

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LBX

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is [REDACTED] LBX [REDACTED] My contact details are known to the Inquiry. I will be 65 on my next birthday.
2. I live with my wife [REDACTED] and have been married for nearly 40 years. We have 3 children together. I am employed at [REDACTED] Hospital, [REDACTED] as a porter.

Background

3. My father was [REDACTED] and mother is [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] I have 6 siblings but I didn't know of them until I came out of care when I was 14.
4. The brother I did know about was [REDACTED] born in [REDACTED] 1950. He was put in care at the same time as me. He is 11 months older than me.

Life before going into care

5. I was put into care almost from when I was born. I don't know the circumstances. I did hear from my grandmother that my brother and I slept in drawers at my parents' home in Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

Institution – Clerwood Children’s Home

6. I went into Clerwood Children’s Home, Edinburgh at 5 months’ old although I don’t know the exact date. There is an entry on my medical records dated [REDACTED] 1952.
7. By the time I was one year old, I was at Nazareth House, Lasswade, where I was for a number of years.
8. A letter I received from Nazareth House confirmed I went there until I was sent to Redhall Children’s Home on [REDACTED] 1961.
9. I do remember being there. My brother [REDACTED] followed.

In the care of my parents [REDACTED] 1958 until [REDACTED] 1960

10. There was one period, it seems, between [REDACTED] 1958 until [REDACTED] 1960, when my brother [REDACTED] and I were returned into the care of our parents.
11. My brother and I went back to my father’s house in Craigmillar. The two of us arrived back at the family home in Craigmillar. Both of my parents were there.
12. We were eventually put back into care. My father had beaten my brother and I severely. I don’t know the reason, I don’t remember doing anything wrong because I was used to being fairly well behaved. He got us into a room and battered us with a belt.
13. He beat us so bad that I couldn’t sit down at school. It was discovered that we were all cut, so we were taken away.

14. I am not actually sure if I went back to Nazareth House or if I went to Redhall. I can't remember. The records available suggest I was returned to Nazareth House.
15. My father was jailed because of what he did to us. We were hurt on our buttocks and back. I don't know why he done it. I remember the incident; it will always live with me. He was a mad man. My mother was there, she was frightened of him.
16. I think the date between [REDACTED] 1958 and [REDACTED] 1960 was the time I was living back home and was when my father beat my brother and I. All we wanted was loving parents.

Institution – Nazareth House, Lasswade

17. I stayed at Nazareth House, Lasswade, during two periods, until I was about 9. A letter I received from Nazareth House confirmed that I remained there until [REDACTED] 1958, when I was discharged but was readmitted on [REDACTED] 1960. I was finally discharged on [REDACTED] 1961.

Routine

Mornings and bedtime

18. At Nazareth House I slept in a dormitory with lots of beds. There were 2 rows and a couple down the middle. I would say 10 or 12 in each row. Maybe about 20 in total.
19. Most of the boys were quite scared and just got their heads down; there were a couple of them who would talk. You weren't allowed to talk. I don't know where the nuns were but suddenly they would appear and shout "no talking".

20. My brother wasn't in that dormitory. He was in a different one. I don't know if it was because I was younger than him, but I don't think a year is a lot of difference.
21. I was a bed wetter, same as my brother. That was a problem, a big problem. That was where the fear kicked in.
22. When we wet the bed, we had to gather up our bedding, take our pyjamas off, and stand in our underpants and go down to the hall downstairs and stand in a row and where you had to put your sheets in the corner. Then they would put you in a cold bath. I was a bed wetter in all the homes and when I was 16, I was still wetting the bed. I tried to hide it a few times as I knew what was coming. I tried that but when I went down for breakfast they checked my mattress and I got hauled up.
23. There were other children who wet the bed; a lot of kids wet the bed. You had to get up and the nuns would be there and one of them would shout 'bed wetters' and you had to strip and strip your bed. We weren't allowed to talk. My mattress would be wet, no rubber sheets, just old fashioned mattresses with horse hair. I think they put another one on it, I am not sure if they put them to the laundry. I don't know what they did with them but you got fresh bedding.
24. I used to try and stay awake as long as I could to go to the toilet. I always remember that, but I still wet the bed. I probably didn't drink enough, maybe that's where the illness I had when I was older came from, not drinking, through fear.
25. It was a cold bath and we were told to "scrub yourself, scrub your sins off, you're a sinner".
26. On a normal day, I wet the bed so I went through what I have already told you. Then down for breakfast, although maybe we had to go to the chapel

first. They were quite strict about religion. I can't remember if breakfast was after or before chapel, every day.

27. We went every day to chapel to say a prayer. After that I would clean the chapel.

28. Bed time was fairly early, about 7 o'clock. I had no watch. Everything was timed. That's why I am a man of times, even with my family life. Everything was timed, it was drilled into me. I felt sorry taking it out on my kids, because everything in this world is timed. Supper time, breakfast time, Christmas time, summertime, winter time, everything is timed.

29. It was always brutal and the only time I looked forward to anything was when my grandmother came to visit.

Visits

30. The only time I looked forward to anything was when my granny visited. My auntie [REDACTED] would bring her to see me and [REDACTED] but it stopped and I thought she was maybe dead.

31. Me and [REDACTED] just sat there, but the nuns would mill about and I think they were listening to what we were saying. We used to get things off them like sweets, and when we went back in the nuns would take them off us. We never saw them again.

Food

32. It was a big dining room with just boys in it. The food was rotten. You were forced to eat it. You were forced to eat it even if you didn't like it. I was forced. Two nuns would come and one would hold my head back and the other would put the spoon in my mouth and make me swallow it, like tapioca, and I hated it.

33. They would pull my hair back and down with the food. I was probably about 3 or 4 years then because I just hated the food. This happened more than once. I don't remember it happening after I was 4 or 5 years as I just toed the line. I just did it. I wasn't wanting the shit. I just thought 'give into them'.

School

34. I don't remember going to school at all. I don't remember a school, I don't remember any education. I must have got some kind of education.

35. I worked in the home, I cleaned the chapel. The bigger boys lifted the pews as I was still young and we would wash the floor, then polish it and we had cloths under our feet. I was about 4 or 5 then and that was my job.

Birthdays / Christmas

36. I cannot remember my birthdays. I didn't know my birthday.

37. I do remember Christmas as it was in one of the nun's rooms. You had to go and get your present. I remember getting cars and a football. We got to keep them and play with our toys when you had time. I don't remember if we had Christmas lunch.

Medical care

38. I don't remember seeing a doctor at Nazareth House.

39. I can't remember any of the details on my medical records happening.

Abuse

40. My first memory of Nazareth House was "brutal". I was pulled, shoved about and hit by the nuns. They were very, very strict. Anything you done wrong you were punished for. I remember going to the chapel one day and I

didn't bless myself and a nun practically dragged me along to the end of the pew and stood right beside me until I blessed myself.

41. I just felt uncomfortable there with the way the kids were treated. I missed my brother.

42. The nuns used belts. If you did anything wrong you were punished. Out with your hand and you were strapped on the hands. I wasn't strapped anywhere else, only on the hand.

43. I don't remember any fun at Nazareth House. I remember playtimes, they had quite big grounds so we used to have a wee bit of fun out there, but we would be wary as the nuns would be walking about.

44. I don't remember any names of the other boys, or making any friends. There were other boys there my age. There were girls there too, but the girls were always separated. No interaction with the girls at all. They made sure of that. They were strangers to me so I just got on with it. I had no choice but to get on with it and live with the regime.

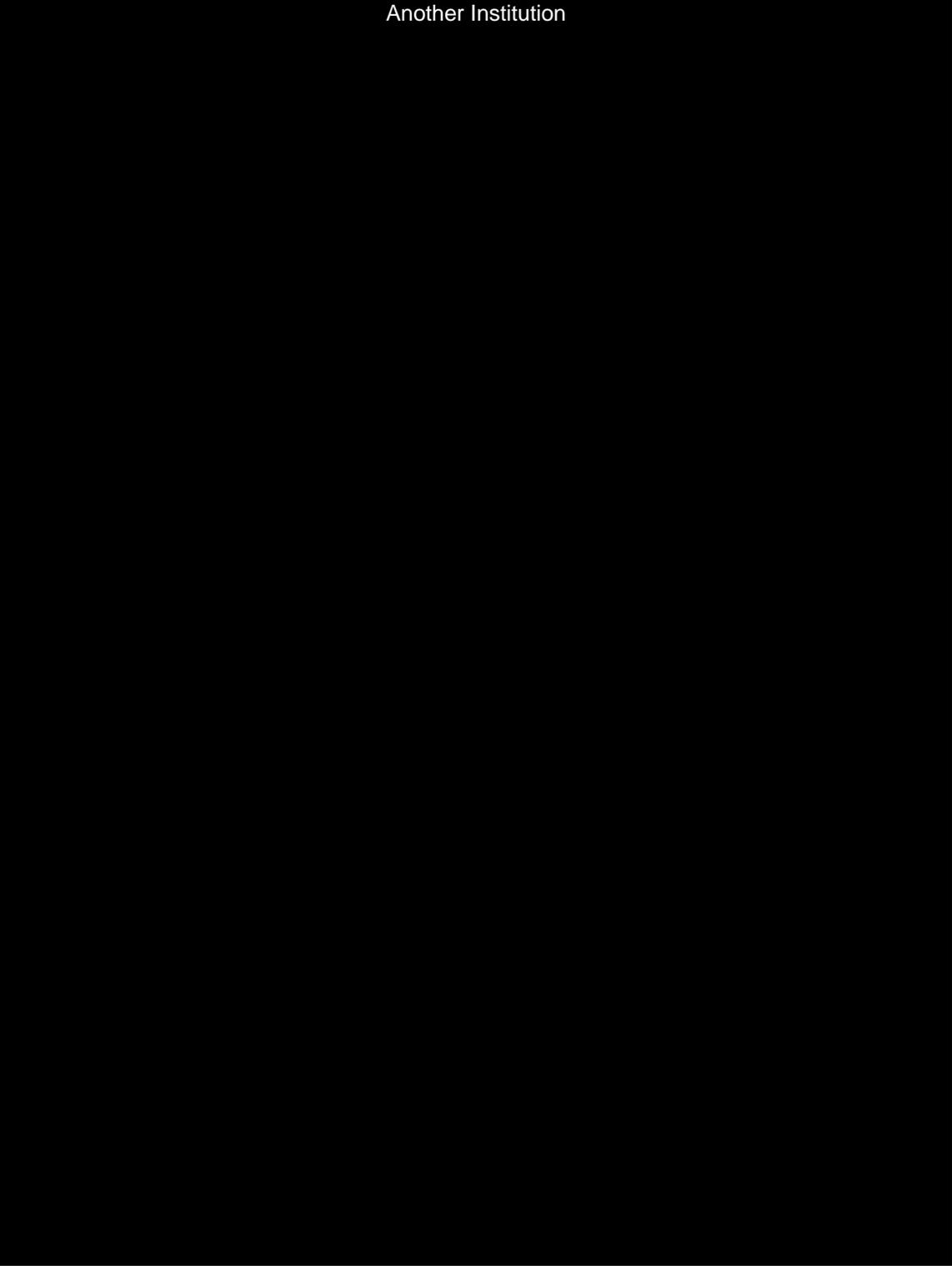
45. I can't remember any other staff other than nuns. I can't remember any of the other children other than my brother.

46. I don't remember any of the nuns or staff being nice to me. There was no care. No care whatsoever.

47. I got into trouble a few times when I asked about my brother because they kept us apart. I used to look to see if I could find him. I couldn't see him in the room one morning and I thought 'where is he?' This went on for a few years and I couldn't see my brother and I thought 'where the hell is he?' I asked why and the nuns said he was in isolation. I tried to question them and I asked them why, and they said 'you don't ask us questions!'

48. I thought nuns were supposed to be caring, there was no care. I can't remember the nuns' names but I can remember their faces.

Another Institution



Another Institution

Institution- St Ninian's School, Falkland, Fife

56. I was about 13 years old when I went to St Ninian's sometime in 1965. I was growing into a young man. I was there until I was 14. I don't remember my first day. I just remember the size of the place. It had lots of boys at it, no girls.

57. There were fights, but I didn't experience any trouble with any of the other boys. I learned to be disciplined. I learned that from my younger days and just got my head down. I hated the place. If you were self-disciplined and stuck to the rules right away you got on better.

Routine

58. We stayed in dormitories and there was a lack of privacy.

59. The brothers were in charge at St Ninian's. I remember one because I think he hated me. It was [LNC]. I called him Brother [LNC]. I remember him because he sexually abused me.

60. It was alright at St Ninian's when I wet the bed. No cold baths. You just got in the shower.

School

61. I remember going to school there and being taught. I don't remember picking any subjects. I just done the ones they gave me. There were civilian teachers and I got on alright with them.

Medical care

62. I think I took nephronitis, a kidney problem, in St Ninian's. I was taken to Ochil Hills Hospital.

63. I was very ill. I wasn't in hospital too long, I remember being quite unwell, and having no visitors. My mother and father didn't visit, I don't know if they knew about it. I don't know if it was caused by lack of drinking and I took an infection. Maybe because I tried not to drink a lot because of the bed wetting.

Abuse

64. Brother **LNC** got in bed beside me and touched me. He was clothed, and I had my pyjamas on. He touched me everywhere. I don't like saying that because it makes me feel dirty when I talk about it.

65. He touched my genitals and it happened quite a few times. It didn't happen every night, maybe because he was off duty. I didn't react to it or look, I froze. I hated what was happening. I was thirteen when it happened and just starting adulthood as I call it, maturity. I wanted more privacy.

66. Brother **LNC** was tall with black hair and heavy rimmed glasses. I think he was Scottish. I would say he was about 40. When he got into bed beside me his body was close to me.

67. I always thought because I was still a bed wetter there, maybe he was checking to see if I had wet the bed. That's what I thought; maybe he is

checking but why not just feel the sheet? That's what I thought he was doing. I continued to wet the bed until I was 18 or 19.

68. I think a lot of the boys would have been sleeping when it happened. Like I said I wasn't asleep as I was worried about wetting the bed and getting up to the toilet, but I heard the brothers in the dormitory but I daren't have moved.

69. I think Brother **LNC** was some kind of sport person because he put me in the rugby team although I had no interest. He was the teacher. I think when I reflect on it, he liked to be amongst young boys. You know what rugby is, it's a close touch body sport. I think he enjoyed it.

70. I watch a lot of rugby and I know what rugby is about. I used to see him when we got into a ruck and I used to hit him.

71. I think it was his way to get to boys, handling them. I think that's why he put me in the team. Brother **LNC** touched me during the rugby and during the ruck, I could feel his hands. It wasn't a mistake and was his way of getting at boys.

72. I always felt Brother **LNC** was watching me. I was watching him as he was watching me. He was watching the other boys in the showers. In the shower there was no privacy. There would be 5 or 6 boys go in the one shower and wash away, which I wasn't happy with.

73. I remember **LNC** standing at the sink watching quite often. I remember him being there quite a lot. We were told to shower at nights, most nights especially after rugby. We would go to other schools to play rugby and I was terrified to take my clothes off and come out.

74. I feel **LNC** hated me. He used to give me the belt quite a bit. All he taught me was rugby. I am sure he did teaching, but I tried to avoid him as much as I could but it wasn't easy.

75. I would get belted for trivial things. I was quite quiet, but I was getting older and I would start talking but he didn't like you to talk. I don't know why, but he loved giving me the belt, he thrived on it. I was belted on the hands. It was embarrassing getting the belt. You cried.

76. You got the belt for any trivial thing, like talking in the showers, you just had to go in there and do what you have to do and keep quiet. Everything was timed.

77. There was no one else in St Ninian's that I remember acted inappropriately towards me. It was just [LNC] he was the worst guy in there to me. I don't know what I done to deserve it. I don't know why he took a dislike to me.

78. In the dormitory at night you couldn't speak, you tried to sneak a wee speak.

Reporting of abuse

79. I didn't discuss what Brother [LNC] did to me with the other boys; I didn't discuss it as it was dirty.

80. I never told anyone in authority at St Ninian's about [LNC] getting into bed with me. The first person I told about this was the police. I didn't tell my wife. I still haven't told my wife. I don't know if he was prosecuted.

Leaving institution

81. I can't remember leaving St Ninians and I don't know the exact date. I fell ill in there and ended up in hospital. I think that's why I got discharged.

Institution – Ponton House, Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh

82. The next place I went was Ponton House, Magdalala Crescent, just opposite Donaldson's School, Edinburgh. I don't know why they put me there. I was about 14, and it was 1966. It was a working man's hostel. It was men and I wasn't comfortable.

Leaving institution

83. I wasn't there very long. I got a job as a butcher boy but it didn't work out for me. The reason being I couldn't interact with employment. It was a complete change of life and I didn't enjoy it.

Life after institution

84. I went on the streets after that. I left Ponton House and lived rough. I slept in Princes Street Gardens.

85. I slept rough for about 9 months and then I started to steal food. I was about 15 then. I got caught and I was locked up and got a social enquiry report. I was used to authorities so it didn't bother me. I wasn't put in a children's place or secure unit. I went back to the court and the judge said to me "you are an institutionalised boy" I always remember that. So he sent me to borstal for a year.

86. I was sent to Polmont prison. I done my time there, a year imprisonment. It was called borstal training.

87. When I was in there, I had a lot of time to think. I thought about hanging myself, but I didn't have the guts. I thought it was the only way to escape.

88. When I was released I just carried on the same route. I used to hang around in Drylaw. and I got in with some criminals. I was happy with them,

although they were criminals. I had fun. I had no confidence with jobs. I felt myself becoming rebellious.

89. I started stealing out of shops to sell. I managed to get a wee bedsit, in town in Leith.

90. Then I went down south, to Gateshead and started stealing cars. I was 17 or 18 then. I came back up and carried on stealing and got myself a criminal record.

91. One day I went out to Patrick Thomson's, which was a shop in Edinburgh and I saw a girl. But I had no confidence with girls, no confidence whatsoever. When I was with the guys from Drylaw they had a lot of girls about them. I used to be at the back, as I couldn't talk to girls. I used to get a red face if they talked to me. I had no confidence at all in myself.

92. I went in to Patrick Thomson's, I was going into steal something and now that girl is my wife. She was watching me. I didn't steal anything. I caught her eye and she looked at me and that was it. That's my "rock".

Impact

93. As a young man at St Ninian's, I wanted more privacy and that didn't happen. That has affected me all my life in the sense that when I got married I didn't undress in front of my wife as I hated being looked at. That was because of the dormitories and showers at St Ninian's.

94. I used to play 5-a-sides with some guys I met in Livingston and I never showered beside them. If I go for a shower now I make sure the door is locked.

95. I found it difficult to make friends.

96. I was never shown any affection, that's why I can't show affection now. I don't say to my wife, I love her, because I have never been shown love. To give love you have got to be shown it. It never happened. Because things happened it was hard for me to tell my kids I loved them. I have never told them. I try to give them what I never had. I find it hard to cuddle.

97. I am very protective of my family. Sometimes I feel like I've not been a proper grandfather because I don't cuddle them and if it's a cuddle then it's just a quick cuddle. It's just the way I am. They always say I look sad but I don't want to tell them why.

98. I found it very difficult when I came out of the homes. I was out of work. It was lonely and difficult. It felt as if I needed the authorities as I didn't know what way to turn. I had to carry on life without my brother. I was 20 when I saw him again on a bus.

99. I have been treated for depression. I've had to go and see the doctor and he is going to give me what he calls "happy tablets" to try and make me a bit happier. They will take a while but I feel like I am not going to get happy again. It feels like the old days when I was unhappy when I was out on the street.

100. My daughter said "Dad they robbed 14 years off you, don't let them rob anymore!" When I talk about it, I seem to break down and I don't like breaking down at work because I feel paranoid. People say to me "why do you never smile?" I felt like ending my life.

Records

101. The table in my medical records which I have given to the Inquiry was put together by my doctor [REDACTED]. He gave me some cards, and photocopies of my old medical records.

102. I wrote to Nazareth House as I saw photographs online. I got a letter back from Nazareth house which said that they didn't have any photographs or records of children at Nazareth House, Lasswade.

103. The reply they received from Nazareth House said they had found only one entry for me which confirmed that I was baptised in St. John the Baptist, Corstorphine. My parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I was referred to the Sisters by Edinburgh Council and was at Nazareth House on [REDACTED] 1952.

104. 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] LBX

Dated. 4.10.16

