to one child but sometimes there would be two staff members to one child, if the child was high risk. I took children to places such as Inverness, Aberdeen and Banff for home visits. If there weren't enough staff to cover children's panel appearances, the unit and home visits, then the home visit wouldn't take place.

49. It was very seldom that social workers came in to see the children. I can't remember a social worker coming in on a regular basis. I think by law the social worker had to come in to see the child within a certain time of the child being placed in the unit. They didn't come in to work with the young people in the unit. The unit staff had regular telephone contact with the social worker.
50. There were inspections to do with the money side of things and the schooling but I don't know who carried them out or what was involved there. I didn't have any contact with the people carrying out those inspections.

Religious Instruction

51. When I started work at St Mary's, there was a wee room that had been made into a chapel. If anyone wanted to, they could go up there for Mass. There was also a shrine at the front door. The chapel and the shrine weren't there for long, they were taken away. When the priest came in for Mass, it was optional whether a child wanted to go or not.

Healthcare

52. If the children had a health problem, we would get them to the local doctor at Bishopbriggs Cross, if we could. When we had a matron, she did a lot of the healthcare.

Running away

53. Children ran away all the time when they were out on trips. If that happened, you would phone the police and the school and hope the child would come back. The staff member would return to the school and fill out a report. Children also ran away from the open unit.

Discipline

54. If a child was causing mayhem, they would be "dubbed up". The child would be removed from the common area and placed upstairs in their room for time out. After time out, you would speak to them and try to work through the problem. Hopefully the child would walk to their room. If not they would be forcibly removed. That was barbaric.
55. If I was there and a child refused to do something or was causing a problem, I sat down with them and spoke to them. I tried to get them to calm down and not cause a scene. I asked why they wouldn't do what was being asked and explained the consequences of not doing it. I would try to work round what the problem was. Most of the time, the other staff would dismiss me and remove the child forcibly anyway.
56. A child might be stopped from going on trips as a punishment too.

Suitability of Secure Accommodation for Children

57. Two young girls came into the unit who should never have been there. Both were on home programmes. Both struggled with their gender, as in were they girls or not. They both came from very quiet areas. One girl came from Inverary. She lived in a cottage and her parents were 'well to do'. The girl had no idea what had happened to her when she arrived at the unit. It was such a culture shock. The girls ended up doing drugs and all sorts.
58. We had one young girl, [REDACTED], who came in for serious assault when she was pregnant. [REDACTED] had a baby girl who came back to the unit with her. It was horrendous having a wee baby in the unit. There was violence in the unit and things being thrown around. You didn't know what was going to happen next. We got a cot and all the rest of the things a baby needs. The cot was put into [REDACTED]'s room. In [REDACTED]'s room there

was only enough space for a single bed, a cot and not much more. The baby lived in St Mary's, I think for around six months. It was shocking.

59. Helen Strang was [REDACTED]'s key worker. Helen would come to me for help with the baby because I was the oldest and had children of my own. I would get things for the baby and show [REDACTED] how to look after the baby. I don't know whose decision it was to allow the baby to stay in the unit. Eventually [REDACTED]'s mother and the baby's father took the baby out of the unit. Not long after that, [REDACTED] left the secure unit.

St Mary's Kenmure Open Unit

60. St Mary's had an open unit within the grounds. It was a big house. The idea was that the children progressed to the open unit in preparation for returning to the community. I think the unit held about eight children. The girls were at one side and the boys at the other. The front door to the unit was open during day and locked at night. The doors inside the unit were not locked.
61. There were usually two members of staff at the open unit because the children were not so high risk. I worked with Jim Tempney. He was really good to the children. One time I was working in the Open Unit, a new member of staff came up to work with me and all five children from that unit ran away.
62. As in the secure unit, families could visit children whenever they liked unless there was something on or some problem. They could sit in one of the lounges and talk. The staff would keep the other children at the other side of the house, to give them privacy. Sometimes visits would be at the secure unit if the child was at school when the visitor came.

Substance Misuse

63. Drugs were a big problem in the units. Staff took drugs in too, mainly cannabis. I don't know why, maybe to have a peaceful shift or for favours from the children. Especially in the open unit, the children would take the 'munchies', that's what they called it. The children would be in the kitchen trying to get things to eat.
64. The children went to extraordinary lengths to get drugs into the unit. A boy in the green unit had a visit from his family. They brought him a pizza which he didn't want. The family said the staff could have the pizza. However, the pizza was loaded with drugs and the staff ended up under the influence of drugs.
65. One time the children got the fire extinguisher from the school car into the unit. A boy died in the unit, inhaling it. He was a really lovely boy and I was really upset about it. He had latched onto the bathroom door with his teeth. It was Willie Nelson, the cook who was supervising that night. He was not trained to watch the children. When you are trained, you would see a pattern of someone going into the toilet and coming out looking a bit spaced. Willie Nelson wouldn't know what to look out for. The children should never have got the fire extinguisher into the unit. They should have been searched.
66. One time, on the trip to the outward bound centre in Speyside, we were out cycling as a group. I was at the back, keeping an eye on the children, when I realised one of the boys was weaving all over the place. He had managed to get drugs and was absolutely out of it. This was a big deal; it was a breach of his conditions. We phoned the headmaster thinking we'd need to go home. The headmaster said to make sure he had nothing else and if everything was okay, to continue with the trip.
67. IFV [REDACTED] brother, IFY [REDACTED] worked at the unit. One night we were taking the children up to bed and he took a wee pill box out of his pocket. He showed me some white powder and asked me if I wanted to party. I despise drugs and said no. I reported that incident. That was the only time I saw anything stronger than cannabis in the unit.

68. I believe that IFY [REDACTED] was supplying drugs to the children into the unit. I believe that because the children all loved him. There would be a change in atmosphere when he was there, then a child would be out of it.
69. A girl called [REDACTED] was in hospital. She was searched and didn't have drugs. I went off shift. Staff stayed with her for 24 hours in the hospital. The next day I went in and [REDACTED] was out of it. Whoever had been in before, had supplied her with drugs. The drugs were in her sock.

Training and Qualifications whilst at St Mary's, Kenmure

70. I thought, at the time of my interview, that St Mary's was a well-structured place where you could go on and study. I had said that I wanted to further my studies and study for a degree in social sciences and St Mary's said that they would support me in that. It didn't quite work out that way.
71. I did receive training at St Mary's and passed all my Scottish Vocational Qualifications, to Level 4. The SVQ was done on site, at the unit. I attended Barmulloch College and passed my Higher National Certificate.
72. We visited Kerelaw and Ardrossan Secure Units to see how they worked. We also went to a unit in England. Kerelaw was horrendous. They had a room which they took children into. The visits were supposed to be giving us experience of what we should be doing with the children at our unit.

Abuse of Children by Staff at St Mary's Kenmure

73. zMHL [REDACTED], one of the care workers, took a young girl, [REDACTED], out of the unit. He took her to his home and he raped her. The young girl had been sexually abused and had been prostituting herself before she came to the unit. The girl told me zMHL [REDACTED] had

raped her. I believed her. She was telling the truth. [REDACTED] knew too much, you couldn't make the things up that she told me. [REDACTED] had taken the girl to his house and she was able to say what was in the house. [REDACTED] told me what [REDACTED]'s wife and children looked like, she'd seen photographs of them in [REDACTED]'s house. Later it turned out [REDACTED] had taken photographs of his house in to show the children. I think he did that to cover for what he was intending to do.

74. It was all a set up by the staff. [REDACTED] was a senior member of staff who authorised children leaving the unit, on that shift. [REDACTED] got [REDACTED] to agree to get [REDACTED] out of the unit on an outing. A member of staff, I don't remember who, took [REDACTED] to the McDonald's at Springburn on a night when [REDACTED] wasn't at work. [REDACTED] came into McDonald's with his wife and children. I think this was so that [REDACTED] could say [REDACTED] saw [REDACTED] and his family at McDonalds and support [REDACTED] saying he didn't take [REDACTED] to his home and rape her. [REDACTED] got a real hard time in the school and no-one believed her. [REDACTED] went out on weekend leave and took her own life.
75. I don't know why [REDACTED] would cover up such a terrible thing. She was a good person. Just after all of this happened, [REDACTED] came into work with a black eye and her face was bruised. [REDACTED] lived in a tenement flat with a controlled entry in [REDACTED]. She said that when she went to go into her flat, someone was waiting in the back close and gave her a hammering, so that she'd keep quiet about [REDACTED].
76. The staff did a control and restraint course, run by mental health nurses, in Gartnavel Royal Hospital. I never used the training. It was absolutely disgraceful. The way the staff treated the children was dreadful. The staff were hurting the children when they were restraining them.
77. [REDACTED] was a senior teacher at St Mary's. He was around my age, about six feet tall and big built. He was a very clever man who could talk his way out of anything. [REDACTED] was very violent in his restraint of children. If [REDACTED] had a child to be removed he did it alone, he didn't need any help from another staff member. He would put the child's arm up their back and bend their thumb. [REDACTED] would literally drag the child up the stairs. I saw [REDACTED] do this several times to boys and girls. He was moved out of

the unit to Cora, to do work at the Good Shepherd. I believe the move was because of incidents involving him.

78. IFW [REDACTED] came to the unit to work as a care worker. I think it was around 1995. He was quite a young lad, in his mid-twenties. He was very pleasant and was one of my shift partners. IFW [REDACTED] was key worker to a young girl who was fifteen years old. I can't remember her name but she was very pretty and had dark, curly, wavy, hair. All of a sudden, IFW [REDACTED] was no longer at the unit.
79. Usually when the children left the unit, they had nowhere to go and no support when they went out. I was keen to get involved in outreach work. I thought it was an area that was progressing. I think the council had started it. The child would get a house and be put into it with a member of staff. The member of staff would support the child, teach them how to cook, pay bills and manage a budget. The member of staff didn't stay in the house, it was shift work.
80. IFW [REDACTED] came into the unit and said he'd been to see Bill Duffy, the headmaster and he was doing outreach work with this young girl. I thought that was great and I'd need to see how it went. However, I never saw IFW [REDACTED] again.
81. A short time later, I was in Kirkintilloch which is close to Bishopbriggs. I saw the young girl pushing a pram in the main street. I said "Hello, who's this?" The girl said, "That's IFW [REDACTED] s." The girl said she was either getting married to or had married, IFW [REDACTED] and that was his child.
82. I thought that wasn't right. The timing wasn't right. I wondered what on earth had happened. Even if she had become pregnant when she had left St Mary's, it was not appropriate. I went back to the unit and spoke to a senior, I can't remember which one. The senior said it was alright and Mr Duffy knew all about it. That was it. I don't know if the relationship was going on whilst the girl was under our care. I think it was covered up by the unit. No-one knew anything about it. I thought it would be discussed at the staff meeting but it wasn't.

83. IFV [REDACTED] was the gym teacher. He was a bully. He used to take the children over the Play Barn. They played a murder ball game. The kids would be wrapped in mats and be hammered. The kid would be the ball. They would be hit by the other children and by IFV [REDACTED]. I wouldn't go, I didn't want to witness it.
84. If a child was violent within the unit, the staff reaction was just as bad. The methods of restraint were barbaric.

Abuse of Staff by Other Staff at St Mary's Kenmure

85. If you didn't do what the other staff wanted you to do, they turned the kids against you and gave you a really hard time. They would make a fool of you. zMHL [REDACTED], IFV [REDACTED] and IFY [REDACTED] thought they were the kings of the castle.
86. At the control and restraint training course, IFT [REDACTED] nearly broke my arm. We were working in a pair. I was shouting at him to stop, that he was really hurting me. The instructors came over but it was all treated as a big joke. He was a really rough bully. He was using the restraints to the extreme. Then, after the course, I came into the unit. IFT [REDACTED] was behind the door and other staff members were there. IFT [REDACTED] jumped me and decked me, putting me onto the floor. He did this for a laugh, to show the children how good he was. It was his way of saying, he could do that to me so he could do it to children and they were to behave themselves. Again, it was all treated as a big joke, everybody was laughing. I was so angry.
87. I was the key worker for a boy, [REDACTED], who was convicted of rape. On my birthday, a member of staff, IFX [REDACTED], bought an eternity ring and gave it to the boy. The boy gave the ring to me with a letter. IFX [REDACTED] had helped the boy write the letter, which was all about how he loved me and how I was a great key worker. I went straight to Jim Connolly, the senior staff member, who said, "You're right out of here." He moved me to the open unit.

88. I heard that IFT was not particularly good to KRM, one of the other seniors, after their long standing affair ended.
89. zMHL tried to rape me. One night I was at home with my friend, Marion. zMHL phoned and said to come up to his house, they were having a wee social night and people were coming. Marion and I went to zMHL's house. There was no-one else there. I realised no-one else was coming and there was something not right. I didn't have a drink because I thought I had to keep my wits about me. I said to Marion I would use the toilet and then we'd leave.
90. When I came out of the toilet, zMHL was there and he grabbed me. He put me onto the bed. I got him off me, ran downstairs and got Marion. We phoned for a taxi and stood in the street until it came. I went to the school about the incident rather than getting the police.
91. zMHL was eventually sacked, although I wasn't working at St Mary's at the time. He won a claim for unfair dismissal against the unit. I was told this by John O'Callaghan.
92. When I started at St Mary's, IFV was in a long term affair with . That stopped. IFV would say things to the staff like, "Show us your tits." "Your tits are big." "Your tits are lovely, don't lose weight." I was separating from my husband of eighteen years. I was having a difficult time. I had two kids and my son was at university. spoke to IFV and told him to leave me alone because I was very vulnerable.
93. IFV continually pestered me. He wouldn't leave me alone. It was sexual harassment, to the extent that I slept with him. I got the courage to tell IFV that it was over and he was to leave me alone.
94. After I left St Mary's, every so often, KRM phoned me to go out socially with the staff and I would go out with them. I was frightened the staff would tell my family and my kids that I'd slept with IFV. I went out with them only because I was

frightened something might be said. Before any social event, IFV [REDACTED] would send me obscene texts.

95. The harassment has continued for eighteen years. At Christmas, I had to block IFV [REDACTED] from my phone because he was phoning and texting me. I think he's trying to make me keep quiet because I know he was violent at St Mary's. IFV [REDACTED] has no way of silencing me now, by threatening to tell my family about my sleeping with him, because I've lost all of my family.
96. The intimidation includes staff members driving past my house, even though I've moved away from Bishopbriggs. KRM [REDACTED] drove past my house recently and John McLaughlin, who I'd confided in about IFV [REDACTED].
97. When I returned to St Mary's after surgery, I was in the Open Unit when a girl tried to attack me. She knew who I was. I couldn't understand how the girl knew who I was because I didn't know her. I felt the attack was staged. I wondered if the staff were involved in staging it.

Reporting of abuse at St Mary's Kenmure

98. There was no real procedure for making complaints at St Mary's. Recourse was to your manager and then to Bill Duffy. I don't know if you could go the Head Office. There was no grievance procedure that I knew of. I went to Hugh Gallagher, my unit manager, several times. I complained about the treatment of the young people, the food they were getting and that the children didn't have any say. I can't give you definite incidents.
99. I don't think a record was kept of my complaints. Incidents were just not spoken of again. The only seniors I really trusted were Jean Brown, Jim Connolly and John Hill. Sadly he passed away. Jim Connolly was willing to go against the other seniors. He ended up being ill and taking a redundancy package. Phil, who was English, was

another senior who was not happy with the running of the unit and he ended up leaving. I think he was unhappy with the way Jim Duffy was managing the unit.

100. Neil Sharp took over from Bill Duffy a few years before I left. Bill Duffy would dip in and out of the running of the unit. I went to Neil Sharp about incidents happening in the open unit, like drugs in the unit but I would be brushed off. The last time I went to Neil Sharp, I took Jean Brown with me. Jean Brown was the best person I ever worked with. Jean was my senior in the open unit. Neil Sharp told me I had no evidence.
101. I told IFV [REDACTED] about the incident at zMHL [REDACTED]'s house. He said to me that zMHL [REDACTED] was going through a difficult time and he would deal with it. That was it, nothing else happened.
102. When IFY [REDACTED] showed me the white powder and asked if I wanted to party, I think it was Christine Johnstone who was the senior member of staff that I went to. I told her what had happened and Christine said she would deal with it. The next thing, IFY [REDACTED] left the unit. His contract wasn't renewed.
103. I reported to Neil Sharp my belief that zMHL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were having sexual intercourse when they were on nightshift. I was told again that I had no proof but how could you prove these things? I took a pounding for reporting that and I was called a grass by both of them.
104. I was really ill and had to have major surgery. I was off work for a year. I went back to St Mary's in 2000. I was in the Open Unit. After the incident when a girl tried to attack me in the Open Unit, I went to Bill Duffy and said to him that I couldn't do what I was being asked to do. I said it was wrong and things needed to change. Bill Duffy said it was me who had changed.

Leaving St Mary's, Kenmore

105. I left in St Mary's in October 2000. I wasn't back for long after my surgery. I had to leave Bishopbriggs too because the staff all knew where I stayed.

Life after St Mary's, Kenmore

106. I went to work at Wishaw in the Social Work Department in the Criminal Justice Team. I enjoyed that. I also worked at Coatbridge. I was at Wishaw for six years but had to retire through ill-health. I had special chairs and equipment but eventually I couldn't keep up with the volume of work.
107. I was doing a social work degree through the Open University. I did different placements for my degree. I saw the other side of things in the care system, which was scary too, such as the lack of staff and lack of supervision of children. It made me think about where the children from the unit might end up and what might happen to them.

Impact

108. I was ruined by my time at St Mary's. I'm not the person I was. I used to be full of fun. I loved doing things. Now, I'm very guarded, I don't trust anybody. There were never any consequences for the staff for what they did. St Mary's was a cesspit.
109. I didn't finish my social work degree. I had a placement left to do but couldn't do it due to ill-health. My health has never been right since I left St Mary's.
110. When I went back to the unit after surgery, it was as if my eyes had been opened. I couldn't go back to doing, living in and witnessing what I had done before. I couldn't

work at St Mary's anymore. I couldn't be in the place. I was disillusioned. I was more or less living in the unit before I went off for surgery. I look back and think I was suffering from Stockholm Syndrome. I look back and I think, oh my god, poor kids.

111. IFV [REDACTED] and zMHL [REDACTED] were a team, I didn't realise that until after I left. When you are working with these people every day, you don't see it. After the incident in the Open Unit, where a girl tried to attack me and I was fearful that the staff were involved in staging the attack, I knew I had to get out.
112. KRM [REDACTED] introduced me to John McLaughlin when I worked at St Mary's. We were friends. I confided in him about IFV [REDACTED] harassing me. Recently, John McLaughlin has been stalking me at my house. He was driving past my house in his car. He knows my concerns about St Mary's and the people at St Mary's who I'm concerned about. My daughter hasn't spoken to me for years. John McLaughlin is hanging about with my daughter and grandson. I don't understand why he is doing that.
113. I reported to the police that John McLaughlin had been stalking me at my house. I gave the police a statement. They phoned John McLaughlin. He said his son was a property developer and he had passed through the village. I didn't feel the police took me seriously.

Reporting of Abuse

114. I've given a statement to the Police about zMHL [REDACTED], IFV [REDACTED] and IFW [REDACTED] following my application to the Inquiry. I didn't feel the Police dealt with me very well.

Lessons to be Learned

115. People who want to work with children must have training. There must be someone else who is overseeing everything.
116. People say when you get locked up, you lose your rights but these are children. The children have lost their right to go out of the door but that doesn't mean they should be treated like animals. That is not the way forward.

Other information

117. I hope some of the young people from St Mary's get justice. I hope that the staff members I've talked of are stopped from working with young people. They are not fit to work with children.
118. 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... 3rd Oct. 2018