

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HELEN HOLLAND

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Helen Holland. My date of birth and contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Contact with [REDACTED] LVX

2. My [REDACTED] sister, [REDACTED] LVX was in care with me in Nazareth House, Kilmarnock when we were children. When she was about [REDACTED] years old, [REDACTED] LVX was sent to a place in [REDACTED] which was run by nuns. I never understood that and we really didn't know that at the time, she just disappeared. I just came home from school one day and she wasn't there. Nobody told us where [REDACTED] LVX had gone or why she had left. I actually thought she had died and they just didn't want to tell me.

3. I remember that my dad once took me [REDACTED] the place where [REDACTED] LVX had been taken and it was run by nuns. I don't think they were Sisters of Nazareth because the habits they wore were different. The reason I remember it so well is because when we arrived [REDACTED] LVX wasn't in and the first thing the nun said to my dad was that [REDACTED] LVX was still wetting the bed. I think they made us a cup of tea and we did see [REDACTED] LVX but not for long because my dad had to get back down the road as he was going to work. He had to drop us off at Nazareth House first before he went to work.

4. I didn't see [REDACTED] LVX after that until maybe a couple of years later. It was just before I went into the convent. I had left Nazareth House and I found out that [REDACTED] LVX was living in [REDACTED]. I went to see her. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I only really went to say hello to her. I think [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] years old at the time.

5. The next time I saw [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] was at the crematorium [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I remember my dad taking us to the crematorium [REDACTED] I think I was about 16 years old at the time. This was not long after I had visited her [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I had left to go down to England when I was 17 and I returned to Scotland at the end of 1991. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED] used to come [REDACTED] because if she needed food [REDACTED] or something like that she would come and see if I could help her. So nine times out of ten when I saw her, it was a case of emptying the freezer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] maybe saw her about once a month.

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. After that, I didn't see [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] for at least [REDACTED] years. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED]

phoned [REDACTED] and said that she was ok but she had [REDACTED] I think she said that she was almost [REDACTED].

11. I contacted [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] and arranged to visit her. At that time she lived in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This was in [REDACTED] I visited

[REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] a few times and she was really happy that I had gone [REDACTED] I

think by then she had [REDACTED] She was

attending [REDACTED] Hospital [REDACTED] My main reason for going [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was obviously to see her but to also to see if there was anything practical I

could do for her, to see if I could get her any help. Sometimes I would go [REDACTED] for a

long weekend and other times I would go [REDACTED] for a week or 10 days, it just

depended on what my own situation was like at home.

12. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I think that is why we had found it so difficult to try and trace her [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13. When I saw her in [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] was actually doing ok. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] got practical things put in place for her. I got her a bus pass and

arranged to get a disability car for her. I also got the council to think about re-

homing her [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14. I think it was around [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] really bad [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She ended up having to go into hospital. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I [REDACTED] used to do some batch cooking and put it all in the freezer so that she could have it when I wasn't there.

Awareness of experiences in Nazareth House

15. When [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] and I were in Nazareth House, we did not discuss our experiences. As children there is no way you would discuss punishment with each other, it was just an unspoken rule that you didn't speak about it. After [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] left, when we had visited her in [REDACTED] she didn't say anything then except that she didn't like it there.

16. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] talked about my tumble dryer experience and used to laugh at it. She thought it was hilarious. Even when I visited her [REDACTED] she still talked about it. She also said that she hated Nazareth House and that Sister [REDACTED] LHZ [REDACTED] should never have been a nun. Apart from that she didn't really talk much about it.

17. She did talk about the time that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at Nazareth House. I remembered that day myself as it is quite a significant memory. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18. The only other thing I remember about [LVX] and it was probably maybe a wee bit later on was that she used to go out with the priest, Father [LQH] at the weekend. I thought that this was a bit odd but she seemed happy enough when she came back so that was it. We never really discussed that either.

19. I remember that when she came back from seeing Father [LQH] [LVX] would brag about getting sweets or cigarettes. She had started smoking when she was about [redacted] I remember seeing her one day with a cigarette and thought she would get killed if Sister [LHZ] [redacted] with a cigarette. She never ever did get caught.

20. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] [LVX] was a bed wetter so I also remember her being humiliated and all the stuff that went with bed wetting.

21. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] I don't remember seeing a lot of [LVX] in Nazareth House. I was conscious that [redacted] there but there was no closeness. The closeness that we had a family was gone by that time, [redacted].

22. I knew about [LVX] bedwetting because sometimes she would try and hide it. I remember one time she had taken the sheet off the bed and had hid it somewhere. I remember Sister [LHZ] being angry with her and asking her where the sheet was but [LVX] wouldn't tell her. She got the switch but the more she got the switch the more she refused to tell Sister [LHZ] where it was. I don't know what she did with that sheet as it never ever appeared.

23. There were four dormitories in Nazareth House. One was for the boys and three were for the girls. I was in the eight bedded dormitory. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

24. I remember at one point [LVX] was in the eight bedded one because she had done something wrong and her bed was actually put in the corridor that led to the fire exit. Like me, [LVX] was scared of thunder and lightning so one time Sister [LHZ] actually put her bed on the fire exit outside and left her out there. I remember [LVX] was screaming but it was punishment. I don't know what she was being punished for. Eventually [LVX] was brought back in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So [LVX] spent time in the eight bedded dormitory. I would have been about 11 or 12 years old at the time. I don't think we shared a dormitory for very long. I think it was for just a couple of weeks because after that [LVX] went [REDACTED] and then she went away.

Later discussion of experiences at Nazareth House

25. In around [REDACTED] when I was visiting her, [LVX] told me that the police [REDACTED] had come to her door to take a statement. She had been a wee bit taken aback. She couldn't remember when it was but it was a good few years before [REDACTED]. They said that there had been complaints about Sister [LHZ] and they were there to take a statement from her. I was quite surprised about that. It dawned on me that this must have been because I had gone to the Procurator Fiscal in Kilmarnock. I told her that it had probably been my fault as I felt bad that they had just turned up at her door.

26. I explained to her that I had gone to the police because at that time I was with INCAS and we were campaigning for the Inquiry. I explained to her that we wanted the truth to come out and we wanted to make sure that children in care were never ever treated that way again. She didn't really say too much. She just said that she was surprised that the police had never gone back to her. At that time because she

was so ill the last thing I wanted to talk about was Nazareth House. I didn't want her thinking about stuff like that.

27. [LVX] did tell me that when the police officers came they asked about whether she knew anything about sexual abuse but she said that she didn't. I didn't really want to talk to her about stuff like that but I did tell her about what Sister [LHZ] had done with the brush and that she said that the devil was in me. [LVX] said that she remembered Sister [LHZ] saying to me that hell was in my name and that the devil was in me. We never really talked about her statement. I was more taken aback because the Procurator Fiscal never told me that they had a statement from my sister. I was annoyed about that because if they had told us that they had taken a statement from [LVX] we could have found her a lot quicker. That kind of upset me a wee bit because I knew that other people had given statements but I didn't realise that [LVX] had been one of them.

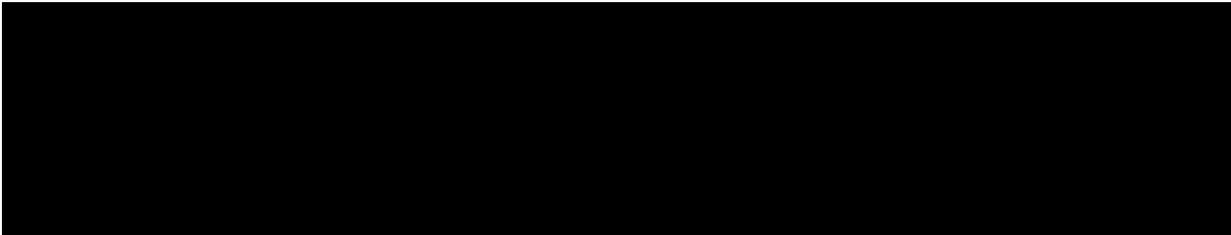
28. Between [REDACTED] [LVX] did tell me a bit more about her life. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She told me about the kind of life that she had [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29. I didn't discuss my experiences at Nazareth House with [LVX] much. Obviously she knew about my being put in the tumble dryer. I did tell her that I felt bad because she was laughing about it. But to be honest with you I was laughing with her because the way she tells stories is really funny. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She was describing the tumble dryer going clunk, clunk and it was nice to see her laughing but it was still kind of gut wrenching inside. Afterwards I said to her that I always remembered that incident so clearly because it was her face that I could see and I could see her laughing. I couldn't understand why she was laughing when it was her sister who was in the

tumble dryer. She said that she had never thought about it like that and we never really talked about in any great detail.

30. [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] would have seen the beatings that I got at Nazareth House. She would probably have seen me getting force-fed and kind of run of the mill stuff but I don't think she would have been aware of anything else. She never mentioned sexual abuse to me at all.

31. I don't think [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] would have seen the newspaper reports about me



Recording of [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] experiences

32. Initially when I was involved with the Time to be Heard forum, a promise was made that people who were elderly and infirm would have their statements recorded so that if anything happened to them then their statements could be there if and when there was an Inquiry. That didn't happen which is something that I will never forgive the Government for. This really upset me because at that time I knew a number of survivors who were in that position. [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] wasn't one of them at that stage.

33. I was also involved with the Interaction Group. We were aware of a number of elderly survivors and we were talking about how we could make sure that their experiences could be included in any Inquiry. At one point it was suggested that CELCIS could take statements from people who were ill but who weren't under the remit of the Time to be Heard process. I actually felt that that wasn't right. If you had been in Quarrier's, it seemed that your experience was important enough for a person appointed by the Government to speak to you and take your statement. If you fell outwith that category then your experience was not important enough and somebody else had to record it instead.

34. But when I found out that [LVX] had [REDACTED] and I had already been told by the police that there wasn't going to be a prosecution, I had been toying around in my head if there was anything that I could do to record [LVX] experiences. At that time Jennifer Davidson, who is a Director of CELCIS and had been the Chair of the Interaction Group, suggested that it might be easier for [LVX] to speak into a Dictaphone and then Jennifer could get someone in CELCIS to put it down on paper. I said maybe that would work but I am hopeless with technology so I thought there is no point in asking me to do it because I wouldn't have a clue. But when [LVX] started to get more ill, I spoke to Jennifer about borrowing a Dictaphone and they actually purchased an Olympus one for me and sent it by post to my home. It was brand new and arrived with a wee compliments slip from CELCIS. This must have been in about [REDACTED]. It was certainly after [LVX] had been diagnosed with [REDACTED]

35. I had the Dictaphone for a while and didn't speak to [LVX] about making a recording until about [REDACTED]. [LVX] had been to see the consultant at the [REDACTED] and he told her that they had done everything that they could and they couldn't really do anything more. [REDACTED] I had already spoken to her about my campaigning so [LVX] was aware of what I was doing. I said to her that if she wanted her statement given as part of an inquiry then we could do that using the Dictaphone. I said to [LVX] she would have to record it on her own if she wanted to do it.

36. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She asked if the statement that she had given to the police could be used in an investigation. I didn't think it could be because when I was trying to get my statement for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, I was told that it wasn't in the public's best interest for it to be released so I thought the chances were that they would not release anybody else's. I explained that to her. I told her about what Jennifer had said, that it could be done on a Dictaphone and then put down on to paper. [LVX] wanted to do that so I said I would bring the Dictaphone the next time I visited her. I think I took the Dictaphone [REDACTED] to [LVX] in [REDACTED]

37. When I gave the Dictaphone to [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] we kind of messed about with it a little bit just to see how to work it. She was laughing because she was telling me that I was hopeless because I didn't know how to work it. She was quite good with that stuff. [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] seemed to have a better idea.

38. I told her not to use the Dictaphone while I was there because I thought it would be easier if she just did it in her own time. I didn't want [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] feeling that there was any pressure on her to do it. By then I was also having counselling and dealing with my own issues and my counsellor told me that it could be quite difficult for me to hear [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] experiences and strongly advised me not to be there when she made any recording. I left the Dictaphone with [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED]

39. I next visited [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and I was more worried about her by then. We took her out in a wheelchair and she actually took ill while we were out. I arranged to get more medical items she needed and when I was leaving to go back home, [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] said to me that she would try to make the recording before I came [REDACTED] again. I told her that she didn't need to do it at all if she didn't want to. She said she wanted to as there was something that she needed to do. I said I didn't even know if there would be an Inquiry because at that stage there hadn't been an announcement. She said, "well it means that you have got it if it does happen".

40. I went [REDACTED] to see [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and stayed for about eight days. She had told me that she was going to start making the recording. I remember one time when [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] had called out to me for something. I can't remember if she was tired or sore but I do remember going into her bedroom and switching the Dictaphone off. I told her to leave it for now and that she could do it later or something like that. That is about as much awareness that I had that [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] was making the recording then. So I was in the house but not in the same room as her.

41. In [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] really wasn't well because the [REDACTED] Nurses were coming in more often. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In relation to the recording itself, as far as I know it was just [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] doing it on her own.

46. I left to go back home on [REDACTED] the last time that [REDACTED] I saw [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] I took the Dictaphone home with me. [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] passed away [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I got the phone call [REDACTED] saying that she had died. [REDACTED]

47. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Storage of Dictaphone

48. I kept the Dictaphone in my bedroom at home. The recording was last thing [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] had given me and I didn't want to give it to just anybody. There was still no decision on whether or not there would be a public inquiry. I didn't know who would be the person to listen to it and I didn't want it to be listened to just for the sake of it. The verbal promise that I made to [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] was if that time came then I would hand it over.

49. I kept the Dictaphone in my bedroom the whole time before I passed it to the Inquiry. No-one else had access to it. I did not open the sealed package that the Dictaphone was in and I did not listen to the recording that [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] made.

Knowledge of the recording

50. When the Inquiry was announced I think the first time that I spoke about the recording was when INCAS first met with the Inquiry legal team at the hotel in Glasgow. I think I asked Colin MacAulay the question that if INCAS had any kind of documentation from survivors who were no longer here would we be allowed to put them forward as evidence for the Inquiry. I think Colin MacAulay said that he didn't see any reason why not so I knew then that there would come a point when the recording would be handed over to the Inquiry.

51. I think I also told CELCIS that I had the recording because I thanked Jennifer for the Dictaphone. I said that I was just going to wait and see what happened with the Inquiry.

52. I don't think that I spoke to others in INCAS about [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] recording. I was aware of the fact that other INCAS members had been given maybe copies of letters that survivors had sent to MSP's, CELCIS or others so if I had mentioned it, it would have been in a general context rather than in relation to [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] as an individual.

Passing of Dictaphone to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

53. [REDACTED] in the Inquiry's Witness Support Team told me that the Inquiry had asked for my sister's recording to be handed over if I still wanted to do that. Initially, [REDACTED] was going to come through to Glasgow to pick up the Dictaphone but I wasn't able to meet that day. It was then suggested that the Inquiry could get a secure courier to come and pick it up but I had said no. I wasn't happy with that because the recording was too precious to hand over to a courier. I wanted to be able to hand it over myself because I thought that was more respectful to [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED]

54. It was then arranged that I hand it into the Inquiry offices but [REDACTED] wasn't there that week, and I did not really feel too comfortable with that because I didn't want to pass it to someone else in the team. I felt like there was a finality to it all. Once I handed it over then that would be it. As much as I was being true to the promise that I had made to [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] having that Dictaphone, and I didn't even know if there was

anything on it, was like I still had a little bit of her with me. Once I handed it over, that little bit would be gone.

55. Eventually I knew I would have to do it. I knew that I had a meeting with [REDACTED] so I took the Dictaphone with me to the Inquiry offices in Edinburgh and gave it to [REDACTED] on 7 May 2018. I handed the Dictaphone over to her sealed and intact.

56. There are two reasons why I did not pass the recording to the Inquiry earlier than I did. Firstly, it is the last thing that I have of my sister and in that sense I didn't want to. Secondly, I could have given it to the Inquiry right at the very beginning but I knew that it would have just been lying somewhere until such time as the focus of the Inquiry was on Nazareth House. I didn't know when that would be because obviously there is a long list of the places to be investigated. So there was a part of me that felt that if the recording was in my home, [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] was closer to me because there was still a part of her there with me. I didn't just want to hand the recording over and have it lying somewhere else with no meaning.

57. When I knew about the Nazareth House case study, then obviously that was the time to hand the Dictaphone over and it was difficult. Handing it over sort of made everything final [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] That kind of made it a wee bit harder.

58. I made the promise to [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] that I would do it and even though I feel that I have given that last connection over, I knew I had to fulfil my promise. I couldn't not do that, no matter how difficult it was.

Identification of Dictaphone and package

59. I have been shown a white jiffy bag and its contents by the Inquiry. I confirm that this is the white jiffy bag [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] and I put the Dictaphone in and which I passed to the Inquiry. I confirm that my signature appears on the bag alongside [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] signature. Her signature is on the left hand side and mine is on the right. Inside the bag is a pinky purple jiffy bag and that is the one which we sealed the

Dictaphone in. Inside that bag is an Olympus Dictaphone and I confirm that this is the one that I had given to [REDACTED] LVX to use.

Identification of voice on recording

60. The Inquiry has played part of an audio recording to me. I confirm that the voice on that recording is that of my sister, [REDACTED] LVX.

61. 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 [REDACTED] LVX

Dated..... 24.05.2018