

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

John McCALL

Support person present: No

1. My name is John Christopher McCall. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1950. I am 66 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Background

2. My mother and father were in their forties when I was born. I was probably an after the war accident. [REDACTED]

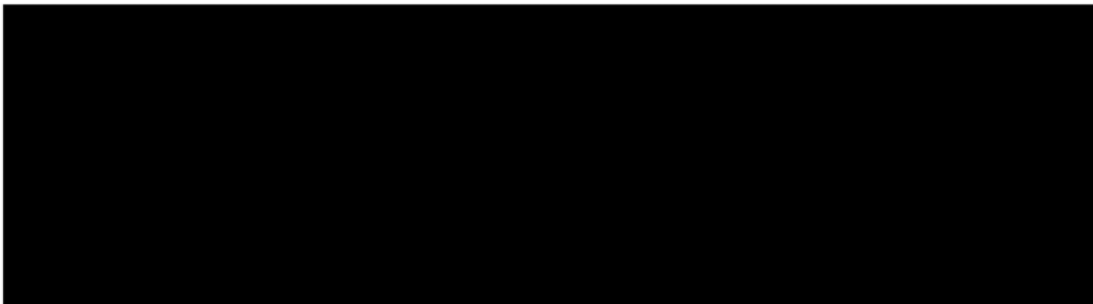
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3. We lived on [REDACTED] in Knightswood, Glasgow when I was born. When I was about six months old we had moved to [REDACTED] in Glasgow. Things are a bit vague after that. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Life before care

4.



5. I think I was a big shock to my mum. My father was a travelling salesman and I think my mother wanted to be with him more than anything else. He would be away from Monday to Friday. When I was around, my mother had to stay at home with me. I understand that [REDACTED] brought me up from age nought to five. She moved to Canada when I was five years old so my mother found me in her lap again. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I would have been about five or six years old at the time. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

6. I went to St Ninians primary school in Knightswood from the age of five. When I was eight years old, my mother and father probably agreed that the only way to deal with things was to send me to boarding school. I was shipped off to St Columba's College in Largs.

St Columba's College, Largs

7. I was there from 1958 until 1962. It was a boarding school run by the Marist Brothers in Scotland. It was the primary school for children going on to the secondary school, St Joseph's college in Dumfries, which I later went to.
8. It was an all-boy, fee paying primary school with about 35 to 37 pupils at any one time. There were also some day pupils. I recall older boys in the college but not

younger boys. I think the age range was from eight to twelve. There may have been seven year olds.

9. The school itself was like a big house. It had two or three dormitories, which were split into younger boys, middle ones and older boys. There were two big classrooms, a piano room and all the catering facilities. There was an outside hall which was used for boxing and indoor play. There was a playing field across the road from the school then there was the beach. There was a golf course at the back of the school

First day

10. I remember my first day almost vividly. I had no idea where I was going. Maybe someone did explain it to me but I have no recollection. My father drove us there in his car. I remember the circular drive way outside the school.
11. I think probably the head master met us. They were Marist Brothers so they were all dressed in the gown, white bib and crucifix. I think I remember the headmaster getting a more senior pupil to meet me and take me away to show me around. I went with him and I surmise that I was being distracted while the headmaster spoke to my mother and father, and they then left. I never said goodbye to my parents.
12. Everything else on the first day is a bit of a blur.

Staff

13. Brother MJD was SNR. We rarely saw him. I don't recall him ever teaching. Brother Germanus was what I would call the Sergeant Major of the outfit. He controlled everything. He made sure you got up in the morning and went to bed at night, and that everything was tidy. There were maybe two other teachers but I don't remember their names. The teachers were also brothers. There was a Brother CIPHE and another brother who was really good at drawing.
14. The only civilian staff I remember were the cooks and the cleaners.

Daily routine

15. I think we woke up at 8 am or maybe even 7.30 am. We'd be woken with the lights being switched on. We had to make our bed then go for a wash. There were tin basins when I went into the school, but we got showers after about a year. We would get dressed after washing, and our clothes went into a locker next to our beds. It had toiletries in the top and clothes at the bottom. I didn't have a wardrobe. Then we'd go downstairs for breakfast.
16. We would wait until the gong went before going into the dining room for breakfast. Everything in the school was operated by a gong. It was used for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast was always porridge. It was very smooth porridge. I have tried to recreate it since but never managed.
17. I think the gong went again for you to go to class. A teacher would be assigned for that session. Then we'd have a break and usually get orange juice or tea. I don't remember much about breaks. We also had the chore of removing pebbles from the beach in the summer mornings, usually during the morning break. We'd go back to class after break.
18. The gong would go at lunch time and we would have lunch. After lunch, we'd have a break and we'd usually play football in the field or build sheds. It was recreational football. We probably had an afternoon break as well with a bit of cake or something.
19. I don't really remember the schooling but it must have been ok because I wasn't lagging behind when I got to secondary school. I think it was on par with other schools.
20. We'd have our evening meal. The food was ok. I think we were generally fed quite well. I don't remember details. There was probably some time for homework. After that we'd have a period of recreation where we would usually go back into the hut. I am not sure at what age it started, but we would have boxing. My father was a boxer

so I was into it. There would be eight years olds boxing twelve years olds. It was managed by Brother Germanus. He would pick who boxed against each other. It was supervised and there were rules that you couldn't hit above the neck.

21. After the recreation period, it was time for bed and we went to the dormitory. We probably had prayers before bedtime then it was lights out.
22. The dormitory I was initially in was way up at the top of the school in the attic. I think there were two rooms on either side of the attic, and there were two or three beds in each room. I think this was for the younger pupils. I remember you had to come down two steps and then down another four steps to get to the top landing.
23. Brother Germanus had his little room on the top landing. The wash rooms and shower rooms were on that top landing too. Brother Germanus patrolled the rooms at night to check if you were sleeping or not.
24. The next morning you'd be woken with lights on and it would all start again. This happened Monday to Friday and probably a Saturday morning too.
25. We went to church on Sunday mornings in lines of two. We'd march to St Mary's church in Largs wearing our caps and kilts. You could wear your kilt if you had one but it was mostly short trousers with caps and blazers. It was a blue and gold uniform and we'd be mainly the same. Our parents bought our uniforms and everything was numbered for laundry. My number was eleven.
26. We had recreational time at weekends too.

Leisure time and activities

27. Most Sundays were dedicated to parents visiting. If you didn't have parents visiting, then one of the brothers would do something else with you that day. That could be walks along the beach or roller skating into town. Once we played football at Barfields against another team. We would also walk on the golf course and it would

be a game of who could be first to get to the next staging point and you'd have to wait. We could play in the river and on the trees, then race to the next staging point and go up the hill. I was very competitive and nobody ever beat me.

28. In the summer we would go to the beach and you had to go into the water whether you wanted to or not.
29. I can't remember any television or reading. I can't even recall music or radio.

Trips and visits

30. I can't get the timing right but I think my mother was suffering with some sort of breakdown while I was in the school. That might have been part of the reason why she couldn't cope and I was sent to boarding school.
31. My mother and father used to visit me on some weekends. They would take me out for lunch or whatever. There was one visit, probably towards the end of my first term at the school, when I remember my mother [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I remember that vividly. It was on the way back towards Greenock.
32. I think my parents came to visit roughly every fortnight, but not always. They would sometimes bring [REDACTED] with them.
33. Generally, you got used to the environment you were in. There were boys of similar age and you could do things together. I suppose the loss of your family and having to be in the school quickly moves on and the place just becomes part of your life.
34. I don't remember anybody external ever coming in or any inspections taking place.

Discipline and punishment

35. Discipline tended to be handed out by way of the belt during class times. There were different stages. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who was quite a big boy. In my view he was ridiculed. He couldn't handle the belt. He detested it and would be scared stiff. Brother Germanus would try to belt him, and [REDACTED] would pull his hand away. Brother Germanus would end up hitting himself and get angrier. Unfortunately, everybody would laugh. He got picked on quite a lot.
36. Brother Germanus is the only one I remember belting anybody. Any misdemeanour in class or at breakfast would be sorted in class. You'd get four of the belt, two on each hand. You'd never get your trousers pulled down in class. I don't remember getting belted in class.
37. I remember being taken to the hut to be belted. I'd sometimes get four of the belt, which would be two on each hand. It would usually be seven of the belt, which consisted of two on each hand, trousers down and bent over a seat with three belts on the naked bum. The door of the hut was a steel knob and you couldn't open it afterwards because it was so stingy. It would leave marks and you'd be in pain for a while. There was an old wives tale that urinating on your hands would take the sting away so we'd do that as kids. It didn't make a difference.
38. I remember getting belted for things like not putting my slippers in the docket, licking my knife, telling lies. Once I got belted for sweating. I was probably told not to run about or something but I've always put it down to sweating. I got belted a lot, but maybe I was mischievous. That said, getting belted for leaving your slippers out or licking your knife is a bit over the top. You'd also get belted if you were asked who had done something and you said you didn't know. The brother would later belt you if he thought you had known the answer.
39. I remember the dreaded feeling of going to the hut knowing what was coming. I used to always say sorry after I got belted. I'd apologise for whatever I had done wrong. Looking back, I think he took great delight in the belting. We were wary of Brother

Germanus because you never knew if you were going to get the belt or be ridiculed. I don't recall being belted by any of the others, but I must have been. I also don't remember anybody else going to the hut to be belted besides myself, but it must have happened. I am sure the teacher who was good at drawing had the responsibility of belting, but I don't think he was anywhere near as bad as Brother Germanus.

40. Other teachers would discipline you by making you stand in the corner. I can't remember if you were punished by being prevented from doing fun things.

Abuse – Brother Germanus

41. I remember being in the dormitory at the top of the school so I must have been eight or nine years old. No more than that. Germanus used to come round with a torch to see if you were sleeping or not. If you were awake, he'd ask why you couldn't sleep. I can't remember what your answer would be. He would take you to his room on the landing.
42. I always remember the smell of his room, which was tobacco. It was a narrow room and it had one bed in it and one chest of drawers. He would then tickle you with a view to tiring you out which would help you sleep. This scenario probably happened two or three times. I don't recall how long the first tickling experience lasted but I am pretty sure I didn't want it to happen. Then you would go back to bed with a view to sleeping.
43. The next time I went to his room, the tickling started. I don't know if my pyjamas were on or if he'd taken them off. I think they were off. Part of me says I was face up and part of me says I was face down so maybe it happened twice. I would be on his bed, and he would tickle you and tell you to open your legs. Then he'd put his penis between your legs and tell you to close your legs then he'd tickle you again. Looking back, I know what he was doing. Probably at the time, it was just your worst nightmare having to deal with this. I remember it vividly, which is why I think my pyjama bottoms must have been off because I remember how it felt. I would say that

he was aroused when he was doing this. He wouldn't be wearing his robe and so he was probably wearing a t-shirt. I don't know if he had his bottoms on or not. I don't think he ejaculated and there was no penetration. His rationale would then be that you were now tired and could go back to your bed. That particular type of incident happened about two or three times in the four years I was there, when I was between the ages eight and twelve.

44. As a consequence of the tickling scenario, I wouldn't want him to know I was awake so one time I didn't get up to go to the toilet when I needed to go. By the time I got up, I had left it too late and did the toilet on the way. It went down my pyjamas and I was so scared that somebody would find out. I was trying to find the bits on the floor so I could put them in the toilet so nobody would find out. I must have left a bit and Germanus found it the next day and asked who had done it. I think the consequence was that I got belted. That was about me not wanting him to know I was awake.
45. No matter what dormitory I was in after that, I knew he was coming around the dormitories and I knew why. I would try to get to sleep as quickly as possible or pretend to be asleep. Sometimes I would get away with it. Sometimes he would see you blink and it would be a case of going to his room for a tickling session. He patrolled almost every night for the whole time I was at the school. I don't recall anyone else ever patrolling.
46. I don't remember him ever taking anybody else out of bed and I don't remember having a conversation with any other boy about it. I would be so conscious of keeping my eyes shut when I went to bed so I don't know if it happened to anybody else.
47. Germanus befriended my parents so he'd turn up at their door on [REDACTED] during holiday periods. He had a brother who I think was called Dennis in Ireland who he would bring to my parent's house, and they would stay there and sleep in my room. I can remember being afraid in the room because I knew he was there. My room had two single beds in it. I can't recall if I had to sleep in the same room as them and I don't recall anything actually happening, but I remember having

the fear of them being there. As far as I'm aware, my parents never knew about the abuse from Brother Germanus and never ever found out.

48. The showers were open showers. Three of us boys had the task of cleaning the showers. We were made to clean them naked. Germanus would be monitoring what we were doing. As kids, it didn't mean much to us at the time because we were wet anyway. It's only when you look back that you see what he was up to. That was a regular thing that we had to do every other day, after we had a shower.
49. Germanus was still at the school when I left there in 1962.

Abuse – Brother CIPHER

50. I am a bit shaky with time but I think Brother CIPHER arrived in 1960 or 1961. His name was CIPHER WITHDRAWN. I didn't remember his name for years, but I have a Lawyer friend, [REDACTED], who lives in Greenock who also went to the school and he remembers everything. He reminded me of his name and he thinks Brother CIPHER came out of the Marist Brothers school himself, and was only eighteen or nineteen years old. He was a strange character and also one of the abusers. Nobody liked him and especially didn't like going to [REDACTED] lessons with him.
51. I recall being in the sick bay. I don't know what I was suffering from. I could see out the window, which looked over the back of the school onto the golf course. I think it was the morning. Brother CIPHER came in with his robe on with the pretence of asking how I was. He sat down next me. His ritual would be to put your hand inside his cassock pocket, which was just a hole with no pocket, and have you play with his erect penis. He would have it out of his trousers but under the cassock. He would do that either sitting beside you or standing. He did that to me. I don't remember how long it lasted. I don't remember any ejaculation, but I have a vivid recollection of his penis being erect.
52. Brother CIPHER carried out the same ritual in the [REDACTED] room. He only ever called people into the [REDACTED] room one at a time. I knew, and I'm sure other boys knew, that

lessons were playing with him rather than [REDACTED] Sometimes we'd wait in a queue outside, waiting to be called in. We would all look at each other but nobody would say anything. I don't remember hearing any [REDACTED] and I don't remember a [REDACTED] lesson to this day.

53. It got to the point where I think Brother CIPHER knew that I knew what was about to happen. I don't remember him ever saying anything. I don't know how long it lasted.
54. I went to Aberdeen where my Aunt [REDACTED] stayed. It must have been the summer holidays. She had a lodger in her house who was about fifteen or sixteen years old. I was ten or eleven years old at the time. Me and him would play out the back and I told him about the scenario with Brother CIPHER. I don't recall how I said it to him but it came out. He had the savvy to tell my Aunt, who told my father. I didn't know this at the time. I'm not sure what my father would have done but he certainly wouldn't have taken too kindly to it. I remember him sitting in the car outside the shop and asking me if what I had told the boy was true. I was probably now in fear of what I had done, but I think I confirmed it was true. I don't remember what he said but he talked to me.
55. When I went back to the school after the summer holidays, Brother CIPHER wasn't there. I can only surmise that my father had spoken to the headmaster and the result was that Brother CIPHER had gone. Nobody at school ever spoke to me about it or asked me anything. My father didn't speak to me about it again and I don't know if my mum knew.
56. Brother Germanus was never mentioned. I never told anybody about him and in my view, he was the biggest perpetrator. Germanus obviously knew that CIPHER had gone. I think he probably still came round with the torch but I don't think I went back to his room again.
57. I've often wondered whether CIPHER and Germanus discussed things with each other and Germanus pointed out which boys were quiet, but I don't know. I surmise that he must have, or maybe he just did it off his own bat. I always got the impression the other teachers didn't know.

St Joseph's College, Dumfries

58. I was in St Joseph's from 1962 until 1968, which was also run by the Marist Brothers. There was a good number of boys who moved to St Joseph's from St Columba's but nobody ever discussed what went on at St Columba's.
59. Things were stricter with making beds. They had to be aligned and things had to be spot on or you'd be called back to do it. It was very disciplined. The punishment and discipline was probably of its time. You'd never get seven of the belt, but would maybe get four. People still got the belt but it was usually the fear of the belt that was worse.
60. Different teachers had different ways. There was a maths teacher who would take his belt off and whack the table to say that's what you'd get if you stepped out of line. It worked because people were scared. Sometimes you would be sent to the headmaster for the belt. One teacher like to squeeze your hand to make you submit, until one day he got hold of a guy that was stronger than him and it didn't work. He then stopped doing that.
61. I remember once thinking, 'here we go again' when I got a groin strain from playing rugby. One of the brothers said he had a heat lamp that I could use on my groin. I had to go to his room and I went with a bit of fear and trepidation. I was fifteen or sixteen at this time. I would lay in my underpants with the heat lamp, but nothing happened. I believe he had good intentions to repair my groin strain.

Leaving St Joseph's

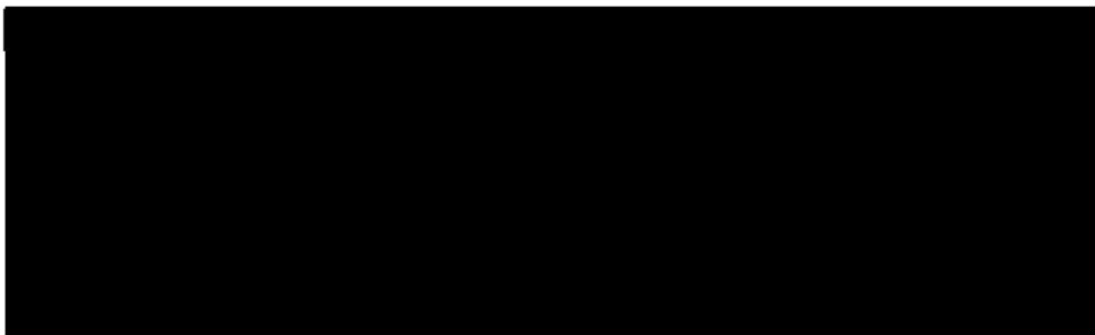
62. My father died when I was almost eighteen and still in St Joseph's. My family had indicated to me that he was unwell and in hospital, but they hadn't told me what he was in hospital for. I remember seeing him in hospital then going back to school. I was told that the headmaster wanted to see me. I thought I was in trouble but he took me into his office and told me my father had died. He had cancer. That was on [REDACTED] 1968. I had to decide whether to stay for the rest of the term after the

funeral. The sports were coming up and I was good at it and we always won. I went home for the funeral, but did not return to school.

63. I was due to sit my Highers and I think I had two or three exams left, including Physics or Chemistry. I think they used my prelim results for one of the exams, so I finally achieved highers in Physics, Chemistry, English and Maths.
64. I left in 1968 and I am aware that abuse allegations were made after I left, but I can honestly say that nothing ever happened to me there.

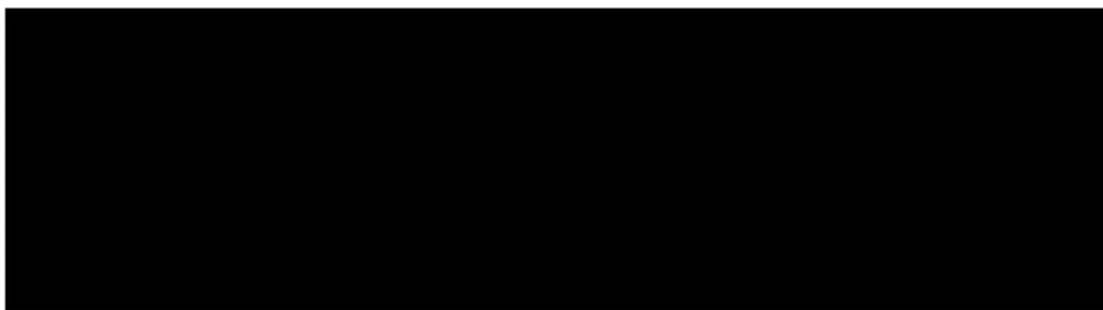
Life after care

65.



66. She encouraged me to go back to Canada with her. She had a family and her daughter was a year younger than me. I decided not to go back to school and never went back to St Joseph's. I never went to university or anything. My father's funeral was in May and by August I had emigrated to Canada with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

67.



- [REDACTED]
68. I stayed with [REDACTED] and her husband for about three months. I became quite unruly. I think it was like having escaped from prison after leaving the school. I was in a football team and was drinking. I was a bit of a jack the lad. I wasn't into drugs but some of the guys from the team were into it. They would tell me the effects of LSD and I said it was all just in the head, so I almost dared myself to try it. I took about half a tablet of LSD and nothing happened so I took another tablet, and all hell broke loose. I panicked and had a bad trip. I didn't sleep for 27 hours. They drove me around and tried to give me orange juice. I had to go to the doctors. I was about twenty years old at the time. I never recovered from that in Canada and got anxiety and depression. I came back home, primarily as a consequence of the LSD experience. My mother was also ill when I returned.
69. I have always had bouts of anxiety and depression throughout my life. I managed to hold down various jobs and eventually joined the fire service and had a thirty year career there.
70. I remember going back to the school when my then wife and I were in Scotland and I wanted to show her my school. I didn't harbour any animosity towards the school. It was my way of life. I remember going up the driveway and Germanus was there. I spoke to him and what he remembered about me was an incident on the beach where I found a flare gun. I had picked it up and he'd shouted at me to put it down but I'd pulled the trigger and it just missed his ear. I can't remember if I got the belt for it. That is what he remembered, that I was the boy who had pulled the trigger. We had a brief conversation but I didn't challenge him. I didn't have that animosity at that time. I think if I saw him now, I would challenge him, but that was in the 1980s and I never saw him again.
71. St Columba's no longer exists. The building is still there but it has been converted into flats. I am not in touch with anybody from St Columba's, apart from my lawyer friend, [REDACTED]. I don't know if Mark Daly, who is a reporter with the BBC contacted

any of them. I have no idea if any of them went through the same as me. Some of them went on to have very good careers.

72. I would never send my kids to boarding school. Purely because I have experienced it. Apart from the abuse scenario at St Columba's, there's a side of me that thinks it gave me an independence that I may never have had. I am not totally critical of the whole thing. St Joseph's was no problem at all. I never knew any different from life at the boarding school and it just became a way of life for me. It probably benefitted me in life, generally. I would never send my children to boarding school because I think home life is important.
73. I have two sons who I have a really good relationship with. My wife and I were very involved with their lives when they were growing up. They are in their forties now. The eldest is married with four kids and he has his own life in Sussex. He is a [REDACTED]. He doesn't think the same way as me and my younger boy, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is an [REDACTED] and lives in America and thinks like me. I have talked to him about all my issues and we are on the same wavelength.

Other Action Taken

74. Prior to me coming to the Inquiry, I had gone to Mark Daly who works at the BBC. Mark Daly had done a piece on BBC about a guy in Australia about two years ago. When I was watching it, I thought I would contact Mark Daly because although they were investigating Fort Augustus, there were other schools where this was happening. I knew there had been an investigation into abuse at St Joseph's in Dumfries about ten years ago. Mark Daly took three months to get back to me and asked to have a chat. We spoke on the phone a few times and I discussed issues at St Columba's.
75. Mark Daly investigated things and told me Germanus was dead, which I knew. I didn't remember Brother [REDACTED] CIPHER name at this point. Mark told me the school had no records or rolls of who was in charge. The internet says that Germanus became

SNR [REDACTED], but [REDACTED] says that never happened and that Germanus changed his name. I don't know.

76. Mark Daly traced down Brother CIPHER WITHDRAW. He had left the Marist Brothers or was kicked out. He went on to work somewhere in Glasgow and still does to this day, according to Mark Daly. I tried to contact Mark Daly two weeks ago to confirm the name of CIPHER WITHDRAW. [REDACTED] has confirmed his name too.

Impact of abuse

77. I reflect on what happened with [REDACTED] and how much of it has influenced my relationships. I also reflect on the childhood thing and the mother thing and whether it is part of it.
78. I have always had bouts of anxiety and depression throughout my life. I have always put it down to the bad trip with the LSD, but it could have been the other things or the abuse. It might be none of it. It might have happened anyway.
79. I have had thoughts about the abuse but I don't think about it every day. I have had an attitude that it is something that happened and I have managed to get on with my life. I have more anger towards my parents for sending me to boarding school and subjecting me to it. I have a little bit of resentment and I think that if I had been the father, I wouldn't have taken my son back to that school after knowing bad things were going on. It is something that happened and some people got it far worse than me. I have come out of it reasonably well with my lifestyle.
80. Something has had an impact on my relationships, which I know for a fact. Whether it was the abuse or something else I don't know. I loved my wife when I married her but I wasn't in love with her. I can't remember being in love with anybody. It has had an effect on relationships I've subsequently been in.

81. I was with my wife for about thirty years. I think that was because she got pregnant when we were engaged. I don't have any regrets about having kids. I think the issue was just to have somebody there. Just to have an attachment. She knew pretty well everything that happened to me. Our marriage was pretty ropey all the way through, especially in the latter years.
82. I think I had an attitude towards relationships that wasn't as sacred as it should have been. I strayed a couple of times during my marriage. We went back to Aberdeen for my career. My wife and I weren't getting on, and I remember making a decision to get out because I wasn't in love with her and didn't fancy her. Instead of getting out of it, I ran away with another woman from the fire service. I did that to get out of the marriage and to have someone else to be attached to, so I wasn't on my own. We had a bit of fun, but there is no doubt that I did it for selfish reasons, and because I wasn't brave enough to end things with my wife properly. I just needed someone there.
83. That woman then went back to Aberdeen and I went back to my wife. We then moved to Northumberland. I knew I'd gone back for the wrong reasons. She probably knew that too. We lasted another ten years but eventually I built up some courage to leave. We both wanted this by that point. Our two boys would also say that we should have finished a lot sooner.
84. I went on the internet and was liaising with someone who encouraged me to move to Inverclyde, where I am now. I had no intentions of having a full blown relationship but she wanted that. It was a strange relationship. She would fly off the handle and I knew it wouldn't work. I met a woman from Dumfries who had her own issues. Then [REDACTED] came along. I wasn't letting go of the other woman until I knew what was going on. I was involved with three women and I didn't know which way to go. I am still like this.
85. It is almost as if I need someone there. It still happens, so I find another relationship before I can end the one I'm in. I was with [REDACTED] for nine years. We both had our own place and would spend nights with each other. I couldn't give her the passion

and love that she needed to sustain a physical relationship. For me it just became sex. We agreed to just carry on with whatever relationship we had. We had no physical relationship in the last five or six years, which was down to me.

86. I couldn't commit to a full relationship. It's like a fear that I am going to be trapped but if I get out of it, I am scared I will be on my own. I would go on holidays and have sex with other people. I would sometimes tell her or not tell her. She couldn't trust me so she would constantly check my phone and emails then we would argue about it. Recently, [REDACTED] found a text I had sent another woman. This woman knew [REDACTED] and we'd met for coffee. There was nothing in it. I sent her an inappropriate message, which was related to what we'd been talking about. There was nothing in it but [REDACTED] finished with me. That was in November 2016. Typical me went on the internet and found another woman in Belfast within a week.
87. In my mind, I have somebody else there now. I am still in touch with [REDACTED] and both women want to be with me. I don't want to be on my own, and I want a good, loving, stable relationship in my life. I need to sort out my problems for my sake and any partner I may have, so I can have a relationship. I don't know if my issues are down to my childhood. I want to get support for this.
88. I have a good relationship with my boys. I am getting better at being tactile. They are better at giving me a hug and a kiss than I am, but I am getting better at it. I can say: "I love you" to them but it doesn't come easy.
89. I was brought up as a catholic but I am more spiritual now. I see things differently in terms of religion. I see religious institutions, like the Catholic Church and others, as having been set up as a business from the beginning and that they are maybe forgetting the point.

Treatment and Support

90. I went for counselling some time back. Their view was that I needed to be on my own for a while. That just put the fear of death into me. I am going to try and get help for my attachment and commitment issues. I need to get it sorted and I have made an appointment to see a counsellor at the Glasgow Trauma Centre.

Records

91. I don't think anybody would find any records from St Columba's. I don't think the Marist Brothers even have records of who was there. I haven't personally made any attempts to recover any records.

Final Thoughts

92. I can see why parents send their children to boarding schools. It probably does more good than harm, however I think they can get just as good an education at a day school. I think the reason for sending them to boarding school is because they don't want to take responsibility for them.
93. In terms of how to support kids currently, there are PVG checks that are done. I don't know if it prevents anything happening. All it does is act as an MOT and show that you are ok up until now and have no incidents on your record. Nobody knows whether you will continue to be ok. Something has to be put in place to make sure children and vulnerable adults are protected. I am not sure how I feel about a named person, which has been proposed in Scotland.

94.



95. Children need someone they can trust and talk to and not feel guilty. Someone they have a good rapport with who they can talk to. Maybe the named person is supposed to do that. Time will tell if that works. It is difficult. How do you protect all of the people all of the time?
96. I would like to see how the police and inquiry deal with things. I'd like to see what comes out of it and how that is then monitored. From a personal point of view, I'd like to see myself sorted.
97. 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.....

30 March 2017