

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCC

Support person present: No

1. My name is GCC. My date of birth is 1951. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My parents' names were and . I have five older brothers and four sisters. I am the youngest child of the family. My brothers' names are , , and . My sisters are , , and . We lived in a council house in Pollock in Glasgow and I went to St Robert's primary school. My siblings had all moved away from the family home by the time I was a child.
3. One day in primary school I dodged school with two other boys. I was aged around eleven when this happened. The three of us were walking around in Shawlands and a shop window got smashed. The police came and the three of us were taken to Larchgrove Remand Home for reports to be done. This was the first time I'd been in trouble with the police and it was the first time I had been taken into Larchgrove. My older brothers had been in trouble with the police before me and maybe they recognised my name.
4. I was in Larchgrove for possibly one or two weeks only. It was ok and I had no problems with being there. I slept in a dorm room with other boys. I felt bad about not being at home and not living with my mum and dad, but it didn't bother me too much.

My mum and dad came to visit me in Larchgrove and I can't remember any discussion with them about what was going to happen to me.

5. A guy came to see me and asked me if I'd like to go to a new place to live. I don't know who this guy was as no-one explained his role and I can't remember his name. He told me about the Gryffe Children's Home and made it sound like it was a holiday camp. He also told me about an approved school I could go to instead and I was given the choice of both. I agreed to go to Gryffe Children's Home as it sounded the best place.
6. Then I was taken away by myself straight away to a welfare office in Glasgow for processing. I think it was in Martha Street in the city. I don't remember who took me there. I was there for just a few hours and then I was taken to Gryffe. I just had the clothes I was wearing at the time and no other belongings. I never went to any court hearing or appeared in front of any panel. I don't know if my mum and dad were told where I was going or if they had any input into the decision. I don't know what happened to the two boys I was arrested with as they didn't come to Gryffe with me. I think I went to Gryffe sometime in 1962.

Gryffe Children's Home, Bridge of Weir

7. I can't remember who took me to this home and if there were any other children in the car with me. I can't remember if I was told what to expect when I got there. I think the home was run by Glasgow City Council and the staff were civilians and they weren't from a religious order.
8. Gryffe was a large stately home and in its own grounds, up a long driveway. There was a bungalow at the gates to the driveway. In the grounds there were woods and we could run around in the grounds.

9. I was aware that other boys were staying in the home too, and it was just boys there. There must have been a couple of dozen boys at least in separate dorms and there was more than one dorm room. The only other boys I remember were similar ages as me, around eleven or twelve. I can't recall their names or their faces or if they were in the same dorm. I think there must have been boys in the home who were older than me.
10. There was a ground floor and first floor and there were dorms on both floors. The first dorm I was in was up the stairs and later on I was in a dorm on the ground floor.
11. There were male and female staff in the home. The cook and the matron were both female. I only saw them at certain times and didn't have much to do with them. The rest of the staff were male. I remember there was Mr^{GTC} and Mr Gilmour who were both staff members. I never knew their first names. I never knew if they stayed in the home itself or in the grounds or if they went away to their own home after work.
12. I remember that Mr^{GTC} was older and was in his 40s or 50s. He had big jowls. I can still picture him. There were other staff members and I can't recall their names. There was one man who had a . I can only remember that he sounded like he was English. I didn't have any problems with him. ^{SNR} of the home was called Mr^{MKS} and he lived in the main house at Gryffe.

Routine at Gryffe Children's Home

First day

13. I don't recall much about my first day. I was feeling frightened on way there as I didn't know what to expect when I got there, but I didn't think it would be too bad as Larchgrove had been ok. I was taken into ^{SNR}'s office. His name was Mr ^{MKS}. I think I was introduced to some staff members. I can't remember who that was now. I was shown round the house and shown which dormitory I would be in. I must have also been told about the house rules.

Mornings and bedtime

14. I was in a dorm room and there were around five or six boys in that room. I had my own bed and I must have had a table by the bed or a locker. I think we were up early on weekdays at 6:00 am or 6:30 am for breakfast. We had to walk a long way to school in Houston village and that took at least half an hour. I can't remember who it was who got us up in the morning. It was a member of staff.
15. We had to make our own bed, then got washed and then went down for breakfast before setting off for school. At weekend I think we were up at the same time as during the week. We were left to entertain ourselves as long as we didn't leave the grounds. There was also a football field for us to play on.
16. We went to bed at around 7:00 pm. We went to bed early in winter and we might have gone to bed later in summer but I can't remember. When we went to bed in the evening the staff turned the main lights off and I think they left a red light on. There would be someone on duty who would sort out any trouble and I think that would have been by verbal threats. That would be a member of staff who rotated with other staff as to who would be on duty overnight.

Mealtimes / Food

17. There was one dining room for all the boys to eat in. We had porridge for breakfast. Dinner was generally ok. I can't remember if we could sit where we wanted in the dining room.
18. There was one time when I couldn't eat the soup I was given and no-one was allowed to leave the dining room until I ate it. Eventually a staff member pushed my head in it. I think that must have been Mr ^{GTC} [REDACTED], he was quite sadistic.

Washing / bathing

19. We had showers once a week I think, and probably on a Sunday. The showers were communal and there was no privacy. They were located downstairs in the building for all of the boys and we probably went to use them in small groups. The showers were supervised by a staff member. I don't think we had any privacy to get undressed or dressed. I didn't think there was anything wrong at the time. I can't remember if we all had our own individual towels to dry ourselves with, but I think we did.

Clothing / uniform

20. I must have been provided with clothing by the home itself as I arrived with just the clothes I had on and no more. I can't recall if I had to wear a uniform for school. There must have been a laundry on site, but I don't remember it.

School

21. There was ten or twelve boys who went to the same school as me. I was from a Catholic family and I don't know if the school was Catholic. I assume it must have been called Houston Primary School and there was a secondary school next to it. I think there were no problems at school for me and it was similar to the school I went to in Pollock, before I went to Gryffe. I wasn't treated any differently from the local children at the same school. After school we walked back to the home with a member of staff. Then we changed into casual clothes and had our tea.

Religion

22. I don't remember going to any religious services when I was at the home. I can't recall if there boys from both Catholic and Protestant religions.

Work/chores

23. I can't recall having to do any chores in the home.

Trips / Holidays

24. We went on holiday once to Campbeltown for two weeks and travelled on the ferry from Wemyss Bay. All of the boys and the staff went on this holiday and we stayed in a place that was just like the children's home. It might have been another council home.
25. There were also day trips to Paisley to do activities like swimming. That happened every week or every two weeks and a bus was hired for that.

Leisure time

26. There was a large room that was used as a meeting room and maybe we played games together in there. I can't remember what we did after school apart from having our tea, but we would have had free time after 7:00 pm. In the summer I think we got out in the grounds to run around after school. I don't remember there being any swings in the grounds. I think that sometimes we got to see film in the home on a projector, but there was no TV in the home.

Birthdays and Christmas

27. I can't remember anything being done at Christmas and birthdays were not celebrated.

Visits / Inspections

28. My parents came at least once to meet with me. They weren't able to come every week. They could only come on the buses as they didn't have a car and the journey might have taken 30 minutes in a car, but it would have been longer on the bus. When they visited we may have been able to have a walk around the grounds together. They didn't ask me what was going on in the home.

29. I wondered how long I would be in the home for. No-one told me how long I would be in Gryffe for and I had no idea from any of the other boys. I can't remember the names of any specific friends in the home, but I got on ok with the other boys generally. There was no review of how long I would be there for. I didn't have regular meetings with the staff about how I was getting on in the home.
30. I am not aware of any inspections taking place in the home. I had no social worker to visit me.

Healthcare

31. There was a matron if we were feeling unwell. I saw her a couple of times when I was ill, but didn't have much to do with her. I can't remember her name. I'd been to the dentist a couple of times in Bridge of Weir and I went to the local doctors and then taken to hospital in Paisley as it was discovered I had a heart murmur. Then the appointments stopped and I didn't see the doctors anymore. I didn't understand why at the time, but as an adult my own doctor told me I would have grown out of it. With regard to the dentist, I just went if I had a problem like toothache and not for regular check-ups.

Running away

32. I was there for one or two weeks and I ran away by myself for the first time. Somehow I found my way home to my parents' house. I stayed there before I was taken back to Gryffe. I can't remember how I got back to the home or who took me.
33. I was punished by Mr ^{GTC} [REDACTED] when I returned and he hit me with one of the sandals that he was wearing. He put me over his knee and smacked me on the bottom in front of the other boys who were in the room at the time. It happened in the big meeting room where other boys would have gathered. He made sure they were able to witness the punishment. He smacked me over my clothes and it was painful. It didn't put me off running away.

34. I ran away two more times. The second time was when we were just back from a holiday to Campbeltown where I had suffered abuse. I ran away with two boys who had also been abused in a similar way.
35. We got to Glasgow and were walking about in the streets. One of the boys came from the Gorbals and he knew there were railway sidings where we could hide and sleep. Someone found us the next morning and called the police and we were taken back to the home by the police. They didn't ask us why we were running away and I didn't try to tell them. I was punished again by Mr ^{GTC} who hit me on the backside with his sandal.
36. A few days later I ran away a third time with the same two boys and we were roaming around Glasgow together. A man and his wife stopped us and asked what we were doing out late at night. We ended up staying the night with them. The next day we left and were running around Glasgow and stealing food to keep going. That next night it was pouring with rain. We smashed a shop window and waited for the police to come and get us. They took us to Larchgrove because we'd smashed the window. Again no-one asked why we ran away.

Bed Wetting

37. I don't think I wet the bed. I know other boys in my dorm wet the bed and the staff on duty must have checked the beds in the morning. I think staff would have made the boy feel bad about a wet bed and make a big deal out of it to belittle the boy.

Discipline

38. Mr ^{GTC} used to hit me on the top of my head with his knuckles digging in to my scalp. It was as painful as he could make it be. This was for things like talking out of turn or anything that annoyed him. Mr ^{GTC} hit me with his sandal after I'd run away the first two times and he hit me in the same manner on other occasions too. I assume that would be for things like fighting with other boys.

39. I saw a lot of other boys being hit with the sandal by Mr GTC and him knuckling them on the head too. He didn't use a belt on anyone and he didn't wear one on his body. I don't know if SNR, Mr MKS, had a belt to use on boys as punishment. I wasn't aware of him physically punishing any boy and I only saw him myself about twice.
40. There was a choir in the home made up of boys from the home. One boy was a really good singer and if he ever sang out of tune or in the wrong tempo Mr GTC would lay into him with a slap on the back of the head in front of everybody. I saw it happen a couple of times.

Abuse at Gryffe Children's Home

41. We walked in pairs to school in the morning and this meant we were expected to hold hands with the boy next to us. There was a staff member at the back of the line of boys who held hands with the boy walking next to him. Then it was my turn to walk next to him and he took my hand and told me it was cold and put his hand and mine in his pocket to keep warm. He was rubbing his hand up and down his penis. This staff member was Mr Gilmour and he was a man in his 30s or 40s. He is someone I can't picture now and can't describe him. I didn't know if Mr Gilmour escorted us to school every day. It started happening to me straight away when I was back from running away the first time. When he took hold of my hand I pulled it away. I don't think anything was said by him at the time.
42. On one occasion I was unwell and I stayed in my bed in the home when everyone else was at school. I was in the dorm at Gryffe and Mr Gilmour came in with some sweets. He put his hand under the sheets and starting rubbing his hand against my body. He only stopped because a noise outside disturbed him.
43. I'm not sure long afterwards it was when we were away on holiday in Campbeltown. I was unwell again and stayed in my bed. Mr Gilmour came into the room with sweets. Again he put his hand under the bedclothes and he was rubbing my body in a sexually

intimate manner. On that occasion he also took my hand to rub him also in a sexually intimate manner. He didn't remove any of his clothes. He was disturbed this time too by hearing someone outside the room. I don't know what would have happened if he'd not been disturbed. I was frightened by his actions.

Reporting of abuse at Gryffe Children's Home

44. After the abuse at Campbeltown I got talking to two other boys from the home and they had experienced similar abuse from the same man. We went to one of the female members of staff. I don't know if it was the cook or the matron or a cleaner. I can't recall her response. She then took us to see ^{SNR} [REDACTED], Mr ^{MKS} [REDACTED], in his office. We told him what happened. Mr Gilmour, Mr ^{MKS} [REDACTED] and his wife and the female member of staff were there. We were told that we were liars and we were making up stories.
45. If we'd been believed and the police called it would have made a difference to me. I got whacked with the sandal again from Mr ^{GTC} [REDACTED] the day after I made the complaint. He didn't get any further opportunities to punish me as we ran away again within a day or two.

Leaving Gryffe Children's Home

46. The third time I ran away I was with the two other boys and we were picked up by the police together. I was in Larchgrove Remand Centre for a couple of weeks and then the three of us went to the Sheriff Court in Ingram Street. I don't remember being asked why we'd run away from the children's home. We were sentenced to stay in approved schools so I didn't go back to Gryffe Children's Home. The other boys were also ordered to go to approved schools, but different ones. I was then moved straightaway on to St John Bosco's in Fife and I can't recall who took me. In this time period I didn't see anyone from social work or from a care organisation. I think I went to St John Bosco's sometime in 1964.

St John Bosco's Approved School, Aberdour, Fife

47. This was an approved school that was open and not a secure unit. Again this was a large stately house on a hill in its own grounds. There was a main house and separate buildings in front of it where the school was. The main house was for us to sleep in and wash and shower in. We ate in a canteen in a separate building. There was also a gate house for the gardener to live in. There was also a play area outside for recreation, like playing basketball. I can't remember now how I felt about going there.
48. This home was run by a religious order called the Salesian Fathers. It was run by men who were Brothers and priests, as well as two lay brothers. These were men who weren't priests, but dressed and behaved as if they were. The Brothers wore plain black robes with a belt and the priests had a similar robe with a cape over their shoulders that they pulled up over their heads when it was windy as well as wearing a hat.
49. I can only remember two religious Brothers and another man who was called Brother **GTD**. He was actually a civilian staff member, but was called Brother. He was a big, long thin fellow who wore brown bib overalls. He would wear a cassock in the evenings when he'd finished work. He was aged around forty, I don't know where he lived and whether or not he had his own home outside of the school.
50. I think there were three priests. There was a priest in overall charge and I rarely saw him. I can't recall his name. The priest who was **SNR** was called Father **LOE**. The other ones dealt with us on a day to day basis if anything was wrong. I only saw the head priest when I was ready for leaving school at fifteen and he asked to see me as he wanted to know what I would do in the future. There was also Brother **KMK** who was a religious Brother.
51. The main building consisted of three floors. On the ground floor there were offices and a sick bay. On the middle floor there were communal baths and showers as well as

dorm rooms. There was also an attic with dormitories and showers. The religious staff had their own quarters in this building and I can't remember which floor that was.

52. It was all boys at the school and they were similar ages to me. One of the boys I went to primary school with in Pollock was in the school with me at some stage. I'd been with him when a shop window got smashed and it led to me going into Larchgrove the first time. I think I was between twelve and thirteen at this time as I had not long started at secondary school when I was moved to Fife.

Routine at St John Bosco's Approved School

Mornings and bedtimes

53. I can't remember being told where I would sleep when I first came to the school. I was initially in a dormitory in the attic with four or five other boys. I think there were three or four dorms in the attic and I'm not sure how many in the middle floor. I was moved later on to a dormitory in the middle floor. I don't know why we were moved about. We were up at 7:00 am. One of the priests woke us up and everyone got up at the same time. I think they came into the room to shout at us to get up. We had to make our own beds before leaving the dorm to get a wash.
54. I think bedtime was early around 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm and we had some time to read a comic. There was someone in charge of the dorms overnight and when the main lights were switched off there was a red light switched on. I think there was shouting if the boys made too much noise after lights out. I think the staff member on duty had their own room in the attic floor.

Washing and bathing

55. There were communal showers and basins at the end of the hallway in both the middle floor and the attic. I can't remember if there was a set day for having a shower or what they were like. There were no issues with washing and bathing that I can recall.

Clothing

56. The clothes were provided by the school. They were not the same clothes I had in the Gryffe Children's Home.

Mealtimes/food

57. I think the food was ok and I can't recall any punishment for not eating our meals. We had three meals a day at school.

School

58. We were educated in the hut within the grounds, rather than going off site to a local school. The priests provided the education. The school was generally ok and I just gone on with attending the classes. I think there were three different classes so we weren't all in the same room. The lay Brother GTD taught carpentry. The gardener who lived in the grounds also taught some classes inside. I can't remember which ones. I think he was a married man. I can't remember his name.
59. A priest gave us lessons in maths and English. Education was hard as I'd not had much schooling before it. I think the teaching there was basic and we weren't being prepared for taking any examinations.
60. There was one priest, I can't recall his name, who was small and bald headed, and he hit us with a ruler on the head or on the knuckles with the edge of the ruler. This could be just for getting a sum wrong or reading a word wrong. Every one of the teachers punished us in their own way.

Religion

61. There was mass said first thing every day in a short service and before we went to school. There was a longer service on a Sunday. As well as the boys, people from the

village came to the service. The church was in an outside building. I'm not sure if we had breakfast before or after going to mass.

62. I was picked along with another boy to serve as an altar boy. Father ^{LOE} had taken a shine to me for some reason.

Chores/work

63. We had to either wash a car or we sawed up logs for the priest who had a small house in the grounds. We'd get points or stars for doing chores and these were shown on a chart on the wall that was for everyone to see. The chores were done on a Saturday.

Leisure

64. There was a games room set up in one of the outside buildings. We played out in the yard and there were roller skates to play with and there was volley ball in the yard. There was a football park away from the building. A priest supervised what was going on. There was no TV in the school, but we may have watched a film sometimes on a projector screen.
65. There was a dance troupe at the school and the boys wore kilts. I remember Brother ^{GTD} deliberately putting his hand on boys in the area where he said the sporrán would go. There was no need for him to touch the boys in that way.

Trips/holidays

66. I remember we had a day out to the Forth Road Bridge when it was opened to pedestrians and we went once to the cinema in Edinburgh to see the Mary Poppins film. We went on a camping holiday in Perthshire using tents. We were there to help build an adventure playground and I remember constructing a rope bridge for children to play on.

Christmas/birthdays

67. Birthdays were not celebrated in the school. I can't recall anyone getting a cake. Christmas was a big thing, but only in a religious context. There were no presents for the boys. I never went back to my family for a break and I don't think anyone else did.

Medical care

68. I can't remember if there was a medical person on site at the school. I got my appendix taken out when I was at the school. I was initially in the sick room on the ground floor and the doctor came and then I went to hospital in Dunfermline to have an operation and was in there for two weeks. I think I was aged thirteen at the time. It was the only time I saw a doctor at the school.

Visits

69. My brother [REDACTED] and his wife and my dad came to visit once and that was on sports day. It was the only visit I remember. I don't recall any social work visits. There were no reviews of my placement. I am not aware of any independent inspections taking place. One of the boys who smashed a window with me in Glasgow was also in St John Bosco's. His sister and her friend came to visit him and they took me out for the day with him.

Running away

70. I didn't try to run away from the school.

Bed wetting

71. There were boys that wet the bed, but I can't remember if boys were ridiculed for it. I don't remember any physical punishments. I don't think there was as many boys who wet the bed as in the first home.

Discipline

72. If boys were found to be fighting they'd get skelped with the back of someone's hand on the spot or the belt would be used to whack you on the backside or legs. I got the belt a few times. I am not aware of any punishments being recorded in a book or log.

Abuse

73. The Brothers had belts on them like trouser belts and not the normal school belt. They used the belts to hit us on the backs of the legs or the backside. We wore short trousers so we were being hit on bare skin and it was painful. It happened to me. The priests were frequently shouting or bawling at someone or other.
74. After lights out, when just the red light was on and everyone else should be asleep, Brother **GTD** came into the room and started touching me. I was in bed, with his hands in a sexually intimate manner under the bedclothes. I don't recall him speaking to me. This started after I'd been at the school for a few days and it happened three or four times over a couple of weeks. I knew what was going on because of what had happened at Gryffe.
75. Then on one occasion, not at bedtime, Brother **GTD** caught me by the back of the ear and was pulling it. I reacted violently and tried to kick and punch him. He didn't bother me after that. I assume he moved on to someone else. I was punished for kicking and punching him although I'm not sure now what that punishment was, it was probably being hit with the belt. No other boy told me it had happened to him.
76. I was aware that some boys were woken up and taken out of the dorm room at night. I was woken up by the noise of them being woken up by someone who came into the room and them leaving the room. The red light bulb was switched on. I assumed at the time that it was something to do with bed wetting. I didn't see them coming back. I think it happened most nights. When I was up in the attic I remember seeing the same boy being taken. I can't remember his name. That sort of thing didn't happen to me.

77. Father **LOE** had a pick-up truck and when I was working with him on a chore outdoors he'd get me to sit on his knee when he was driving. He was clearly aroused by this. He didn't say anything about it. As far as I know I was the only boy he took in the pick-up truck.
78. Father **LOE** also liked to clean out my ears at night with a cotton wool bud and he'd stand right behind me and pressing against me. I don't know his reason for doing it. I was the only boy he did that to that I saw. I think I was aged thirteen or fourteen.

Reporting of abuse at St John Bosco's

79. I never told anyone what was happening at the school. If Brother **GTD** had gone any further I might have tried to report him, but my experience of trying to report at the Gryffe Children's Home put me off doing it. I can't have been the only boy these things were happening to at the school.

Leaving St John Bosco's

80. I was due to leave school in 1965 and I went to see the priest in charge in his office for the first time. I was sent home by train to live with my mum and dad in Glasgow. I had no more than one week's notice that I was leaving the school to go back to my parents.

Life after being in care

81. I went back to live with my parents and went back to secondary school at St John Bellarmine for just a few months. I was aged fifteen when I left school. I then had a few temporary jobs and tried a number of trades like plumber and butchers. Sometimes I lasted four or five months in a job and sometimes only a few days. I was getting into bother with the police. I was sixteen and then went through an adult court

and was sent to a detention centre at Longriggend for a few months. I was released from there and then sent to a Borstal. It was an open place and I was working with members of the public in a jute mill.

82. After that I spent six months in a Young Offenders Centre. Reports were done for court on my background and that was in regard to what other offences I'd committed. No-one asked me about what happened to me in the care system. I never got probation as part of my sentence, I just got given detention.
83. I got married at nineteen and I was in prison for the first year I was married. When I came out my wife's father got me a job with the council doing various things including tree work. That changed my outlook. I settled down and didn't get in trouble again and ended up working with the council for thirty-seven years. I am now retired. I stayed living with my wife in the same area and we have three children and six grandchildren. I'm aware that one of the boys from St John Bosco's went on to be a big-time criminal and others never changed their outlook.

Impact

84. I've just got on with life the best I can. I never trusted people and especially any priests with my own children. I knew they couldn't be trusted. If my kids were away at a camp I was very worried and my wife thought I was being over protective. I didn't tell her what had happened to me at the time. I didn't tell her about the abuse until around eighteen months ago after the police contacted me.
85. At St John Bosco's I thought there was no point in reporting anything. They wouldn't have believed me and branded me a liar. If it had carried on I don't know where it would have gone, but it stopped for me. I never heard of any abuse involving others in St John Bosco's.
86. For a long time it affected my relationship with my mum and dad and I didn't see them when I was away in the home, the school or Borstal and prison. I was suspicious of

men and their intentions towards me for a long time. In prison or borstal you don't speak to anyone about sexual abuse because of the judgement it would bring. I was too ashamed to tell anyone. No-one would have believed me and it would have made me vulnerable to abuse from other inmates.

87. I've never told my children about these things and just started to talk to my wife after the police got in touch. I think about what happened to me a lot, and sometimes I see reports in the news or on TV about abuse by priests or overhear conversations and it hits home that it happened to me.

Reporting of Abuse

88. The police approached me out of the blue in 2018 to ask me about events in St John Bosco's. They had access to a ledger with the names of hundreds of boys who had attended the school and were trying to locate as many as they could. The police showed me a photograph of three priests from the school and I was able to identify both Brother ^{GTD} and Father ^{LOE}
89. The first time they came, the police were from Dalmarnock and the officer I spoke to was called DC Kenny Mclean. The second time they came it was on behalf of police based in Inverness and I spoke to an officer called DC Susan Walker. They asked similar questions each time. The police showed me a photograph of children in the school and we were all wearing the same clothes, a jacket, Fair Isle jumper and short trousers. I must have been given the clothes.
90. I forgot about the abuse until the police contacted me. I had thought I couldn't do anything about abuse as it happened so long ago. A short time after I saw the police I saw the TV advert for the Inquiry and I realised there was something else I could do to report the abuse.

Records

91. I have not tried to access any of my records.

Lessons to be Learned

92. I hope abuse like this doesn't go on in children's homes now. These homes need to be held to account for what happened there. What these people got away with was hidden for too long. I hope the Inquiry can stop this abuse happening behind closed doors in future.
93. I'm aware that two of my own brothers were abused when they were in care themselves in approved schools. My sister told me about it recently as they never told me. I never told my brothers and sisters about the abuse I suffered.
94. I didn't see any other abuse going on in St John's, but looking back now it must have been happening to other boys. I'd like to see the men who did this being held to account for what they did. They had no one above them to answer to. I hope the homes and schools I was in are now inspected. I also think children now are a lot wiser than I was and they know more and they are aware of who is in charge of them. When I went into the Gryffe Children's Home I was still in primary school and knew very little about life and the outside world.

Other information

95. I have instructed a firm of solicitors with regard to a personal injury claim against Glasgow City Council. I'm aware through that contact that someone else has complained about abuse at St John Bosco's. When I spoke to the police both times they were focussed on events at John Bosco's and not so much on what happened to me at Gryffe Children's Home.

96. I have not tried to seek counselling with regard to what happened to me in care. Once I left the care system I went to borstal and prison and then got married and moved on to a working life and left the abuse behind me. My lawyer suggested seeing a psychiatrist, but I don't see what they would ask me and what that would do for me.

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 GCC

Dated 14 / 2020