

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Steven John CRAIG

Support person present: No

1. My name is Steven Craig. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1972. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mother and father were aged 16 when they met [REDACTED]. Both my parents are now dead. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. My dad was an alcoholic. My mum had a horrendous time [REDACTED] dealing with him. We first lived in Nittshill, which is on the south side of Glasgow. When we were living there [REDACTED] set fire to the house so we had to move out. There was nowhere else for us to go so my dad took me [REDACTED] to live with him at his parent's house in Pollok, Glasgow. My mum [REDACTED] at her parent's house. There wasn't enough room [REDACTED] to stay at her parent's house.
3. It didn't work out living with my grandparents partly because of my dad's drinking and also my grandmother couldn't handle [REDACTED] wetting the bed. [REDACTED] crying all the time too because [REDACTED] wanted [REDACTED] mum. [REDACTED] didn't feel loved and it was obvious [REDACTED] a burden on my gran. She contacted the social services after [REDACTED] had been there about four or five weeks. [REDACTED] went to the social work offices in Glasgow. As far as I know this was the first time my family had any dealings with social services. I remember my mum telling [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] going to stay in a children's

home for a couple of weeks until they got another house big enough [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] upset and crying. That's when [REDACTED] put into Nazareth House, Lasswade. [REDACTED] taken that night because there was nowhere else [REDACTED] could go. I am sure I would have been five or six at the time.

Nazareth House, Lasswade

4. I remember when [REDACTED] going there I thought it was going to be nice. I thought it was going to be lovely people who would be looking after [REDACTED] and it would be a fancy building and everything would be nice and clean. I was still upset though because I just wanted to go home with my mum. My mum was crying too and she was telling [REDACTED] not to worry because it was only going to be for a couple of weeks until she found another house.
5. I was told that the house was run by the Poor Sisters who were nuns. I didn't really know what that meant. When I saw them they had these things on their heads and beads around their necks. I just thought these were God's people. I don't know how many nuns were in there. The nun in charge of me was called Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED]. She wore a black habit and a blue thing on her head. She would probably have been in her thirties then. The only other nun I remember was more senior than her. I think she was the Mother Superior. There were a few other nuns. Some of them were lovely and were nice to us. I don't know how many other boys and girls were in there.

Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade

First day

6. I don't really remember much about when [REDACTED] first got to Nazareth house. [REDACTED] put into a room that [REDACTED]. It was a double room and [REDACTED]. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] initially came over as a small caring woman who wanted to

look after young people. That soon changed and it became obvious she was a control freak and she liked everyone to know that she was the boss.

Mornings and bedtime

7. I think we must have been in our beds by 8 o'clock at night and a woman used to shout "lights out" and that was it. We were supposed to shut up and go to sleep. No-one ever came in to check if we were sleeping or told us to be quiet if we were chatting. In the morning Sister [LTX] would come in to our room and the Mother Superior was sometimes with her. Sister [LTX] would ask if we had wet our beds. If we had we were punished.

Food / clothing

8. We all sat together in the dining room for our meals but I can't really remember very much about it. [REDACTED] hungry [REDACTED] and would have eaten anything. I don't think there were any real issues with food. I remember they gave us pyjamas and they gave us some other clothes to wear. I don't think [REDACTED] had a lot of [REDACTED] own clothes. My mum was too poor to give [REDACTED] very much.

School and religion

9. There was a wee school in Nazareth House that I went to. The nuns taught us in there. We had to say prayers all the time. I didn't even know what a prayer was. I never actually prayed. I just used to think about my mother. We had to say prayers at night too before the lights went out.

Chores

10. Sometimes Sister [LTX] would boss us about and tell us to do chores in the house. Usually it was things like cleaning the stairs or tidying up. We just did what we were told.

Leisure time

11. There were toys there that we could have played with but me [REDACTED] [REDACTED] just played together. I wasn't really interested in toys. [REDACTED] I would sometimes go outside and play football or play in the swing park. We would just do the things that wee boys do.

Visits

12. My mum visited [REDACTED] at the weekends. I think she maybe came three times [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My uncle [REDACTED] used come with her on the train. She got the money from the social services. It was quite far away from Glasgow and she couldn't afford to come otherwise. Social workers came in to see [REDACTED] They asked [REDACTED] how [REDACTED] getting on. [REDACTED] just kept asking them if my mum had a house yet.

Healthcare

13. There was a matron there and [REDACTED] I went to see her after [REDACTED] had been hit by Sister [REDACTED] LTX. I took [REDACTED] to the nurse maybe three or four times. I didn't go because I needed treatment. I went because I was hoping she would give me a tablet to stop me from wetting my bed.

Bed Wetting

14. [REDACTED] I regularly wet [REDACTED] beds. We were punished for that by Sister [REDACTED] LTX

Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade

15. To start off with Sister [REDACTED] LTX seemed to be quite nice and when she came in to our room first thing in the morning she would give us a wee bit of her time. She quickly changed and it depended how she felt on the day as to how you were

treated. She could be nice one minute and horrible the next. She would shout at us. The fear seemed to be getting worse the longer [REDACTED] there.

16. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would come in every morning and ask if we had anything to tell her. She was meaning if we had wet the bed. She would ask us to tell her rather than her find out. If [REDACTED] I had wet the bed she would make us take our trousers down and put us over her knee and skelp us several times with her hand. The Mother Superior came in with her sometimes but she never smacked us when we wet the bed. She did however turn a blind eye when Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] did it. Often my bottom [REDACTED] [REDACTED] bottom were black and blue after [REDACTED] were smacked. [REDACTED] got hit more than me because he wet the bed more than I did. I think [REDACTED] wet the bed just about every second night. It really affected me seeing [REDACTED] getting hit. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] also regularly told [REDACTED] were dirty, clatty wee boys and that [REDACTED] would never get out of there. I remember being really upset and crying. Sometimes if [REDACTED] had wet his bed I would give him my dry sheets, or I would run down to the laundry before Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] came in.
17. If we had wet our beds we would be made to strip our beds and carry the wet sheets over our heads down to the laundry. Sometimes she would make us stand in the corner of our room, maybe for half an hour. I tried to run out the room sometimes but the Mother Superior would grab me by the arm to stop me. I saw some of the other girls carrying wet sheets above their heads going down to the laundry too. At the laundry another nun would take our wet sheets from us and give us clean ones. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would then stand there and watch while we tried to make our beds with the clean sheets. I was only five or six and hadn't made a bed before. For the rest of the day Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would be nice to us. That is what she was like.
18. [REDACTED] was frightened to go to sleep at night because he was worried he would wet the bed. We would sometimes talk to each other all night just to stay awake. I just wanted to be with my mum, my dad, my gran, or anyone who was on my side. I remember lying in my bed thinking that these people who were looking after us were supposed to be God's people and they should be lovely people. It was really hard for me seeing [REDACTED] crying every night. [REDACTED] told me that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED]

sometimes told him that he better not wet the bed that night. I remember she used to tell us not to wet our beds or we would go to the big bad fire. I didn't know what she meant then but I know now she meant the devil.

19. We weren't allowed to drink any water after a certain time at night. I remember putting my hand up and asking Sister [REDACTED] LTX if I could get a glass of water. In front of everyone, she said I couldn't get any because me [REDACTED] had wet the bed last night. This meant everyone knew we were bed wetters. It was humiliating.
20. I remember once I ripped my trousers playing football outside. When we told Sister [REDACTED] LTX I was given a hard time. It was 2 o'clock in the afternoon and everyone else was watching the television. I was sent to my room in disgrace and I was sitting there crying for my mum. Nobody came in at any time to comfort me. Other times she used to skelp me on the head if I was cheeky or had done something she didn't like. She hit me quite a few times when she knew there was no one else there and she could get away with it. Sometimes other nuns were there and would have seen this.
21. Sister [REDACTED] LTX used to teach us in the classroom and regularly threw things at us. It might be the blackboard duster or just really anything that she could get her hands on. This wasn't just at me [REDACTED]. This was to other children as well. I don't think she just picked on [REDACTED]. I think she was horrible to everyone.
22. I was frightened of Sister [REDACTED] LTX I was riddled with fear and paranoia whenever I saw her. [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] terrified. I really don't know how [REDACTED] survived. [REDACTED] tried to avoid her as much as [REDACTED] could. She was such a nasty horrible person. There were a few other girls who were obviously unhappy and I often saw them unhappy or crying. They were obviously frightened of Sister [REDACTED] LTX

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade

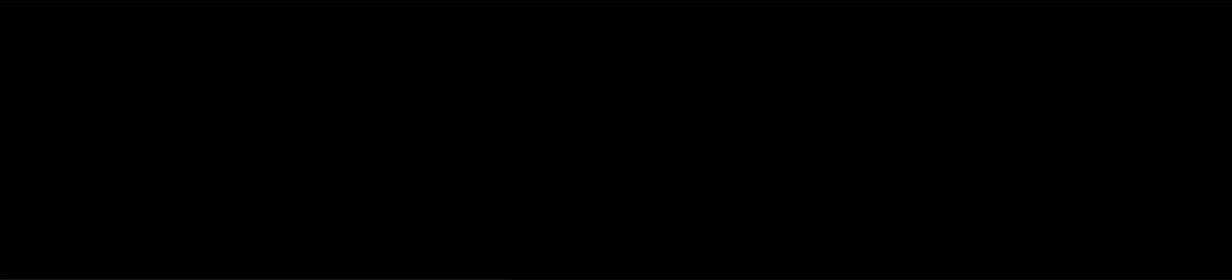
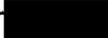
23. There was one other nun who I remember. I think her name was Sister Matthews. She seemed nice and would ask how we were feeling. I was too frightened to say anything to her because I didn't know if she was the same as Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED]. I am sure that a lot of the other nuns must have known what Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] was like and what she was up to but they all turned a blind eye to it.
24. When the social workers came to speak to [REDACTED] never told them. [REDACTED] just wee [REDACTED] and they wouldn't have believed [REDACTED].
25. My mum came to visit [REDACTED] at the weekends but I didn't tell her what was going on because I didn't want to upset her. My mum was a constant worrier and cried a lot. I knew it was only going to be for a short while. Before my mum visited at the weekend Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would tell me not to tell my mum about the accident in my room and that everything would be okay when I got back. She would also tell me to have a good day with my mum. She also told [REDACTED] that god loved [REDACTED] and that she would look after [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] got into [REDACTED] new house. She said that when [REDACTED] got back [REDACTED] would go to the gardens and do other nice things. She was trying to lull me into a false sense of security and make me think that it would be a bad idea to tell my mum.
26. I told the Mother Superior at one point that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] was hitting us but she never did anything about it. I really couldn't tell anyone else because I was terrified that I wouldn't be believed and [REDACTED] would be back with Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] who would have made it ten times worse [REDACTED].
27. Before [REDACTED] saw my mum at the weekends I told [REDACTED] not to say anything and that [REDACTED] would be getting out soon. If anyone said anything about bruises [REDACTED], Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would say that [REDACTED] fell at the swing park. I didn't tell my mum and it built up inside me.

Leaving Nazareth House

28. In the last week [REDACTED] there I [REDACTED] not to say anything to mum when she visited on the Saturday. By that point I think I [REDACTED] couldn't change anything and [REDACTED] would just have to accept where [REDACTED]. My mother came up on the Saturday with my Uncle [REDACTED] I couldn't wait to see her. It was a lovely scorching day. We were in the garden and they were telling [REDACTED] about their trip up on the train. I decided I couldn't take it anymore and it was up to me, [REDACTED] to do something about it.
29. I told my mum to look at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was black and blue. This had built up over a few weeks and wasn't just a fresh hand mark. My mother saw the bruising on [REDACTED] bum and the back of [REDACTED] legs. I showed her [REDACTED] I told her that the nun had been hitting [REDACTED] for weeks and [REDACTED] hadn't been treated right. She knew that I was telling the truth. She went off her head and asked why [REDACTED] hadn't told her before. My mother went straight into Nazareth House to speak to Sister [REDACTED] LTX and the Mother Superior. My uncle was telling her to calm down or she would end up in prison. [REDACTED] left straight away after that. I can't remember if my mum got any [REDACTED] stuff but [REDACTED] didn't have much anyway.

Life after being in care

30. After we left Nazareth House we went straight to the social work department in Glasgow. My mum had to take the first available house they offered so we could all get back as a family unit. She had to take a house in Cranhill in the east end of Glasgow. This isn't an area where my mum would have chosen to go to but we were forced because [REDACTED] had to leave Nazareth House. I think we moved in to this house within a day or two. I thought that was it and I could get back to a normal life. I don't remember any further social work involvement with my family but there may have been.

31. 
 I had a bad time with my dad. He was still an alcoholic. My mum and dad split up maybe two months after  died.
32. I wasn't going to school and ended up in front of the children's panel. They sent me to a place, I think it was called Calder House in Blantyre. It was for boys that were disturbed because I was a badly disturbed young boy. I didn't trust anybody and I went into relationships with people that didn't feel right. I didn't trust anyone in authority. I couldn't express my feelings to people and I couldn't tell anybody I loved them. Staff there sat with me and tried to give me a wee bit of guidance. They did things like take me to the pictures.
33. After  died I had a lot of guilt, shame and remorse hanging over me. The only way that I could get out of all that was through alcohol. I started drinking at fourteen. My drinking continued for years and I ended up in and out of prison on stupid charges, like shoplifting and breaches of the peace. Sometimes it was just for my own safety. The police even used to ask me why I drank. They thought I was a good guy but when I was full of the drink I was in the police cells every weekend. My life was a nightmare through alcohol.
34. I got to the stage that enough was enough and at 37 I decided that I couldn't keep living like that any longer. It was going to end in my death or insanity. When I drank it was just hell. I started going to Alcoholics Anonymous in November 2009. My life changed and I managed to get myself sober. I do a lot now for Alcoholics Anonymous and help other people. Through them I have got myself sorted out and I have also become a Christian. I still see some of the police officers now who used to deal with me when I was getting myself arrested. They can't believe the difference in me.

Impact

35. I used to tell my mum, dad [REDACTED] about what Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] used to do [REDACTED]. To be honest they used to just make a joke of it and I got teased by them. They used to say things like "You better behave or Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] will sort you out". I felt really hurt when they did that. I remember one time at Halloween when I was ten, I saw someone dressed as a nun. I was terrified when I saw this. It made me think about Nazareth House. I still occasionally have dreams about nuns and they are wearing all the nun's stuff and a crucifix. I still hate nuns. They are nasty horrible people. I wouldn't give them a penny if they ever asked me.
36. When I was at my family home I was just looking for somebody to give me a wee cuddle and tell me everything would be alright. That would have been great for me but I couldn't because I no longer had a dad. I turned to alcohol and I had my first drink when I was fourteen. Drinking killed the pain and got rid of my fear and hatred. I had hatred towards my gran for putting me into care. I had hatred for my dad for the way he treated me and Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] for the way she treated me [REDACTED]. I also blamed her for [REDACTED]. If she hadn't [REDACTED] black and blue [REDACTED] wouldn't have been forced to get out of Nazareth House and might not have ended up in Cranhill. [REDACTED]
37. I was shoplifting and I was doing things that were totally irresponsible. I wasn't going to school and ended up at a Children's Panel. The reason I wasn't going to school was because I just didn't care, I didn't care about anything because I felt nobody cared about me.
38. I had a girlfriend for fifteen years and I couldn't tell her once that I loved her, which is not normal. Deep down I knew myself that I loved her. I was riddled with jealousy, insecurity and paranoia but I couldn't show feelings because nobody had showed me them.
39. My drinking was just a sheer disaster and I was never out of prison. I knew I had a problem with drink. It spoiled my relationship with my family. We all used to be really

close. I have been sober now for nine years. I still keep in touch with [REDACTED] but I don't really visit them. I didn't realise how much being in care had affected me until I started to see the jigsaw coming together. I might have had [REDACTED]. My mother and father might still have been happily married.

40. I have never really been able to hold down a job for more than two or three weeks. I feel I can't really commit myself to anything. That is the way that I have always been. If I get a job and I know that this is possibly for the rest of my life, I become very unstable after two or three weeks. It is not being lazy, I just feel that I can't commit myself to anything. I feel that I just live from one day to the next.

Reporting of Abuse

41. I never reported anything that happened to me to the police.

Treatment / support

42. I suffer from depression and anxiety. I get pills to help me go to sleep at night because I have horrible nightmares. I haven't really had counselling other than what goes on at Alcoholics Anonymous. We all help each other there and it has been of great benefit to me.

Records

43. I did my own research with Nazareth House because I really wanted to speak to Sister [REDACTED] LTX. All I received from them was a letter in August 2002 and it said that I was there from 3 September 1976 until 5 November 1976 when I was taken home. This means that I was there when I was four. I disagree with this as I am sure I would have been five or six. The home address where it said [REDACTED] going to live was even recorded wrongly on the letter. It had the wrong house number. I also only

thought I was there for about four weeks and according to this letter [REDACTED] there for eight weeks. I am not sure that this is correct.

44. I have never applied to the social work department to get any of my records.

Lessons to be learned

45. People who have been abused just want to be believed, get the chapter closed and move on with their lives. I wouldn't like to see what happened to me ever happening again. I don't think it will happen now because authorities have opened their eyes to it. I believe the best form of medication is to speak about it. If you speak to people you let them know how you feel and you benefit from it. I have come forward to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry because I am carrying this forward for [REDACTED] my mother.

Other information

46. I managed to find out that Sister [REDACTED] LTX was living in [REDACTED]. I phoned Aberdeen and then the head office in London and they told me she had changed her name to Sister [REDACTED] LTX and was now in [REDACTED]. I managed to find her in [REDACTED]. I phoned her in 2003 and straight away I recognised her voice. She asked who she was speaking to and what the call was about. I asked her if she remembered me [REDACTED]. I then told her that [REDACTED] and I wanted to know how she felt about that. She said "I can't take this matter any further" and slammed the phone down. This gave me a little bit of closure. I suppose I was hoping she would feel a wee bit hurt by [REDACTED]

47. [REDACTED]

48. 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... 20. 4. 18.