

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Brother Douglas WELSH

Support person present: No

Life before joining the Marist Brothers

1. My name is Robert Joseph Welsh. However, my religious name is Douglas Welsh. I am a Marist Brother. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1941. I am 78 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I was born in Carntyne in Glasgow. My father died when I was two. My mother was bringing up six of us. She had three different jobs to try to support us. I lived with my mother until I was eleven. I went to St Thomas' Primary before I joined the Marist Brothers. One of the Brothers, Brother Vincent, went around recruiting. He sold the idea very strongly to my mother.

Background, Education and Career

3. I went to Hetland House. It was a Brothers' school, which was about nine miles outside of Dumfries in the country. Hetland was a boarding school run by the Marist Brothers. It was meant for young men interested in becoming Brothers rather than priests. I did not want to become a priest; I wanted to be a teacher. The Brothers were a teaching order. The Brothers all had qualifications. The school followed a strong educational system with an emphasis on religion.

4. There were around forty boys there. I can remember some of the staff. There was a Director, which meant Headmaster. The student Brothers had previously lived in the old college in Dumfries. They moved to Hetland House, which was a palatial place. Brother ^{MYT} had chosen Hetland.
5. I finished at Hetland House and went to Spain in 1957 as a *novice*. I was about nineteen. I took my vows there and became a full time Brother. There were around fifty or sixty Marist Brothers in Britain at the time. There were a large number worldwide. was in the order too. His name was Brother ^{MLA}. He was ten years older than me. He died two or three years ago.
6. I spent two years in Las Avellanas, Lerida in Spain. It was run by The Spanish Brothers. The programme was based on religious studies and theology. After my time there, I returned to Scotland in 1959 where I went to St Kentigern's Hostel in Glasgow. It was a Marist house of studies. When we came back from Spain, France or Germany we went there to study. We studied with students from the university. The emphasis was on teaching and we were encouraged to study. I picked up a couple of languages, which has been of great assistance to me throughout my life. I spent two years there. In 1961, I went to St Columba's College in Largs. I left in 1963 to go to Edinburgh University.
7. At University, I studied for a degree in English, Spanish and Portuguese. I stayed with the Dominicans in George Square. After a while, I moved to Portobello. I relied on a national grant which was difficult. I graduated in 1967. Thereafter, I spent time working in Rome translating for the Brothers. I translated and interpreted at meetings and assemblies. I would always tell them the Celtic score on a Saturday. While I was there, I was also learning at the School of Translations in Rome.
8. I went back to teaching pupils at Hetland House later in 1967. It was a wonderful experience for me. I have spoken to my colleagues since and no one is aware of anything happening there.

9. While teaching at Hetland, the Provincial asked me if I would be interested in taking up the role of Director of Vocations for the Marist Order. I agreed and became the Director in 1971. The position was based at St Kentigern's Hostel in Partickhill, Glasgow. The role involved travelling to different schools to Scotland and England telling them about the Brothers. I always worked on the principle that the Provincial told you where to go and you went. In those days, you weren't able to request to go to certain places such as Nigeria. The Brothers were forward thinking in terms of education. I worked in this role until 1975.
10. Hetland House closed while I was doing teacher training. I don't think there are any records from Hetland as there was no reason to keep them. When I was teaching there, I was sub-director. We kept a daily record of everything but I don't think the records could be found. I had wanted to keep them. I asked about them as soon as I heard it was closing. I didn't hear anything further. It is a pity because there were some very good things done there. It was a good school.
11. I went back to St Columba's College after I completed teacher training. I taught there for a short period before moving onto St Joseph's College in 1976. I became Principal Guidance Teacher. I taught there from 1976 to 1986.
12. After that, I became Youth Officer for the Diocese of Dunkeld. The Bishop of Dunkeld, Bishop Vincent, wanted someone to establish education for the young people. I held the position from 1986 until 1990. I left because I wanted to go back to teaching before I was too old.
13. I went to teach at St Saviour's Secondary School in Dundee. I became Principal Teacher of Religious Studies and English. I worked at the school for two years before moving onto Lawside Academy in Dundee in 1992, where I taught until I retired.
14. After I retired the first time, the Head Teacher asked the Provincial if I could stay on in an advisory role. I was asked to start a unit in the school for children with problems. The children were from poor backgrounds and had been causing trouble. It was called 'The Recovery Unit'. It enabled the children to come into the room to have some

breakfast and to use the computers. The children sometimes came to me with any problems they had and we would try to sort it out. A social worker came every day. The police came in twice or three times a week. I continued organising the charities and placement of senior pupils to work in the community.

15. The Head Teacher sent me to India. I was there for around a month. I was observing and making contacts. Some Indian Brothers came over to Dundee to the school. At the time, the main project was helping women in India with AIDS. I began a fund raising project in Dundee to purchase sanitary facilities for the women. The Brothers opened a unit in Trichy. It was called The Rainbow Project. I established The India Village Project, which is still operating. I also served on the Provincial Council.
16. I finally retired in 2013. I continue translating for the Brothers on a daily basis.
17. Deceased Brothers are buried in a graveyard in St Joseph's. In the last ten years, the Brothers can have a choice of there or Dalbeth in Glasgow.

St Columba's College, Largs

First Day

18. I was sent to teach in St Columba's College from 1961 to 1963. I got off the bus at Wemyss Bay with two big cases and walked to Largs. It was about two miles. When I arrived, Brother ^{MJD} gave me my timetable and told me to go straight to class.

Structure of Brothers and Staff

19. The Brothers and staff were Brother ^{MJD} Brother Germanus, Brother ^{MFN} Brother Kieran, Brother Nilus and Brother Daniel. Brother ^{MJD} was ^{SNR} and Brother Germanus was Prefect. After a time, ^{SNR} Brother ^{MLA} took over as ^{SNR}

20. There was a woman called ^{DDX} who looked after the younger children. She was Irish. She was dismissed because of the way she treated the children and couldn't change her ways. Brother Germanus looked after the older ones.

Pupils

21. It was a fee-paying school for boarders and day boys. There were about twenty boarders and twenty day pupils. Brother ^{MJD} looked after the school funds.
22. Many of the day boys came from Greenock, Gourock and Largs. There was a number of people in the army who sent their children there. The children were aged up to twelve and they sat the eleven plus exam. The majority of the boys went on to St Joseph's College in Dumfries, but some of the day boys went on to the secondary schools in Largs, Gourock or Greenock.

Layout of St Columba's

23. The building itself was quite old and situated on the outskirts of Largs. There was access to the beach, which enabled the children space to play football, and for general running around.
24. The house had a ground floor, a second floor and a third floor. The three classrooms were on the ground floor. The Headmaster's room along with two dormitories were on the second floor. The Prefect's room was on the third floor. There were washing facilities there too. There was a kitchen and the cook was called Frank Byrne.
25. I lived in the annexe with Brothers ^{MFN} and Nilus. It was across a cobbled yard. My bed was an old fashioned, iron bed. I remember my mother coming to visit and saying the conditions were basic.

Religious dress

26. We wore a soutane and the rabat. We had a cord with three knots on it, which symbolised the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Those were the three rules that we lived by.

Daily Routine

27. The Brothers started at half past six in the morning. We went to mass in St Mary's Church in Largs. Brother Germanus went to mass later at eleven o'clock. While we were at mass, Brother Germanus and [DDX] would get the kids up, down for breakfast and sent to class. I didn't see the children washing or getting ready.
28. The classes ran from Monday to Friday. The day pupils left at three or four o'clock during the week. Some of the parents came to collect their children on Friday afternoons. There were about half a dozen boarders who stayed at the weekends.
29. The boys went to bed at seven or eight o'clock.

Mealtimes

30. The Brothers did not eat with the children during meal times. We ate the same food but we ate in a separate dining room. Brother Germanus supervised the children during meal times. The children said prayers before and after meals. I sat with the other Brothers when they were having their dinner because and then I would be sent to do any tasks that were needed to be done. It was the old monastic regime.
31. I wasn't involved with the boys at night because I was a teacher.

Washing/bathing

32. The shower and bathing facilities were on the top floor. They were very basic. I think they had a shower. They didn't use a bath. There was a small row of sinks.

Sports

33. I'm not sure but I think Wednesdays were games. We played football with the children. There was nowhere on the grounds for the children to play so we took them to an area of ground across the road from the school. I introduced cricket to the pupils. It was very popular with Brother ^{MJD} and the children liked it.

Religion

34. The children were taught about religion in class. The children went to St Mary's Church. There was a Parish Priest and a younger priest. The priest didn't come to the school unannounced.

Healthcare

35. The doctor came quite often as a matter of routine. I am sure there were the usual bumps and scrapes. I can't remember any of the children being hospitalised. The children had regular check-ups at the dentist in town. The parents insisted on it.

Leisure Time and Weekends

36. The children played football until about seven pm. Then they came in and went to bed. The boys who stayed over at weekends were kept busy. We took them on long walks to Largs and on trips to Millport where they were able to paddle in the water. The children loved going to Millport. We had a rowing boat, which we used to mend with tar.
37. We took them to the Ritz Café. The owner there [REDACTED] He would prepare a meal for the kids before they went back to Largs. It was a treat for them. One day we were going to Millport, and I rowed over on the boat with the food. On the way back, it sank. Thankfully, I could swim.

38. The boys were kept busy to stop them feeling home sick. It was difficult for children to be sent away from home especially at that age. I can't remember any children running away. The children didn't have anywhere to run away to.
39. The boarders would be sent parcels from their parents. They were encouraged to share them out with the other boys.

Visiting Brothers

40. As soon as the summer holidays started, some of the Brothers came to Largs to stay at the school. The children were away so there would be as many as could be fitted in. The Brothers weren't given any money in those days but they were given their bus fare to Largs. They would go out on the boat. Brother ^{MJD} would come out and ring a bell for them to come in for morning prayer. Some of the Brothers visited at Christmas time.

Discipline and Punishment

41. I have no recollection of a punishment book. However, there was a daybook, which was a big, black book. It went back years and years, probably to the beginning of the school. It recorded special events and visitors. I don't think it would have recorded the use of the belt. I don't know if it is available now.
42. I didn't use the belt in the college in Largs. I didn't even carry it about with me because I couldn't be bothered. The only person who would use the belt would be the Headmaster. I don't recall seeing any of the pupils being belted whilst at Largs as they were all primary school pupils and very young.
43. The teaching Brothers wrote school reports and sent them to the parents. I don't think we kept a copy for ourselves. I think things were done on a 'need to know' basis. I could have been teaching a child with all sorts of problems but wouldn't have known. In those days, we were not trained in dealing with children with behavioural problems.

44. There was a French boy whose father [REDACTED] in Largs. He exhibited strange behaviour at times and his English language was poor. Knowing what I know now I would describe his behaviour as anti-social. He should never have been a boarder because his parents lived so close to the school and I think that he felt he should be at home. I would take him out of the class and speak to him and try to talk him round. He would hide behind his knowledge of the English language. He was still there when I left. In those days, we weren't trained to recognise any behaviour like that.

Abuse at St Columba's

45. Fortunately, there weren't any occasions when a child came to me about any issues. I am a bit simple minded in the sense that if I had heard anything like that, I would have gone to the superiors. I did not see anything or hear of anything inappropriate.
46. The issue of bullying didn't come up during my time at the school. If a child had gone to speak to someone, it would have been someone with more clout or seniority. If I had known about any issues of bullying, I would have gone to the Head Teacher to try to resolve it.
47. We didn't have staff meetings. I think the nearest thing to a meeting was Brothers ^{MJD} Germanus and ^{MFN} [REDACTED] having a drink together on a Saturday night in the staff common room . They would never drink in front of the pupils and it was usually done when the children were in bed. I didn't drink so I wasn't invited and I was also much younger than the other Brothers and so by choice I didn't go as it would have been frowned upon by the older Brothers.

Closure of St Columba's

48. When the school closed, the Brothers moved to a bed and breakfast in Largs. I think anything important went with them. Brother Arthur was the Provincial. He decided to take everything with him and destroy it. I think he did that because there was no use

for it. I know there was a ledger which was called the "annals" because I had put some entries in it. It was a very comprehensive book covering the history of St Columba's. There were entries for every day the school was open. I know that the Order have searched for this book amongst their records but it has never been found. I suspect it was inadvertently thrown out when the school was closed.

Brothers at St Columba's

Brother Fallon

49. I have no recollection of Brother Fallon being at St Columba's. However, he was the gardener at St Joseph's prior to 1984 but I don't know when he started. He passed away in his room at St Joseph's but I can't be sure of the date.

Brother Germanus

50. I recall Brother Germanus when I went to Largs. I knew him as Gerry. He was a Prefect which meant that he looked after the children. He organised games and trips for the kids. He didn't have a teaching role.
51. Brother Germanus was very good to me. He would point out things to learn and ways to speak to the children. He had a stammer but was a very intelligent man. He was very good with the children. He was strict and wouldn't let anyone off with anything. I had no inclination of any problem with him.
52. I didn't see Brother Germanus hit the boys. He had a belt but we all did. As a prefect, Gerry was expected to carry out corporal punishment if necessary. I never saw Germanus using corporal punishment although he was very strict but fair with them. However, he tended to give the boys tongue-lashings. I don't even remember him having any children in his room. With regards to punishments, I didn't hear any complaints about him.

53. I can remember there was a boy who made an allegation about Germanus I can't remember his name. He was Italian and was terrific at impersonating people. There was another boy who might have made an accusation. I think his surname was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] owned a farm near Largs. We went to the farm once. The children had a great day there with the horses. Both these complaints were made in the last five years and I learned about them from Brother Brendon. I can't recall the nature of the complaints as I was never given the details. Whilst I was at Largs I never received any complaints from any of the boys about abuse.

Brother ^{MNZ} [REDACTED]

54. His religious name was ^{MNZ} [REDACTED] but his real name was ^{MNZ} [REDACTED] I always knew him as Brother ^{MNZ} [REDACTED]. He was a family friend and was eccentric. I can't remember him being at St Columba's. He would have been at St Joseph's for a couple of months but I can't be exact about which year. It was a very short term placement before he moved on.

Brother Philip Andrew

55. Brother Philip Andrew was another family friend so I would have thought that I would remember him. However, he was in the same group as me, therefore, he might have been at Largs. We were at University together in Edinburgh. I can't remember him having a teaching role there but he was qualified to teach.

Brother ^{MJD} [REDACTED]

56. Brother ^{MJD} [REDACTED] was there as ^{SNR} [REDACTED] for a period of time. His name was ^{MJD} [REDACTED] again I am not sure what dates he was present but he was ^{SNR} [REDACTED] when I was there in 1961 and was still ^{SNR} [REDACTED] in 1963 when I left. When I returned in 1975 he was no longer there.

57. Brother ^{MJD} was very tall. He might have been appeared intimidating to the children. He was an aloof person. He enjoyed meeting and speaking with the parents. He didn't deal with the discipline. I am sure I would have remembered if anything had happened. I didn't witness him hitting the children. I think it would have shocked me if I had seen him doing it.

Brother ^{MNV}

58. I can't remember Brother ^{MNV} being in St Columba's at the same time as I was there. If he was there, I think it would only have been for a very short period of time. I can remember him in St Joseph's. He came there from . He had been in the war. He is still alive. He left the order to marry. I think he lives in the north of England with his wife.

Brother ^{MFN}

59. When I went to Largs, Brother ^{MFN} was in the largest room in the annexe. He had a proper bed. He was in his eighties and . The children were very good with him and didn't make a fool of him. He taught in a wee classroom. I didn't see him hitting children. However, it wouldn't surprise me. I think due to him he reacted very quickly to things.
60. I can't remember him hitting anyone. If I had seen anything like that, I would have objected immediately and taken it further. The whole point of our order was to love children. Brother ^{MFN} died at St Columba's when I was at St Joseph's.

Brother James

61. I can remember Brother James. I don't think he was there for long. There was a golf course behind the school and I played golf with him there. I can't remember him in a teaching role.

Brother ^{MLA} [REDACTED]

62. Brother ^{MLA} [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. He took over ^{SNR} [REDACTED] in around 1963. He dismissed ^{DDX} [REDACTED]. He had witnessed the way she was treating the boys and despite warning her she failed to change her behaviour.

Brother ^{MNR} [REDACTED]

63. Brother ^{MNR} [REDACTED] was a genius. He taught in Dundee in St John's. He wasn't in St Columba's. He was in St Joseph's while I was there. He died when I was in St Joseph's.

Brother Nilus

64. I can't remember his full name. I lived in the annexe with him. He was a great Spanish specialist. He was in his eighties. He was a very nice man. I can remember him and Brother ^{MFN} [REDACTED] spending their days watching the television. He died in Largs.

Brother Kieran

65. Brother Kieran was an Irish Brother. He was in bed all the time. He had been sent to Largs because he couldn't teach due to ill health. He was made ^{SNR} [REDACTED] while they were waiting for Brother ^{MLA} [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. He passed away within two or three days of Brother ^{MLA} [REDACTED] arriving at the school.

Brother Daniel

66. Brother Daniel was Dundonian and was well established. He taught every subject so would have had the opportunity to use corporal punishment if he wanted. I didn't have the chance to see him interacting with the children. I have never heard anyone talking about him. He lived in a cottage across the road from the school beside the sea.

AKU

67. I can't remember AKU being there. He could have been there at a different time. MPL who taught with me at Hetland. I didn't know AKU as a Brother. I don't know anything about him. I have read about him in

DDX

68. DDX was Matron in St Columba's when I taught there. She was very strict with the children and I was aware that she often resorted to using physical punishment on the children although I didn't see this first hand. I don't know her surname. I have asked around but haven't been able to find out. I can remember hearing her shouting her head off at the children at night. She was always shouting at them. Her voice in itself was like a weapon. I disliked her. I thought she was very mean and the way she treated the children was abusive.

St Joseph's College, Dumfries

69. I went to St Joseph's in 1976 and was there for ten years. When I started in 1976, the school was for boys only. I can't remember my first day there.
70. The Brothers were: Brother MMK Brother MYZ Brother MFY Brother MZH and Michael Taylor. SNR during my time.
71. There were also: Brother AKV Brother MBG Brother Malcolm, Brother John Fitzpatrick, Brother AKS Brother MFS Brother MFU Brother Damien, Brother MYT Brother DDL Brother Joseph Cameron, Brother MFI, Brother Kenelm, Brother MNV Brother Fallon. Brother Joe Cameron and Paddy Craig.

Pupils

72. There were over 150 pupils there. It was a big school. There were full time boarders and day pupils. It was a similar set up to St Columba's. The day pupils mostly came from Dumfries, Moffat and Annan. The boarders were the children of people who worked or lived abroad. There were over one hundred children staying at the school.
73. The school uniform was blue and gold. There was a Latin motto "Nici Dominus Frustra" which means "without the Lord in vain". It was compulsory for the pupils to wear school uniform.

My Role

74. When I arrived at St Joseph's I was assigned to the English Department. I became Principal Teacher of Guidance a couple of years later. My involvement with the pupils began at breakfast time until teatime when the prefects took over for the evening. We took part in supervising the pupils during the rugby, football and cricket seasons.

Layout of St Joseph's College

75. There was a building called the 'big mount', which was for the Fifth and Sixth Years. It was situated behind the college. The Fifth and Sixth Year dormitories were on the top two floors. The Brothers living quarters were on the floor beneath that. The first floor had two classrooms for the primary school children. They were looked after by two teachers Mrs Mona Farrell and Mrs Sweeney. The dining room was situated below that on the ground floor.
76. There was another smaller building called 'the wee mount'. It had three single bedrooms. I occupied one room and Brother Joe Cameron was in another and Brother Damien occupied the third one. There were no classrooms in the 'wee mount'.

77. The main building housed the dormitories for years one to four. They were situated on the top floor, The first and second floors contained the classrooms. On the ground floor there were offices a tuck shop and a dining room.

Routine

78. The boys said prayers in the morning, before meals and in the evening. There was a big church there. The religious instruction was done more comprehensively than in St Columba's. The priest was Father ^{MML} [REDACTED]. He was a lovely man who was well liked by the staff and pupils.
79. The children had classes during the week and also on a Saturday morning. The Headmasters did not teach the children, but would occasionally take a class. The school was run on a commercial basis and the fees were high because it was a school that had a good reputation for university placements. The [REDACTED] was Brother ^{MYT} [REDACTED]. The Brothers were also involved in all of the sports.
80. There was a large domestic staff for meal times and cleaning duties. The children dined together in the one dining area. It was on the bottom floor. The kitchen was next door to it. The lay staff ate in the same dining area.
81. The Brothers ate in the 'big mount'. It was a good complex. When I went there, there were thirty Brothers, five at each table. It was a substantial room. There was a strict routine surrounding mealtimes which mellowed as time went by and became more acceptable to the Brothers.
82. There was a head boy and a prefectorial system amongst the pupils where the junior boys were looked after by senior boys. The senior boys earned their position as a monitor and took on duties of responsibility. They ensured that the younger boys were in bed in the evenings, and turned the lights out. There would be a Brother nearby who was available if someone was sick.

83. There were two Brothers on duty through the night in the main building. There was another Brother who covered the night time in the "big mount". There was no requirement for someone to be on duty in the "small mount".

Comprehensive School

84. The school became the responsibility of the Local Authority in 1978 or 1979. The girls from the neighbouring convent joined St Joseph's as day pupils. The girls joining the school was the best thing that happened to St Joseph's. They brought so much to the school.
85. When the school became a comprehensive, Michael Taylor [REDACTED] Some of the Brothers stayed on in the school. There were less boarders by then.

Charity work in St Joseph's

86. I was in charge of the charities in St Joseph's and as part of our religious programme, I arranged for our Fourth Year Pupils to work in the community. They would be involved in tending gardens for elderly residents, working with local groups for the disabled, reading newspapers and books for blind people and helping them with their cooking.
87. In order to raise funds for these activities, I commandeered a horse called Charlie, which became a focal point of all our charities. The money raised at different events was given over as cheques made out to 'Charlie the horse'.

Discipline and Corporal Punishment

88. I wasn't aware of a policy on punishment and discipline. The 'belting' of children was accepted at St Joseph's. I was made 'master of discipline,' which meant that if a particular teacher didn't want to use the belt, the child was sent along to me.

89. I would be teaching when the child would walk in. I didn't take it seriously and just gave them a light tap with the belt on their hand. It was done in front of the children in the classroom. Often I never even looked at the child and continued teaching. I treated it more like a joke as I am sure the pupils did as well. I didn't do it properly and carried on teaching the class. I don't think I had that title for very long as the belt was abolished very soon after.
90. I don't know why they made me master of discipline. I didn't last very long in the role. After a while, Paddy Craig took over. He was the first non-Brother to be made Depute Rector. He was a PE teacher.

Record Keeping

91. I didn't fill anything in in a punishment book at St Joseph's and I do not recollect any records. If they were being kept, it would have been by Brother Damien or someone else who was Director.

Abuse

92. I didn't witness any abuse. If I heard anything like that I wouldn't hesitate to discuss it with a superior. We had all the procedures in place. If a child came to see me and it sounded like abuse, we had a teacher who would deal with it. I think it would have been dealt with by Brother ^{MFY} who was ^{SNR}. The procedure for me was simple as I would report it to Brother ^{MFY} and he would deal with it. I wouldn't necessarily be told about the outcome. I never heard of any sexual abuse it was all physical abuse.
93. As time went on the process became more refined. It became clear that there must be someone who it could be reported to who could pass it onto the police.
94. When I was Principal Guidance Teacher, any issues that would come to me I would discuss them with ^{SNR} and either deal with them myself or refer on to him.

The child would be sent to me by a teacher who they had confided in. Either he or myself could call in the police. Pupils reported abuse two or three occasions to me.

95. All the reports were about physical abuse which included slapping. I would usually discuss the alleged abuse with the teacher who was accused. I would try and deal with the complaint without input from SNR [REDACTED]. On all occasions I would contact the parents and make them aware. I found that on one occasion when a female teacher whose name I can't recall but who taught [REDACTED] had been constantly challenged by one of the and had eventually slapped him with an open hand across his face. This was dealt with in a parental interview.
96. One instance there was a wee boy who had "cried wolf" before. He had wrongly accused Brother MBG [REDACTED] of pushing him against a wall in the classroom. This was thoroughly investigated and it was found that none of the pupils in the class at the time had witnessed that event. Brother MBG [REDACTED] was accused again of physical abuse again by the same boy. It was the principal teacher of maths who's name I can't recall who reported it to me. The police came to interview Brother MBG [REDACTED] and decided there was no case against him. The Brothers would discuss the allegations with the police and it would be sorted out. I don't recall and Brother being charged with offences.
97. I think SNR [REDACTED] was Brother MFY [REDACTED]. I wasn't involved in the discussions with the police. It was my feeling that the police were doing their jobs but they were doing them in consultation with the SNR [REDACTED]. They would come to some agreement. We had a very sympathetic police presence in Dumfries. In the end, Brother MBG [REDACTED] wasn't moved. He died shortly after.
98. There were no other incidents reported to me. I have heard of other allegations against Brothers Germanus and AKS [REDACTED]. These allegations only came to light in that last six or seven years when I was told by Brother Brendan. The problem is the Brothers are all dead which makes it more difficult.

Brothers at St Joseph's

99. I have been asked about various Brothers.

Brother **AKS**

100. Brother **AKS** was quiet and gentle person. He was not a teacher and didn't have much to do with the boys because he had a bad **██████████** and was self-conscious. He made the soutanes. If anybody needed anything done, he would do it for them. He was always darning socks for the Brothers.

Brother **MFI**

101. Brother **MFI** was Irish. He was in charge of **██████████** I think he taught **██████████**. He took the seniors. I didn't see him hitting a child.

Brother **MNZ**

102. Brother **MNZ** was called **MNZ** I think he was at St Joseph's. He didn't stay anywhere long. He had been in every school and to Africa. I never heard anything untoward about him.

Brother Fallon

103. Brother Fallon was the gardener in St Joseph's. He didn't teach the children. He stayed in the 'wee mount'. I didn't see him interact with the children.

Brother **MNR**

104. There was a rumour that he had been interfering with a boy at Whiteinch Swimming Pool. I heard about it from Brother Chris Mannion who was on his way to Rome but was staying at St Joseph's at the time. I can't be sure of the exact date but it was in

the 1970. I think it related to Brother ^{MNR} when he was teaching at St Andrew's in Glasgow. Brother Mannion was tragically killed in Rwanda a short time later.

Brother ^{MNV}

105. Brother ^{MNV} was one of the Brothers. There was a group of Brothers. He had been for teaching the Catholic religion. He was in the college for a matter of weeks before being sent back to

Brother ^{MZH}

106. Brother ^{MZH} was one of the ^{SNR} He also taught I didn't hear anything untoward about him.

Brother Pierre

107. I can't remember Brother Pierre.

Brother Justin

108. Brother Justin was one of the Brothers who had taught in Africa.

Brother ^{MFS}

109. Brother ^{MFS} taught I didn't see him interacting with the children.

Brother ^{MMK}

110. Brother ^{MMK} was another ^{SNR} There is nothing which comes to mind about him.

Brother MFU

111. Brother MFU spent a lot of time looking after the dormitories. However, I didn't hear of any allegation against him. He was not a teacher.

Brother Kelm

112. Brother Kelm was known by his religious name of Brother Arthur. Brother Arthur was Provincial and was responsible for closing St Columba's. He taught music in St Joseph's until it became comprehensive. There was nothing untoward about him. I certainly didn't hear anything about him.

Brother DDL

113. A child who's name I can't remember came to me once and told me that Brother DDL was speaking to him in an inappropriate way. The boy was very upset. We had to speak to the SNR and the police. Brother DDL left the Marist Order shortly after that. I don't know if it was as a result of the complaint but I suspect that Brother Arthur who was Provincial told him that he was not suitable to be a Brother. I can't remember if the police spoke to the boy. The female police officer in Dumfries was very good with the children. I can't recall the police officer's name.

Brother Damien

114. There were accusations made against Brother Damien when he was at St Joseph but I do not know what they were. It was rumour and speculation that he had indecently exposed himself to the boys in the classroom. I am sure the police would have records of the allegations. I can't be sure of the year that these allegations were made. Damien was Director of the Brothers at St Joseph's he also taught French. He was very ill for a long time with a serious bowel complaint. As a result of the accusations he retired from teaching went to St Bennett's, which was a house for elderly Brothers in Glasgow. He was charged but his lawyer who was called Smyth had to delay the case because Damien was seriously ill. He never went on trial but passed away soon after.

115. I got involved in this process because I was instructed by the Provincial to investigate a letter that Brother Damien intended to send to the court. Mr Smyth the lawyer advised that he should not send the letter which was an apology to the pupil involved and an explanation of what he was doing which he stated was scratching his groin area. I was sent to try to dissuade him from sending this letter which was strongly against legal advice. I was naive in understanding of legal procedures and was being guided by the legal advice.

Brother ^{MYT} [REDACTED]

116. Brother ^{MYT} [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. He didn't have anything said about him. He had been master of scholastics in Ireland. He spent his time playing the [REDACTED]. He didn't have any contact with the boys.

Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]

117. Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED] was ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. He didn't use the belt. He didn't believe in corporal punishment. His philosophy was that it was a matter for the staff to decide if they used it or not. He tried to speak to the pupils about their problems.

Brother Jesus Orte

118. I can't remember Brother Jesus Orte. He wouldn't have been called 'Jesus Orte' in the school as that name wouldn't have been appropriate to the pupils.

Brother ^{MBG} [REDACTED]

119. Brother ^{MBG} [REDACTED] was an [REDACTED] teacher. He lived in the school. I don't think he had contact with the boys outside of class. He passed away some years ago.

Brother Arsacio Soladane

120. Brother Arsacio Soladane was called something else. The children could translate 'Arsacio' into something else so his name was changed. He came over from Spain for a year to learn English. He didn't have contact with the boys, he only had contact with the Brothers. I spent quite a lot of time helping him with English. He loved going around the shops in Dumfries asking the price of things.

Brother MYX

121. Brother MYX was a highly popular Head Teacher in the [REDACTED] area of Glasgow. He was [REDACTED] by the council. He came to Dumfries. I can't remember if he taught in St Joseph's.

Brother Malcolm

122. Brother Malcolm was an Islander and had a room in St Joseph's. He didn't have any contact with the boys at St Joseph's as he was retired when he was there. He taught for most of his life in England.

Brother MYZ

123. Brother MYZ was also SNR. There was a new one every three years. The SNR changed every three years as well. Brother MYZ would never use the belt. He removed Latin from the syllabus. There was nothing untoward about him.

Brother John Fitzpatrick

124. John Fitzpatrick was a strange character. I think he was there around 1985. He had quite a lot of dealings with the boys. I often wondered about him because I didn't feel comfortable around him. I can't recall any of the boys making allegations about him.

125. He was about twenty years younger than me. He was Glaswegian and liked to wear his hair long. I can remember him sitting out on the green sunbathing wearing nothing but swimming trunks. It wasn't appropriate because the children were passing by. I just ignored him.

126. I don't know if there were any allegations against him. However, it wouldn't surprise me. He left the order in around 1988. I didn't see him interacting with the boys.

Brother Gerard

127. Brother Gerard was my tutor in Hetland House. He taught me English and Latin. He wasn't at St Joseph's.

Brother Joe Cameron

128. Brother Cameron was interesting. He became a Brother after running a pub for thirty years. He studied in his room all day. He came down for meals and prayers before going back to his room. He didn't have any contact with the children.

Brother ^{AKV} [REDACTED]

129. Brother ^{AKV} [REDACTED] and I were at St Joseph's at the same time. On the face of it, he was an excellent teacher. He was in charge of the senior's dormitory. He had a room beside the boys. He was very involved in all the children's activities in the school which included organising games and school plays. In hindsight I question his motives and suspect that he was doing that for his own purposes. I wasn't aware of any allegations made by the boys at the time I was teaching there against Brother ^{AKV} [REDACTED]

130. He disappeared from St Joseph's and went to [REDACTED] around 1986 or 1987. He didn't leave a note or anything. I was asked by the Superior General in Rome to get him to fill in the appropriate papers, such as the resignation letter. I went over to [REDACTED] and persuaded him to fill in the paperwork. I didn't ask him why he had left as he didn't

want to talk about it. The reason I was sent was because I was a personal friend of Brother ^{AKV} and he would be happier to speak to me.

131. When I was teaching at Lawside Academy, [REDACTED] came to speak to me from Dumfries. They asked questions about ^{AKV} [REDACTED]. It was the mid to late 1990s. Sadly, that was the first time the abuse involving ^{AKV} [REDACTED] came to my attention.

132. Between 1993 and 1995 a different [REDACTED] whose name I can't remember came to see me about ^{AKV} [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. I found out [REDACTED] from a different hostel in Dundee where he had been transferred from Perth. His friends in [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] taken him back to stay with them in Lebanon. He let down a lot of people. [REDACTED]

How the allegations of Abuse have impacted on me.

133. I was deeply shocked at the revelations in the press and media relating to the abuse by Marist Brothers and other organisations who had a duty of care to children. I was saddened to learn that members of The Marist Order had abused children in their care. This has impacted seriously on me and I feel that so much good work that has been done is somehow spoiled.

134. I find that when I am with the children in my own family I am heeding the warnings of our Safeguarding Officer and ensuring that I am not left alone with them and not picking them up to cuddle or to sit on my knee. It is a terrible thing to feel that I even have an awareness of this as these children are direct relations of mine.

Thoughts on the current system*Brother Ronnie McEwan*

135. The first time I heard about any abuse in the Catholic church was in the newspapers. Brother Ronnie McEwan was our Provincial and he was tasked with investigating abuse involving the Marist Order. It was all historical abuse. He immediately wanted to sort things, so he decided to meet some of the victims at Kinharvie House. He said "we are going to help the person." He said that we would send the victims for counselling or treatment but we would not give them money. He felt that counselling was the way forward. I think that took place around twelve years ago. I thought that he had been remarkably well informed about the abuse.

Brother Brendan Geary

136. The current Provincial, Brother Brendan Geary, is more of an academic type of person. He wrote a lot on how things should be dealt with and how the Brothers should not ignore anyone who came forward to report abuse. There had been a number of people who made allegations.
137. As time has gone on, I have become more involved in this issue. Brother Brendan Geary has developed our processes and has spoken to different groups, such as the English Bishops and the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. The Bishops in England are now working together with their Scottish counterparts and are recognising the problems and looking to address them.
138. I don't think my generation, including Brother Brendan and Ronnie McEwan, liked anything being 'pushed under the carpet'. Brother Brendan has done a lot of good work. However, I think, he feels there is still a lot of work to be done.

- 139. Since I became aware of the issue, I have been involved in contributing to our own Marist Safeguarding Process. I feel the order has done its best. Some other religious orders haven't done as much.
- 140. I am very proud of my Order. There are some people who have besmirched us but it does not take away from a lot of the wonderful work done by Brothers all over the world. The founder of the Marist Brothers, Champagnat, set up the schools to help children. The founding principle was 'the children come first'.

Other information

- 141. I hope there are listening ears and the survivors of abuse get the best possible response from the authorities and organisations that were responsible for their care. I think it is important that people who report abuse are taken seriously.
- 142. I am happy to have been given the opportunity to do this. I want to try to be able to help the Inquiry. The abuse is an evil thing. It has affected so many people.
- 143. The Brothers are going to put all of the British Marist records into the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh. There might be records in these archives pertaining to Hetland House, St Columba's and St Joseph's.
- 144. 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..... 04/07/2019.....