



Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LCO

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is [REDACTED] LCO I am known as [REDACTED] LCO My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1943. I am 73 years old.

Birth and family details

2. I was born in Dundee. I had 7 sisters and 2 brothers. My mother died in 1946 when I was 3. She died of tuberculosis. Prior to that I had lived at [REDACTED] Beechwood, Dundee. This is the address on my birth certificate.
3. In 1946, after my mother died, my father sent the 4 youngest children, including me, to Duncarse Home for children in Dundee. My elder sisters, the twins, kept taking us out and bringing us home again. Because of that, my brother [REDACTED] and I, and two of my sisters, were sent further away to Nazareth House in Aberdeen. [REDACTED] is 3 years older than me.
4. I didn't know my full name until I was 12 years old. I imagine that I was born in Dundee Royal Infirmary. I don't know how long I stayed in Duncarse House.

5. I am now retired although I had 4 jobs to do a day, some days. Prior to retirement I worked first of all in the Royal Air Force, in hotels, in pubs and the [REDACTED] in Leeds, since 1960. I've been in Leeds since 1960.

6. I got married in Leeds in 1960 and I came out of the RAF. I had [REDACTED] my first child, just before I turned 21 in 1964.

7. I was sent to Nazareth House in Aberdeen, along with my brother [REDACTED] and my twin sisters [REDACTED] by my father. He paid 7 shillings and sixpence from his war pension for our upkeep. My older sisters, the twins, kept taking my brother and I out of Duncarse House and bringing us to my father's house in Dundee. My father had remarried 6 months after my mum died. His new wife didn't want us.

Family composition

8. I was the baby in the family. I was 3 when mum died. Next was [REDACTED] He was 6. He lives in Dundee. The twins, [REDACTED] who was called [REDACTED] were 10. [REDACTED] is dead. [REDACTED] is alive although she doesn't talk to me. She lives in Coventry. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for short, is dead. Next is [REDACTED] known as [REDACTED] and she is dead. [REDACTED] is 90 plus and lives in a care home in Dundee. She suffers from dementia. [REDACTED] was the eldest girl. [REDACTED] was the eldest boy. He died when he was 19. He was a pilot in the RAF and was shot down over Cyprus during the war. My father died in [REDACTED] 1962. I went to his funeral. My sisters and my brother argue all the time. We are quite dysfunctional. I go to Scotland. Since [REDACTED] died I stay with [REDACTED] daughter. My sister [REDACTED] is dead. My sister [REDACTED] died in [REDACTED] 2016.

Marriage and relationships

9. I am a widow. My husband died in about 1980. We had separated about 14 years before he died, in 1966 when [REDACTED] was about 2. Then I had a son, [REDACTED] He was born in 1967. He died of Rubella aged 21. I had a

second son, [REDACTED] born in 1969. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had the same father. [REDACTED] uses the surname [REDACTED] which is his father's surname. I see [REDACTED] She lives in Leeds. My relationship with the boys' father did not last. Both he and my husband were extremely violent to me. Both were convicted of serious offences against me and both were imprisoned. Then I met my partner [REDACTED] He was a Fifer. I was with [REDACTED] for 29 years, since [REDACTED] was about 15. He died about 5 years ago.

Nazareth House early memories

10. The four youngest children in our family were sent to Nazareth House. I was 3; [REDACTED] was 6 and the twins, [REDACTED] were 10. We were brought up as Catholics. Nazareth House was run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, or at least they were supposed to be.

11. The first thing I remember about Nazareth House is being a little girl walking along the corridors, which had polished floors, with my eyes down a lot. That happened every day. We had to clean up and buff the floors, walls and doors. This was every day. Weekends were spent in the laundry. We even had to work after school.

Nursery and School

12. I remember going to school. I can't remember going to nursery. I was there until I was 5. I can remember a Miss [REDACTED] LKZ used to come in and teach us writing. She smelled beautiful. I did good writing for her. She was lovely. I knew I always had to be a good girl or I'd get smacked.

13. As I got older at, ages 9 to 11, I remember I got to know my brother [REDACTED] This was because my mum's mum, my grannie, used to visit. Then I realised that we saw each other in church. The nuns wouldn't let you speak. I'd get a nip on the ear or on the arm. If I looked around the church for my brother that is when they nipped my arms. My arms were always black and blue from being nipped by the nuns.

Name and number

14. I remember my left eye was very swollen and bulging out. It may have been from having our heads bashed together or from having my head banged against a wall. We couldn't tell the nuns if we had been fighting. I'm talking about when I was between about age 7 to 10. You knew the nuns didn't like you. We never smiled. The nuns never spoke kindly to us. I was number [REDACTED] I never knew what my last name was until I was 12. I was always number [REDACTED] That was the first time we were sent out to St. Peter's school. I had to know my name. The nuns called me number [REDACTED] If there were visitors I was referred to as LCO [REDACTED] was number [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]

My sisters [REDACTED] at Nazareth House

15. The boys were in a different part of the building at Nazareth House. I was in a different part from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I think that my sisters were actually thrown out. They worked in the kitchen with Betty Walker. I'd see them in the passing but couldn't stop and talk. Once my sister [REDACTED] gave me an extra lump of porridge. However, she burnt me at the same time. I think they were working with the infants at age 15-16. But they got chucked out. [REDACTED] tackled Sister [REDACTED] FAF Seemingly she was pulling [REDACTED]'s hair. I could see [REDACTED] and the nuns having a go. She told me she got chucked out. One sister had [REDACTED]'s head over the bannister. I don't know what or who started it off.

Sister [REDACTED] FAF

16. Sister [REDACTED] FAF was a witch. Sister [REDACTED] FAF hated me. She was very cruel. She had a pointed nose. All you saw of her was a little fat face

surrounded by the head dress or wimple. I don't know if it was because she was little and fat. When I was 10 I remember I had a gum boil. She used to get me and punch me in the gum boil. I passed out. I must have gone to the doctor who gave me something for the infection. I remember her preying on it. I think it was because [REDACTED] was my sister. It was Sister [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED] who gave me the black eye I referred to earlier. When she did it all you could see was a little trickle of blood from my left eye brow. She took me into the sick bay at the end of the dormitory. She offered me some honey. I didn't like it. She said, "You'll have to go to the doctor with that eye. But don't say that I did it". I said I had bumped into a locker. She pushed me into the locker. It was like an open door. She pushed my head into the corner of the door. My eye was black and blue. It was swollen and bruised. At the time I was at St. Peter's secondary school in Nelson Street, Aberdeen. I was off school for about a fortnight because of the eye.

Landings

17 When I was about 8 or 9 we were divided into landings. You couldn't speak to people on other landings. Girls were not placed on separate landings according to age. There were perhaps 2 sisters on each landing. One was dominant. I was on Sister [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED] landing from when I was aged about 7 or 8 until I ran away at age 15. Sister [REDACTED] LDW [REDACTED] was the other nun on my landing.

Primary education

18. I did not go to primary school. The girls were taught inside Nazareth House until secondary school. The boys went to primary school. The boys went to the pictures sometimes. That was while we went to work in the laundry. The first time I went outside the walls of Nazareth House after going in there aged 3 was when I started secondary school. I was about 12 years old.

19. When I went to St. Peter's school, me and [REDACTED] were in the same class. We got kept in to prepare for exams. I didn't know my algebra, nor decimals, nor history. I didn't pass. We just couldn't take it in. We had been taught how to write and taught sums by Miss [REDACTED] LKZ [REDACTED] We were just put in a classroom where a nun left us with a writing book. She left. We never got to an outside primary school.

20. I remember we were to have a foster parent to write to. I remember the name Cathy. I can't remember her last name. I wrote a letter to Cathy and her husband. I made a mess of an envelope. I got the biggest hiding for wasting an envelope.

Punishment by banging heads

21. Quite a few of us got our heads banged together. There was also pulling hair as a punishment and pulling ears. It would also be bruises over the knuckles. They were nippy and beat you. It happened all the time if you did anything wrong in their eyes. It happened to me a lot. If you had long hair, they would cut your hair. It was to show you "I'm the boss". I think all the nuns had a go. There was always someone screaming. It was [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] LDW [REDACTED] We also got a wooden hair brush bashed over the back of our hands.

Peer cruelty and personal care

22. It wasn't always the sisters who gave beatings. The older girls were put in charge of 4 or 5 other girls to ensure that no one had nits in their hair. If you got caught scratching you'd get your heads banged together. I knew I'd get beaten. If the older girls didn't get all the nits out then they were beaten. I did this to the younger girls and I pulled their hair. We were as bad to the little ones as the nuns were to us. They would be screaming. I can see it now. I know I did that. I only did it to those who had nits. The younger girls would be 7 or 8. I would have been over 12.

23. At bath time it was like a conveyor belt system. Your legs would be scrubbed with a scrubbing brush. You'd have to take off your clothes and put on a gown like a hospital gown. The bath was filled with Jeyes fluid which was grey in colour. This was once weekly. We would get our heads pushed under the water before we were let out. There were only three baths to share between all of us. Now I know that Jeyes fluid is poison and I'm horrified.

Force feeding

24. On one occasion, I remember we got chocolate pudding. It looked like custard. I couldn't eat it. It was left in front of me for two whole days. It was given to me at every meal. Sister [FAF] made me eat it until I threw up all over her. She was banging my head. I was about 10. I think she was swinging me and my head was striking a table and chair. Everyone in the dining room was watching. I can't remember if I suffered any physical injury which required to be seen by a doctor.

25. Visits to the doctor were very rare. It was only if you could see the problem that you were allowed to go. I suffered an appendicitis. That was normal however.

26. There were separate dining rooms for boys and girls. There was a dining room for girls only.

Layout of accommodation

27. The boys were at the other end of the building. The church was in the middle of the ground floor, between the boys' and girls' ends of the building. The elderly were on the first floor above. The nursery was on the second floor above that. I can't remember whether boys and girls were kept together at nursery stage. We only saw the boys in church.

Routines

28. For mass and benediction we had to walk along the corridor with our hands together as if we were praying.

29. After school each day we had a snack. It was a cup of milk and a slice of bread. We had an evening meal after benediction. There was benediction every school day. I think bedtime was at 7pm. We went to mass on a Sunday, and at Christmas and feast days like St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's day. We had to go to confession. We were always in church.

30. As part of the daily routine, we had to say our prayers at the side of our beds. Then the older girls would brush the younger girls' hair. Then we made our own beds. For breakfast we had porridge with lumps. Sometimes people were force fed because they didn't like it.

Bed time and bed wetting

31. At bed time we were told to sleep with our hands crossed over our shoulders. I can't sleep any other way now. We were never told why we had to do this. A nun would flick your blankets off. If your arms were not crossed you'd get a beating. Sometimes you wet yourself because of fear. You would just have wakened up. It happened to me a lot. You would be hauled out of bed by your hair and beaten.

32. If you wet the bed you got everything put over you. You were shamed. It's hard to believe. I was a bed wetter. But that was sometimes when a nun pulled me out of bed. This happened right up until I was 15. It was FAF She slept through the wall from the dorm. She had a sort of hatch that she could see through. She started looking at my end. She'd get your head and put it into the wet sheet. You'd have to walk out of the dorm with the sheet over your head.

Physical development

33. When I first took my monthlys, by which I mean periods, I didn't know what was happening. I didn't know until I got up out of bed. I got the living daylight beaten out of me because of a normal thing. I was told to wait in the bathroom. I was given a home made pad and a pair of knickers. I didn't know what was happening to me. I was sore and smelly. I didn't dare ask for another. You had to wash your own pad and use it again. I was beaten by FAF for that. That's what happened with all of us. I remember I was scared to ask for another one. I used to smell. I tried to wash the pad. Often it was not washed right. It was not dried right. I felt unclean all the time. When I think back it was awful. I never knew when I was taking them. No one told us about a monthly cycle or anything like that. We were basically punished for having periods.

34. When I ran away I never knew to go to the police. But the nuns didn't like us. They were mad at us. They didn't explain anything.

My relationships after being in care

35. I hadn't thought about Nazareth House until we saw things in the News of the World newspaper. I had children, then I had grandchildren. I suffered beatings from my husband and from the father of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. One got 5 years in jail. The other got 7 years. My husband throttled me. His name was [REDACTED]. It was Christmas time. He was telling me he hadn't had sex since October. He had been out. He ripped all my clothes off. I cracked him with his shoe. I think he was charged with attempted murder of me. The boys' father slashed my face. He was called [REDACTED]. I had to have stitches in my head. I was only with him for a few months. He was sentenced on [REDACTED] first birthday. That was the end of the relationship. My next relationship with [REDACTED] was okay. It was my house. I was the boss. I think what happened to me in my relationships was connected with my childhood experiences. [REDACTED] was the first person who was nice to me. I thought it was love. I was 19. He was 34. I had never been loved. I never knew what love was. I married [REDACTED] within 6 weeks of meeting him.

██████ was nice to me. He made me laugh. Then I fell pregnant with his son. I must have fallen pregnant straight away. Both boys were premature. ██████ was born at 3lbs 2oz; and ██████ was born at 3lbs. Both boys were born at 6 months of term.

36. I suffered a lot of violence from ██████ and ██████. I didn't report it. I was used to beatings.

Lack of educational opportunity

37. It makes me feel better helping people here where I live. I was always worried that I knew nothing. I was second hand ██████ LCO. If I had had a different education it would have made a difference.

38. At Nazareth House, as punishment, you'd have to kneel beside someone else and get your heads banged together. You had to kneel because Sister ██████ FAF was too small. There was no need for this. I didn't deserve it. You had to kneel down and then you knew what was coming.

Family visits at Nazareth House

39. I think when there were visitors or inspectors we'd all be told someone's coming to see you. We would all be well dressed and our hair would be clean. We'd all be smiling out in the playground. The visitors never spoke to any of us. The usual routine changed when there were visitors. I had visits from my father and from my grannie. My sister ██████ came too. Old boys and girls of Nazareth House would come for reunions. There was a big dance. ██████ and ██████ came.

40. I remember my father coming to visit about 5 or 6 times. It never occurred to me to tell anyone what was happening. ██████ said to my father, "you're no father of mine" because he had put us in Nazareth House.

First disclosure

41. I never said anything about Nazareth House to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] knew. When I met [REDACTED] that was in about 1982. I told [REDACTED] about my experiences. I would have been about 37 or 38 then. I kept it all to myself until then. The kids didn't know.

42. I was never aware of any sexual abuse at Nazareth House.

Impact of my childhood at Nazareth House on my life

43. I never knew what real unconditional love was until I had grandchildren. When [REDACTED] was born I didn't know how to bath her. I had her at home. I spent a lot of time as a single parent. Sometimes I had 4 jobs. [REDACTED] had rubella. He was blind and deaf. I felt I was a bad mother. I felt I didn't love him properly.

44. I went to see Nazareth House a few years ago with my sister. I collapsed outside the wall. I was surprised that the walls were small. They were not as big as I remember. I could've climbed them. Neither were the buildings as big as I remember.

Trips to the beach from Nazareth House

45. We used to go to the beach at Aberdeen. We had to walk right down to the beach according to our houses. The houses were called colour names, red, yellow, blue and green. I wore a yellow T shirt and shorts because I was in yellow. Everyone knew where we came from. It was lovely going to the beach. On the day I ran away we didn't go onto the beach itself. At the back of the Beach Ballroom there was a big, big patch of grass. We sat there for the day. We all wanted to go swimming. I was assigned with 3 others to take the urns to get hot water from the Beach Ballroom. We passed a big marquee. There was a competition and they were calling people up to sing. We weren't allowed to read girls comics like Judy or anything like that. We only knew hymns, not other songs. I went up to sing. I sang "Hail Glorious

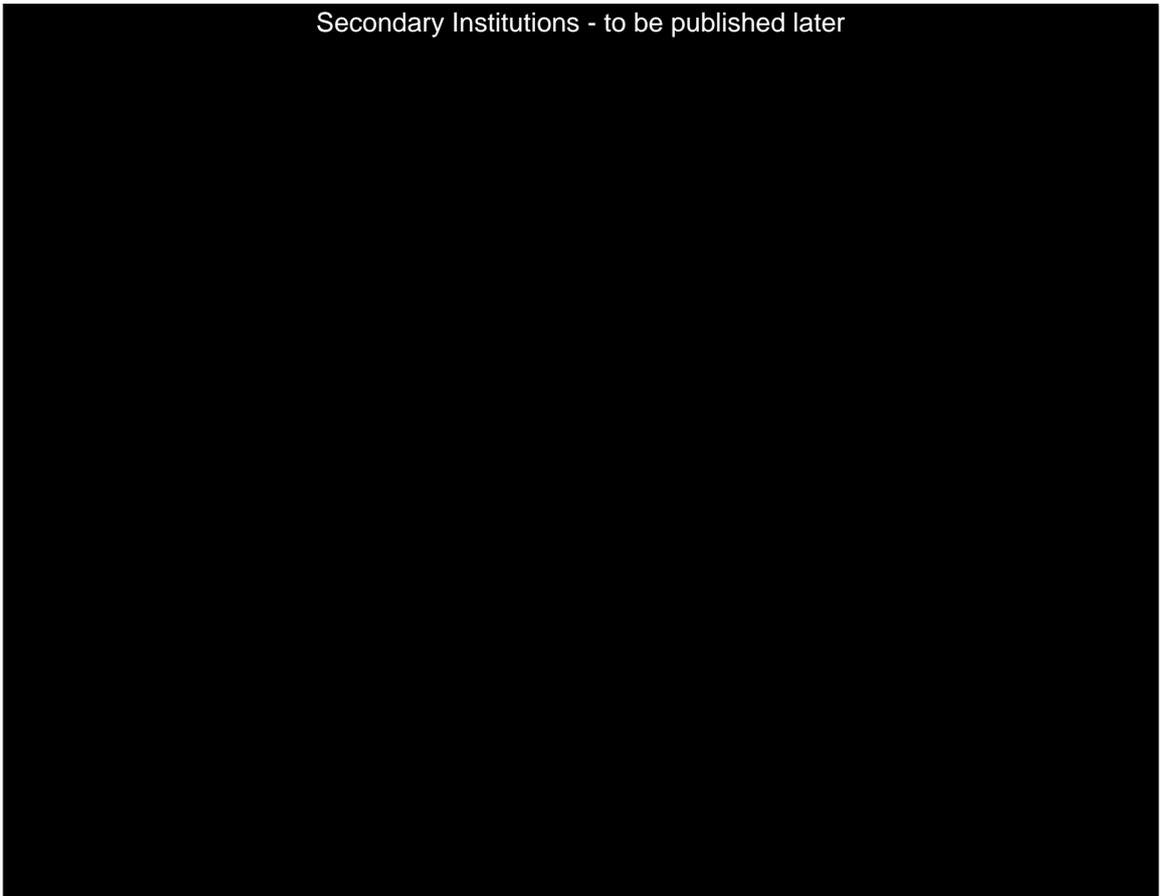
Saint Patrick". I won 3rd place but I never waited for my prize. When I got back to the group, the nuns told me "wait until you get home".

Running away from Nazareth House

46. I didn't go home. I got 10 shillings to get to Dundee. I won't tell you what happened to me or how I got the money. I vowed I wasn't going back to get beaten. I had visited relatives in Dundee when I was 12 or 13. I went for 2 weeks in the summer. I got to know my family. I picked up some swearwords then and used to use them, muttering under my breath.



Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Other aspects of Nazareth House

49. There was no affection shown by the Nazareth House people. They didn't behave as Christians. Maybe they were too young or didn't want to be

nuns. We weren't treated as human beings or as children. They didn't know how to be happy and to look after children.

50. I am asked about Sister [LDR] Was she not over on the boys' side? My brother would know. My brother still washes his underpants in the bath before they go in the washing machine. I relate this to his experience at Nazareth House. Sister [LTX] was big. She was with the girls. I more than likely had dealings with her. I am asked about the names of other nuns such as Sisters [LJO] [LDQ] and [LJJ] none of whom I know. I think I recognise the name Sister [LKK] She might have been nice. I think she once said to me, "My child, you're doing a good job". I thought that was nice.

Contact with INCAS

51. I got to know about INCAS by reading a News of the World article in 1997. We went to BBC Scotland, the programme was Frontline Scotland. Someone we stayed with knew Frank Docherty of INCAS.

52. I was involved in instructing Cameron Fyffe, Solicitor. My case got caught by the timebar issue. I didn't give a statement. I didn't go to the police. I thought Cameron Fyffe would do that for us.

Final thoughts on Nazareth House

53. There were so many girls in Nazareth House. I don't think we were close friends. We didn't know how to be. It was dog eat dog. Each trying to get the nuns' favour.

54. I only once got involved with the elderly. I had to watch and pray at the bottom of the bed of an old lady who was dying.

55. I am asked about whether there was a vault at Nazareth House. The vault was at the back of the church underneath the altar. It was at the side of

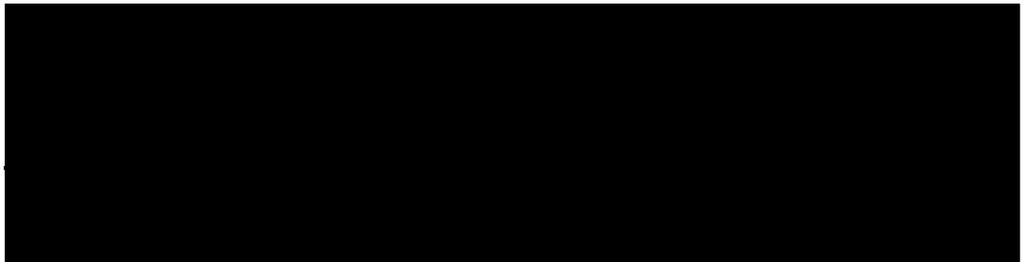
the girls' playground. Once a year we used to have to clean out around the coffins in the vault. What a stench there was. We had to go in before the priest came to bless them. We were always frightened by that. I was aged about 11 or 12. It was done every year.

56. When I was a child I knew nothing except being in Nazareth House.

57. We did not get taught the real ways of the world. For example, when I got a job I was always a cleaner as I knew nothing else. I did not have skills in maths nor in communication. So I could not gain a better job with better pay. I always felt like the underdog. This was due to not learning skills for the real world. All of this affected my confidence and still does. I have never felt valued except by my own children.

58. 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..... *10-10-2016*