

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

## Witness Statement of

LZS [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LZS [REDACTED] My maiden name was LZS [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Personal background and qualifications**

2. I am presently employed by the Kinharvie Institute. I started working there in [REDACTED] I have been a [REDACTED] all of my working life. Prior to working in the Kinharvie Institute I worked in the [REDACTED] Hospital in Glasgow. I was made redundant by the [REDACTED] so that is why I ended up working in the Kinharvie Institute. I got the role through an agency.
3. I am sixty five years old now and I am planning to retire at the end of [REDACTED].

MGH [REDACTED]

4. I have been informed that a witness called MGH [REDACTED] has provided a statement to the Inquiry in which my name has been mentioned. I have been asked whether this person means anything to me.
5. Years ago MGH [REDACTED] came in to see Ronnie McEwan who works for the Kinharvie Institute and who is a Marist brother. I wasn't in that day. I was off the day he came in. The day before, [REDACTED] so that he could attend a meeting with his representative.

6. I have been informed that MGH [REDACTED] was born on [REDACTED] 1967 and that his statement was provided to the Inquiry on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. I have been made aware that he attended St Columba's Boarding School, Greenock Road, Largs. I have been asked whether this institution means anything to me.
7. The only knowledge I have of this school is because my husband went there.
8. I have been made aware that MGH [REDACTED] attended St Columba's between 1974 and 1979 between the ages of approximately six and twelve years old.
9. I have not had any interactions with anyone that attended St Columba's during that period and I did not visit the school during that period although I knew my husband at that time. I was living in the Borders in 1974.
10. We moved to Glasgow in 1988 and we visited Largs years later, possibility in the nineties, but I think the school was gone then.
11. I have been made aware that MGH [REDACTED] refers to a former pupil of St Columba's by the name of Aldo Moroni in his statement.
12. This name is familiar to me only because I had a visit from a [REDACTED]. He thought my name was [REDACTED]. He introduced himself [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He said he had come to talk to me about my dead son, Aldo Moroni.
13. I explained to him that I only had one son and that he had the wrong end of the stick. I told him that my name was LZS [REDACTED] and that I had never heard of Aldo Moroni. I told him that I did not have a dead son. He realised very quickly that he was barking up the wrong tree. I asked him how he had found me. He told me that he had been at my old house in [REDACTED] and a neighbour had told him I was now living in [REDACTED].
14. I think this was sometime in 2016 but I am not very sure.

15. MGH [REDACTED] has said in his statement, *"When Aldo was dropped off at school by his step-father, Brother Germanus and the step-father told all the boys that they were allowed to hit him because he was a bad boy. We were told we were allowed to hit him, but not too hard. I also remember Aldo's step-father being in the bed with Brother Germanus and Aldo. I saw Aldo's head popping up over the covers. I'm almost 100% certain that I recognised Aldo's step-father and that he was MFZ [REDACTED] I also saw a lady that I'm sure was LZS [REDACTED] at the school and that she was Aldo's mother". Really? My God, goodness! This is fantasy, total fantasy.*
16. MGH [REDACTED] says, *"I went to speak to the Marist brothers regarding redress and accountability. The first time I spoke to them, Ronnie McEwan was the provincial of the Marist Brothers. I remember him being at St. Columba's as a young man, training to be a brother. Ronnie McEwan told me to come back and see him if I ever wanted to do anything about it. Three or four years later, I tried to get an appointment. I phoned a place called the Kinharvie Institute in Glasgow. A lady called LZS [REDACTED] answered the phone. I'm sure I saw her at the school when I was there. She wasn't there for very long, but I think she was there because of something to do with Aldo Moroni". I think I took a telephone message from MGH [REDACTED] and passed it on to Ronnie to phone him but that's all. I never saw MGH [REDACTED] I only ever spoke to him when he phoned up looking for an appointment. I know that I wasn't there the day he came in.*
17. MGH [REDACTED] says, *"I was working with my counsellor, [REDACTED] at the time. Ronnie McEwan told me Brother Brendan Geary was visiting London and he was going to fly up to see me and speak about what happened at the school. I met Brendan Geary and I disclosed what had happen to me. [REDACTED] was with me. I broke down. It was my first time talking to the organisation. LZS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We spoke about Brother Germanus". Brendan Geary has been the Provincial of the Marist Brothers since [REDACTED] He has just recently stepped down from that role. There is a new Provincial because they had their chapter in April. He is no longer Provincial but he does pop in occasionally.*

18. I know [REDACTED] who was the counsellor of MGH [REDACTED] She is my [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and that is why I was glad I wasn't in that day. I didn't want that connection. I didn't want [REDACTED] coming in with her client and me being there so that is why I am very clear that I did not see MGH [REDACTED] but my colleague, [REDACTED] dealt with them. [REDACTED] looks like me. She is younger than me but she has [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and it was all done because I wasn't going to be there.
19. I didn't even say to Ronnie that I knew [REDACTED] I just kept very quiet about that. I know [REDACTED] has done counselling and things like that before but I didn't speak to [REDACTED] or let on that I knew she was coming in because I am aware of confidentiality. I knew it must be something about the Marist Brothers because I was aware there was things going on. That is why I can be very clear on that.
20. MGH [REDACTED] also says in his statement to the Inquiry, "*Brendan Geary said, MGH [REDACTED] Brother Germanus is dead.*" I said, "*Yes, but your order is not dead and somebody's got to be held responsible for this.*" He said, "*Yes, but we're sick of paying people fifty, eighty and a hundred thousand pounds. All they do is keep coming back in five or ten years' time, saying that it's still there. What do you want us to give you?*" I said, "*How much is it from your childhood up until now?*" He said, "*We couldn't afford that. We'd need to start selling buildings.*" When I went and told my father about the meeting, he said, "*What a shame that they'd have to sell buildings. Look at all the work and effort that we put in for you to go to that boarding school and look what we got.*" I was not at that meeting. As far as I can recollect, neither was Brendan Geary. If there was a meeting like that on, nobody would interrupt it. It would only be the people that were attending the meeting who would be in the room. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Before the meeting started [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Nobody would ever interrupt that meeting. That is sacrosanct in our book. It's an absolute rule. You don't interrupt a meeting. Nobody would go in and out of a meeting.



**Lessons and Hopes**

21. If the Inquiry uncovers evidence against somebody then it is only right that justice is done. I can't comment on any of it. I don't know anything. I have seen no allegations about what's been done to anybody and I just couldn't comment.
22. I understand that my witness statement will be published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.....LZS.....

Dated.....10 June 2019.....