

Transcript of audio recording of [REDACTED] LVX

Hello. If you are listening to this, it means two things, it means I'm dead and it means that my sister has persevered and succeeded with getting a public inquiry into institutional abuse. If she has done that, I am not surprised. She doesn't give up easily.

Anyway, my name is [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] I was born [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was taken to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock after the death of my grandmother. My parents had already split up and I was taken, I think, along with [REDACTED] Helen. [REDACTED]

From the minute we arrived at Nazareth House I hated that place. The nun that looked after us was Sister [REDACTED] LHZ She was a wicked, evil, vindictive witch. She got pleasure out of torturing the children in her care. We were really upset the first day and nobody told us what was happening. I think we were all kind of crying a little bit. I remember her turning us around and she had Helen by the collar and saying "stop your sniffing or I will give you something to sniffle for". She told me I was a brazen hussy. [REDACTED] obviously hated Helen though. She told her hell was in her name and the devil was inside her so we were scared stiff.

We're now in [REDACTED] but a good few years back I had a knock at the door and two police officers. I opened the door and there they were and they said that they had come to take a statement from me about Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. I was a bit taken aback to tell you the truth. I gave them a statement about that place about how cruel it was. I told them about how if you wet the bed you would be absolutely humiliated. I was one of the unlucky ones, I did wet the bed. Every single night. No matter how hard I tried I couldn't stop. I told them about the fact that Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would rub the soaking wet bed sheets into your face and make you stand with them over your head. If she checked the bed late at night and you had already peed it by then you would have to lie in it the whole night long and then you would be shoved into a freezing cold bath with Jeyes fluid. I hate the smell of that stuff.

I would be called all sorts of names like pee bed, all sorts. Always telling me that I was a brazen hussy and that I would come to nothing and nobody loved us and nobody cared. Don't even think about complaining. I would tell them about the food. The fact that if you didn't eat it, it would be forced down the back of your throat. Sometimes the fork or the spoon or whatever it was would hit the back of your throat and make you wretch. You would end up puking but you would end up being forced to eat that as well. Sometimes she would hold your nose and tilt your head right back and then just shovel it down the back of your throat.

I hate fish to this day. I used to hate a Friday. Every Friday without fail. Sometimes in the morning it would be lumpy porridge, I hated that as well. I didn't mind the mornings if it was cereal. You can't really go wrong with cereal can you? Sometimes on a Sunday it would be like fried bread or tinned tomatoes or something like that. I didn't really mind that either but on the whole it wasn't very great the food. I assumed that the police would come back but they never ever did.

I wasn't ever really told that I was leaving Nazareth House either. I was just told one day that I was going somewhere else and I ended up in a place [REDACTED] which was also run by nuns but it was like a half-way house type thing. I didn't really like that place either.

We would have a bath once a week, on a Friday night. You would be lined up there and you had these bloomer things that you would have to put on. I hated them as well. Somebody would step out of them in front of you and you would have to step into these soaking wet bloomers and pull them up over your dried skin and they would stick to you. They were disgusting. Then you would get into the bath. There would be like a curtain between the boys and the girls but it didn't really matter. We would all just line up there like cattle. I hated bath nights. The scum would be all the way around the bath and then you would have to get in it, it was disgusting. But I would smell anyway. I would smell all week because of peeing the bed. I was always smelly. I used to be so ashamed going to school stinking. The other kids didn't want to sit beside me but what could you do.

You didn't have anything that you could call your own. You didn't really have any toys, there was broken ones in the cupboard. Sometimes we would get to play with them. There was a television in the recreation room and you would get to watch like the Little House on the Prairie or films like that. News, Sister [LHZ] liked to see the news before she went to prayer, that kind of thing. There was a lot of trouble going on in Ireland at the time. Sometimes we would be told to pray that certain people would die. Something came on the news that she got really angry about. Mind you, if somebody talked at that time, it would be an excuse to batter them. She would batter you with a switch. It would appear miraculously from the sleeve of her habit and she would just whack you with it. She got you on the bare skin. Sometimes there would be big welts coming up, oh god they were painful. The switch was like a bamboo cane. We called it the switch because it made a swishing noise when it went through the air. Other times it would be like a hard plastic bat or a brush, a hand brush. Sometimes it would be her keys. The keys that used to hang from her waist. She would get them and pound them on your head. Pound them so hard that sometimes your head would bleed but she didn't care. I used to suffer so badly with headaches. I used to faint in the church all the time as well. I don't know what it was but I always used to faint and then I would get battered because she would say that I was only doing it for attention. I don't know why I was like that. I just, I could feel myself going and there was nothing that I could do. I don't know whether it was because I was hungry or what, but I fainted quite a bit as a child.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Sometimes you would walk to school or sometimes we would go in the van, it just depended if there was someone there to drive it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You didn't really make friends with anybody either. There was no point. If you made friends with anybody then you would end up being split up anyway.

When I was about [REDACTED] something like that, you used to be allowed to go out with Father [LQH] at the weekends. I really liked that. Sister [LHZ] would just call me

and tell me to get ready, that Father [REDACTED] LQH was taking me out. I got to call him LQH. I loved him. He would tell me he loved me too. That was my first ever sexual experience. He taught me how to love, that I was special. I even got to go to his parents' house. He smoked like a lum. He would give me cigarettes. He would tell me that I was beautiful. I loved him so much. I thought he loved me too.

[REDACTED], I wasn't allowed back to see Helen [REDACTED]. I was told I was a bad influence [REDACTED] so I wasn't to go back. I never went back to Nazareth House but I guess that was my own fault.

I left care at [REDACTED]

Sometimes I would go back to [REDACTED] LQH and he would make me feel better.

I had lost all contact with family . But then [REDACTED] I was diagnosed with [REDACTED]

But I managed to overcome it and I went back [REDACTED] to work again. B ut [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Helen contacted me. The minute she found out that I had had [REDACTED] She was [REDACTED] here to look after me and to see how I was. I was doing ok for a little while but then I got [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Only this time it is terminal so there is no going back.

Helen has been coming back and forward. She told me that she was trying to get some kind of investigation for what had happened to children in these children's homes. She told me she was campaigning the government. She is that strong she would take on anybody. I don't know how she does it to be honest with you. The thing is she looks after me so much and I have let her down so badly.

You see, when the police came, a few years back, they asked me about sexual abuse in Nazareth House but I said I didn't know anything about that. But that was a lie you see. I never ever thought of what LQH was doing as being sexual abuse. I thought he loved me. He made me feel special. I thought it was ok and the only reason I left Nazareth House early was because Sister [REDACTED] LHZ used to come up at night sometimes and she would wake Helen up and take her out of the dormitory and one night I decided to follow.

I went down the fire exit to the ground floor and I looked in the window to the downstairs changing room. Sister LHZ was tying Helen to a stool. She had already tied her legs and she was pulling her over and tying her hands and then she stuck one of the wash bags over her head. I didn't know what was happening to her but Sister LHZ went up the little corridor and when she came back there was three men with her and one of them was LQH. My heart was pounding out my chest. I watched him. He started having sex with Helen. I felt so angry towards her. I hated her. He was my LQH. I was the one who was special and now he was having sex with Helen. Sister LHZ went out. At one point she just seemed to let them do whatever they want. She left to go to prayer and they were taking it in turns but all I could see was LQH. I got scared and I went back up to bed. I heard Helen coming up a while later with Sister LHZ and I could hear her crying in bed and I said nothing. Not to her anyway.

A couple of weeks later when I was out with LQH, I asked him why he had sex with Helen. He got very angry with me. He told me I was to keep my mouth shut. A couple of days later, that is when I went to [REDACTED]. I thought that was punishment because I had said something. I still wanted to see LQH so I never said anything else.

That needs to be my dying confession. You see, I know I've only got a few weeks left. I can't tell Helen this face to face. I am so ashamed. I picked my love for LQH over her and I never ever checked that she was ok and I never asked. Everything that I have said is the absolute truth.

I am saying this before God and what I told you is the truth in what happened in that place. I don't know if this happened to anybody else, I can't say. I just hope my sister can forgive me. I am so sorry.