

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

Sister [REDACTED] LNW

Support person present: No

Others present: Denis Moloney, Solicitor, Donnelly & Wall Solicitors

1. My name at birth was [REDACTED] LNW I am known as Sister [REDACTED] LNW [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1926. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. My mum was English and my dad was Irish. I had one sister who was three years older than me and a brother who was five years younger than me.

**Life before joining the Sister of Nazareth**

3. I grew up in the West of Ireland and went to school there. I was brought up Roman Catholic. I grew up on a farm. The men worked outside and I worked inside with my mother and helped with the cooking and the baking.
4. I used to visit my Grandmother in England and I had a cousin who was joining the priesthood. He enthused me and I think it was because of him that I joined the church.

**The Sisters of Nazareth**

5. I joined the Sisters of Nazareth when I was 21 years old. I left Ireland to go to Hammersmith for a period of three years. After that you profess and then go out to the branch houses to work with the congregation. I trained to be a nun in Birmingham.
6. The first branch house I went to was in Bexhill on Sea in Sussex. I must have been about 25 or 26 years old. I stayed in Sussex for the biggest part of my life. I then went to Plymouth, Cheltenham and also spent three years in America.
7. I went to Scotland in the 1970s, I think it was in 1972 or 1973. I would have been 44 or 45 years old. I went to Glasgow and stayed there for roughly two or three years. I wasn't there for very long. I worked in Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow. I didn't work anywhere else when I was in Scotland.
8. I went to Manchester after leaving Scotland. I didn't go back to Scotland after that. I had no reason to.
9. I have never worked with children or older people. I have always worked in catering.

**Qualifications and training**

10. I went to college in Birmingham and Richmond when I was a nun. I received qualifications in catering and confectionary.

**Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow***My role at Nazareth House*

11. I worked [REDACTED] in the kitchen in Nazareth House. The kitchen was located within the vicinity of the convent. Once you came in the main entrance, and went along the corridor, it was on the right hand side. It was a very up-market kitchen.
12. The kitchen catered for the children, the nuns and residents. The residents were old local people in residential care. They were in a separate block altogether. There were roughly about 35 to forty residents. A sister would look after them with staff.
13. I worked with food all the time. I organised breakfast, lunches, right through to the evening meal every day. I also ordered the food, organised the diets and prepared the menus. The children would sometimes have a different menu from the residents.
14. We had mass very early in those days. I think I would go to mass for about 8.15 am or 8.30 am. The staff would be on by that time. They usually came on earlier than me.
15. I had four members of staff and I managed them. I had three staff members on in the morning and then one extra came on in the afternoon. The staff were local, secular people. I never worked with any sisters.
16. I did my share of the cooking but I allotted the staff members their own position and accountability.
17. Everybody ate in different groups and had their own dining rooms. I know that because we sent all the different trolleys to different areas for the nuns, the children and the residents. My staff would load the trolleys up with food and they'd go to the different areas.

*The children at Nazareth House*

18. There were two sisters in charge of the different groups of children. I didn't work with the children and I didn't have any contact with them. The children never worked in the kitchen, I was not involved in caring for them. I saw them running around and would see them coming in and out of the building but I had no contact with them.
19. I didn't know anything about the routine of the children or living area because I had no connection with them whatsoever. I had enough on my plate to keep things going in the kitchen. All of my attention was on my job. My job was completely separate from the children's area.
20. When you are involved in the catering, you don't get involved with the children. You do their diet and prepare their meals but that's it. I wasn't involved in any of the discipline of the children. The other sisters wouldn't have thanked me for any interference. We all kept to our own areas and jobs.
21. On one or two occasions I went to the children's area to watch the television with the sister there. We didn't have a television in our area and the sister would ask me to come over. I can't remember her name. This would only be if it was a programme I really wanted to see because I officially wasn't supposed to be there.
22. The children would be in the television room there too. They would be sitting watching the television with cushions on their laps. There were also alcoves where the children could do something else if they didn't want to watch television. They were very independent children and could sit where they wanted. There was a flexibility.

*The children and food*

23. The kitchen did everything right down to the children's cocoa at night. I would make the menu for the week and send it out to the sister in charge of the children. I would also make some suggestions for any changes on the back. The children loved their

puddings so I would make suggestions for puddings. I would ask the sister to have a look and send it back to me in plenty time with any changes. I was strict.

24. I imagine the sister would discuss the menu with the children. She would ask if they were satisfied and the children would all say what they wanted. Then the sister in charge would go with the majority, make the changes and send it back to me. She would tell the other children that they could get what they wanted on another occasion. She wouldn't deprive them.
25. The sister in charge of the children would write any changes she wanted to make to the menu and send it back over to me. There is nothing more boring than having the same food all the time so we would make different food for them.
26. All the children would get the same food unless a request was made for something different like a birthday cake. I made birthday cakes for the children.
27. The children would get their meals on a trolley in the dining room. One of the kitchen staff would take it over to the dining room for them. I don't think they usually had their lunch coming from me.

#### *Sisters at Nazareth House*

28. I don't remember the name of any of the sisters I worked with in Glasgow. It was so long ago, in the 1970s, and I have travelled a lot since then.
29. I was only in Glasgow for a short period, and my mind was set on my work. When you know you are going to be somewhere for a short while, you don't take a big interest in anything other than your own job.

#### *Visits and Inspections*

30. I didn't have anything to do with the visitors for the children or social workers. I had more to do with dieticians and Home Office Inspectors.

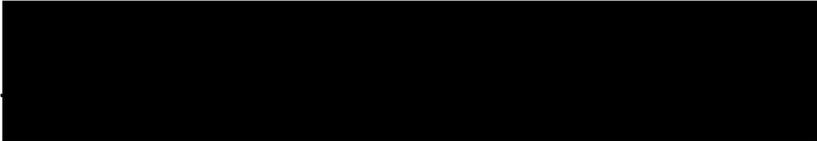
31. The authorities naturally visited the home. They would come to the kitchen to see the menu. It would have been the Home Office at that time. If anybody came to the kitchen, they would automatically have to put a white coat on.
32. A dietician came to visit on one occasion. I don't know where she came from but it is the district's job to send them. She was very nice and helpful. I think she was local, although she didn't have a Scottish accent. They just come in and look at the menu.
33. Someone from the Home Office also paid a visit on one occasion. That was for the whole house, not just for me. I am saying they were from the Home Office but they may have had a different title.

#### Specific allegations of abuse

34. I don't remember a Sister [LFL], Sister [LHA] or Sister [LKR]. The name Sister [LJS] is familiar to me but I can't say for sure if I remember her in Glasgow. I don't remember a [LKB] I don't remember a couple called [LFO] [LFN]
35. I would be very shocked to the core to hear of any abuse of any nature going on. They were such friendly, loving children. I would see them out playing and they were bright and full of life.
36. I have been advised that a number of children who stayed at Nazareth House, Cardonald, have made allegations of abuse against members of the Order, Sisters of Nazareth. No allegations have been made against me and I can confirm that I have not been the subject of a police complaint nor have I been subject of a civil action.

**Closing thoughts**

- 37. I can't comment on what people are saying happened with abuse but I would be shocked if it was the case. It never happened in my time. It is hurtful beyond words to hear it and to do it would be terrible.
  
- 38. This is psychology. What I can see about the children is that if they come from a very unhappy home and feel abandoned or not loved, then they need attention, love and a home. I think maybe some of the bigger children would resent being in a home, particularly when they would hear associates at school talking about holidays with their mummies and daddies. I think that would have a very physical effect on a child.
  
- 39. 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.....*Sister*.....

Dated.....*6th April 2018*.....