



Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LDX

Support person present: No

Others present: Una Conway, Donnelly & Watt Solicitors for the witness

1. My name is LDX When I became a nun I was given the name Sister LDX
Nuns sometimes just called me Sister LDX My date of birth is
1941. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I was born and brought up in County Sligo in Ireland. My father died when I was four and a half years old. I have two brothers. One is older than me and one is younger. I have one younger sister.
3. I lived with my mother until I was seventeen and a half. I then moved to London where I worked in an office. At eighteen and a half when I was still in London I decided that I wanted to become a nun.

Sisters of Nazareth

4. Initially I went to Nazareth House in Hammersmith, London where I started my training. I made my first profession in 1961. From there I went to Donegal where I worked as an assistant in a school for girls who wanted to become sisters. I was there from 1961 for around a year and a half. The training in total lasted seven years.

Nazareth House, Cardonald

5. At some point, possibly around 1963, I was at the Nazareth House in Cardonald. I worked with Sister Helena and our duty was going out with the tin collecting money. I didn't have any contact with the children at that time.
6. I returned to London later in 1966 where I made my final vows. In [REDACTED] 1966 I went to Nazareth House in Liverpool where I worked for a year working with two children. I went there to release a sister who was going on childcare training. I came back to London in 1967 where I worked for a year doing reception duties. This meant that I had no contact with children during this period.

Qualifications in childcare

7. In 1968 I did a diploma course in childcare. I had approached the mother superior and told her I was interested in working with children so thought I should know as much as possible about it. I asked if I could do it. There were very few courses like this around that time. This course was at Linksfield Academy in Aberdeen. It was run independently by the Scottish Education Authority. I lived in the nuns' quarters in Nazareth House apart from when I was on placements. The nuns' quarters were completely separate from where the children were. I had absolutely no contact with children during this course. I didn't even have meals with the children, apart from possibly at Christmas time. That course lasted a year until 1969. After I completed my diploma I went back to London where I worked for four years. I don't have any other childcare qualifications.
8. The placements I was on during my diploma lasted between seven and ten weeks each. One was at Dr Guthrie's in Edinburgh which was a home for girls only. Another was in Buckie and another was in a reception and assessment centre in Aberdeen. Staff there decided whether the children should go to their parental home or go into residential care.

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

Building layout

9. When I arrived in 1973, in the large building, the living accommodation was downstairs and the sleeping accommodation and bathrooms were upstairs. The children slept between two dormitories. Downstairs was a dining room, play room, sitting room and another bathroom.
10. There were a lot of stairs and I didn't consider it to be the best. I spoke to the mother superior and we discussed this. We decided that my group could move to another building at the front of Nazareth House on Union Grove and it would become a group home. It was a lovely granite building. It was all on one level and all it need was internal renovation and decoration which was organised very quickly. It was attached to the main building and was connected by a door.
11. I think we moved into the new home in 1974. When we moved in it was all new furniture, new beds, curtains and carpets. Only one item was brought from the original house. I looked after sixteen children and there were boys and girls. The age range was from three up to about sixteen. The beds were all in rooms. There was one single bed room, two five bed rooms, a three bed room a two bed room and my room. I always referred to the children by their first name.

Management structure and staff

12. The mother superior, Mother LKO was in charge of everything that went on at Nazareth House. She used to be a teacher. I don't consider there to be a hierarchal structure of sisters below her at Nazareth House. All the Sisters just really had their own jobs to do. Some cooked, some did collections and there was a bursar, and lots of other jobs. I had someone helping me with my group. There was a lady who came in and cleared the dining area after the children had gone to school and cleaned the house. Her name was Francis Adam. There was another woman who came in and served the evening meal then cleared up afterwards. Her name was Ruby Meldrum.

They were both civilian, paid staff. All the groups had civilian helpers but I couldn't say how many were employed there.

13. There wasn't a resident priest within Nazareth House, Aberdeen. I think it was various priests from the local area who came in to take mass on a Sunday. This took place at the chapel within Nazareth House.
14. At weekends other adults came in to our house. Some were my friends and they would talk and spend time with the children. Colin McKenzie became a friend of mine and he came at the weekends. He was a volunteer. He was coming before I came to Nazareth house. As far as I am aware no background checks would have been done on any volunteers. I don't think any checks were done at any places at that time.

Role

15. In 1973 I went to Nazareth House, Aberdeen where I remained until 1978. I was familiar with the building as I had been there before. I stayed in the home. My responsibilities were to look after a group of children. I had to make sure they were clothed, fed, went to school and had recreation. I had been told before I got there that I was going to be looking after a group of children but I didn't get any other details. Because Sister LFB had left there was no hand-over from her. When I arrived the Mother Superior introduced me to the group but apart from that there was no other information given. I wasn't given any particular information about any individual child.

New admissions

16. If I knew that new children were coming to join my group I would explain this to the existing children and would ask them to be nice and welcome them. When they arrived they would be introduced to the other children and made welcome. The children would show the new ones around the house. There wasn't a big turnover of children when I was there. Some of the children were there for all of the time I was there.

17. I often wouldn't know how long a child was going to be there for. No-one passed this information to me. The children never asked me how long they were going to be there for. I think they knew more than I did.
18. I don't remember any children coming in that I thought needed to have a bath. Any children who came in when I was there were clean and in a good condition.

Morning and bedtime routine

19. In the morning, sometime between seven thirty and eight o'clock, I would call on the children and tell them it was time to get up. The children were used to getting up so there were never any issues with children refusing to get out their beds. I would then prepare the breakfast for them. I would make the cereal, tea and toast. I would make sure they were all ready in time to go to school on the bus. After a while we changed it that the children went on the local bus and we gave them bus fares. We thought it was very institutional them all going on the bus together and it marked them out to the other children as coming from Nazareth House. I was involved in this change but the Mother Superior made the ultimate decision.
20. Children went to bed at different times in the evening. It all depended on their age, and whether it was summer or winter. The younger ones went first, probably about nine o'clock. The older ones were allowed up until ten or ten thirty. The children would just get washed and go to bed themselves. There was never any fuss.

Mealtimes

21. Children had their breakfast before they went to school. They had lunch at school because we gave them dinner money. They had their evening meal at Nazareth House.
22. The evening meals were prepared in the main kitchen by the cook and were delivered to our house in a heated container. We always ate in the dining room in our house. I didn't eat with the children. I ate in the Sister's dining room with all the other

Sisters. The food was always good. Nazareth House always had the best of food for the children. There was no choice of meals. I don't remember any of the children ever not wanting to eat any of the food.

Washing and bathing

23. When the group were in the main building there was a row of basins in the bathroom. This was one of the things I considered to be unsuitable and why I wanted to move to the new house. In the new building each bedroom had its own bathroom. The children washed their hands and face and brushed their teeth themselves. In the evening they went at different times to bath themselves. Each bathroom had a toilet, bath and a hand-basin. There were no showers at that time.

Clothing

24. Children wore their own clothes when they came to Nazareth House. When they needed new clothes we bought them for them. They were all given school uniform and they had play clothes to wear in the house when they came home from school. They also had a set of good clothes.

Leisure time

25. There was a green area outside where the boys would play football if they wanted to. Inside the building the children could watch TV or play board games. There was a homework room, a visitor's room and a sitting room. I was always watching what was going on and was there if the children needed me. I would help with their homework if they asked me. On Sundays at twelve o'clock, the boys organised local children from outside to come in and played football with them. They all came into the house afterwards and watched football on the television. Some children brought other friends into the house. It was a lovely house and we always welcomed people in. One sixteen year old boy used to bring his girlfriend into the house.

26. On Saturday mornings the children nearly always went to the cinema. They would walk from Nazareth House. In the afternoon they might go swimming to the local swimming pool. I never went with them. Some of the staff might go swimming with them but often it was on their own. Colin McKenzie, who was a volunteer, came in at the weekends and would take the children to the cinema or swimming.
27. There wasn't much scope for children to join any local clubs or organisations. I didn't know of any tennis club, Cubs, Brownies or Girl Guide groups which they could join.

Trips and holidays

28. I remember once I went with my group to Girvan where we stayed at a guest house. I don't really know if any of the other groups went on holidays. I was only concerned with my group. We went there as a celebration of moving into our new house. I don't remember going on any other holiday.
29. Other summers we would go on day trips to Glenlivet in the Highlands. We would take a picnic with us and the children would go swimming with our dog. We went there several times in the summer, sometimes twice in one week. Other times we went to the beach in Aberdeen. We never went on any trips with any of the other groups. I thought there were just too many children when two groups got together. There was no real reason for us not to go with other groups, it just didn't happen.

Schooling

30. Initially all the children went to the same school, St Peters primary and secondary school. We decided it would be better to change that. Some of the children then went to Linkfield Academy. The children who I thought had the best ability went to Aberdeen Grammar school. We thought it would be better for the children to be separated.

Healthcare

31. If children were unwell at any time they would be looked after. In the four years that I was there no child was ever ill. They were a healthy group of children and never needed any medical attention. I presume they would have had a medical before or when they arrived at Nazareth House but I never experienced that. I think they would have been checked at school, but not in Nazareth House. The children got dental care at school. None of them ever told me they had toothache.

Bed wetting

32. There was one girl in my group, [REDACTED] who occasionally wet the bed. If she had wet her bed she was given a bath and her sheets were put in the laundry. There were no inspections done through the night to check if her bed was wet. We would just find out in the morning. I think she had stopped wetting the bed before we came into the new house. None of the other children ever wet the bed. I never saw any child being punished for wetting the bed.

Religious instruction

33. There was no religious instruction at all from me to the children at Nazareth House. All the children from my group went to church on a Sunday morning. There was no routine of prayers in the morning or at night. The only religion they got was at Mass on a Sunday. They would go on holidays of obligation if they were off school.

Chores

34. The children weren't given and chores or tasks to do. When we were in the old part of the building they may have helped out by clearing away dishes and washing up. When we went to the new house they didn't need to because it was all taken care of. The staff did all of that. At the weekend they might help out drying the dishes but that is all. They didn't need to do any work like cleaning, washing or ironing. It was all done for them.

Sibling contact

35. Initially I had an all-boys group but Mother LKO the Mother Superior who came at the same time as me, decided that she wanted all the families to be together as far as possible. This meant the groups changed and became mixed. One of the families I looked after were the family name They had one sister so she came into my group. All the children went to school together but there wasn't really a time when they were all together in Nazareth House.

Pocket money

36. The children would get pocket money. The Mother Superior gave me money every week to run the house. This was for their bus fares, school dinners, cinema, swimming and things like that. Children could spend their money on sweets at the local shops.

Christmas and birthdays

37. At Christmas time a group of us would go in the minibus to the woods and collect a Christmas tree. At Christmas the children would get small gifts but nothing elaborate. Mother superior would arrange this. We acknowledged and celebrated children's birthdays. There wasn't a big party or anything but we would have a cake.

Visitors

38. There was one set of parents who came to visit their child but they only came once. They sat in the visitor's room on their own with the child. I don't remember any of the children ever receiving any letters from outside.
39. I had a lot of friends in Aberdeen and they often visited me at the weekend. They would speak to the children but didn't have a lot of contact with them. There was no visitor's book or anything like that which was filled in. I didn't keep any record of visitors.

40. Social workers were very scarce and I rarely saw them. Often a social worker would bring them to the house but I didn't see much of them after that. A social worker may contact us to arrange a child to go home for the weekend. This didn't mean the social worker would come in, they may just arrange this over the phone.
41. I don't think it was the duty of Nazareth House to ensure the children kept in touch with their families. I believe this was a duty of the social work department. I didn't encourage them to write to their families. I didn't know anything about their families or parents.
42. To give you an example, a family of five were brought to Nazareth House by a social worker. They were shown into the parlour where they were given something to eat and greeted by the Mother Superior. I was called down and introduced to them because they were coming to my group. The social worker went away and I never saw that social worker again. The only information I got, and I am not sure where I got it from, was that one of the parents had agoraphobia. That wasn't even true. There was no information passed to me by the social work department.

Inspections

43. I have been asked if I know a Father Tom Gibbons who may have visited Nazareth House in Aberdeen and was responsible for the running of Catholic children's homes. I do not know who he is and I am not aware of ever meeting him or seeing him in Aberdeen.
44. The Sisters of Nazareth would send a nun from London to do what was called a 'visitation'. She would look at the workings of the house and speak to the children then compile a report. I only ever saw one 'visitation' in the four years when I was there. I never got to see any of these reports
45. I don't remember any other inspections by the local authority or by the social work department.

Review of care

46. I am not aware of any reviews being carried out by the social work department in relation to the children. No-one ever came to me and asked if the children were settling in and if the children were okay.

Children's records

47. I have a problem thinking back about children's records. I am sure there would have been records kept and there would have been school reports but I just can't remember. I used to go to the parent's nights at school and I dealt a lot with the school.
48. There may have been a file for each child held by the Mother Superior. There were no formal meetings with the Mother Superior about the children but we would often have informal chats about each child. I spoke to her regularly.
49. There were five groups within the main building. Two of the groups were girls and three were boys. Another sister called Sister [REDACTED] LRC came at the same time as me to take over from another sister. Sister [REDACTED] LRC group and my group were on the same side of the building. I took over from Sister [REDACTED] LFB but there was no overlap. I never actually worked with her at any stage. The Sister in charge of the other boys group was Sister [REDACTED] LKH. I can't remember the names of the Sisters in charge of the girls groups.

Discipline and punishment

50. The children in my group were well behaved. They were nice, gentle children. If a child was misbehaving I would tell them they couldn't behave like that. I would ask them to leave the room and come back when they could behave properly. They accepted that. I never received any instruction from the Mother Superior or from Nazareth House as to how any discipline should be administered.

51. At no time when I was with my group did I see any disruptive behaviour or conduct that I thought required any discipline. I would not discipline the children apart from asking them to leave the room. No-one else would administer discipline within my group.
52. I had a good relationship with the lovely children. All the children got on very well with each other. There was always a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Preparing children for leaving

53. I remember helping [REDACTED] LQS when he was leaving Nazareth House. I helped him get accommodation and a job with the department of environment. He lives [REDACTED] now and I have lost contact with him. I hoped that by doing that he would be an example, sort of a role model, for the other children and would encourage them. I would help children leaving in any way I could. [REDACTED] LQS was the only one who left when I was there.

Abuse in Nazareth House, Aberdeen

54. In neither of the periods I was at Nazareth House from 1968 to 1969 and from 1973 to 1978 did I see or hear of any abuse of any children of any description. I never heard from any children at any time of anything that could have been abuse.
55. I am aware from the media of allegations that have been made claiming that some children have been abused in Nazareth House. I can only speak for myself and my group. When I was there I was never aware of any abuse.

Leaving Nazareth House, Aberdeen

56. In 1978 the Mother Superior approached me and told me that the Mother General had told her that I was being instructed to move to work in Northern Ireland in a

children's home. This was in the time of the troubles in Northern Ireland. Once you had been three or four years in any place you were likely to get moved like that. That was the way that it worked. I didn't want to leave Aberdeen because I loved the children but one of the vows I had taken was the vow of obedience. I couldn't refuse to go or complain so I decided to leave the order and stopped being a nun.

Life after Nazareth House

57. After I left Nazareth House I worked for 22 years at [REDACTED] in Dublin. It was a residential and day school. I looked after six children on the residential side. I took them swimming and for the games. These children had special educational needs. I retired gracefully at the end of my time there.
58. I married in 1989 but have continued using my own surname [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED] I have lived my married life in Ireland. We don't have any children.

Prior statements / civil proceedings

59. Two of the boys who had been in my group, Christopher [REDACTED] instigated civil proceedings against the Sisters of Nazareth claiming that I had ill-treated them. I subsequently gave a statement in 2010 to my solicitor. A hearing date was set for 2012 in respect of [REDACTED]. My solicitor subsequently wrote to me and told me that the case that had been taken by [REDACTED] had been dismissed. A hearing date was never listed in relation to Christopher Daly. I didn't actually get as far as giving evidence in the [REDACTED] case. The police were not involved in this. I have not given a statement to anybody else and I have never been the subject of any criminal investigation or proceedings.

Specific allegations made to Inquiry about Sister [REDACTED] LDX

60. I have been advised that a number of children who stayed at Nazareth House, Cardonald and Nazareth House, Aberdeen have made allegations of abuse against me to the Inquiry.

Christopher Gerard Daly

61. I remember Chris Daly. He came to Nazareth House, Aberdeen [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Christopher [REDACTED] came into the parlour on that first day and [REDACTED] given something to eat. I then went in and introduced myself [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] coming to my group. [REDACTED]
62. In his statement he claims "*They took all [REDACTED] own clothes [REDACTED]. Some of them were quite new [REDACTED] just been given them. [REDACTED] given old clothes, rough jeans and 'penny black' plimsolls that were similar to the other kids. I remember Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] wanted [REDACTED] bathed and she washed [REDACTED] hair in delousing shampoo in the bath area*".
63. There was no uniform. Whatever clothes they brought with them stayed with them and they wore them. Hair washing did not happen on their entry.
64. Christopher also said that "*Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] didn't like younger kids, particularly if there were issues as to whether they could use the toilet*". That is incorrect; they could all use the toilet. He also mentions Sister [REDACTED] LKH [REDACTED] and whilst I didn't actually work with her, I do know her. She was in charge of a group of boys at the same time as me.
65. Christopher states that he was initially on the top floor, which he refers to as the old group, for about a year before they moved to be the new group which was a refurbished laundry area away from the other nuns. His description is correct

although I didn't think it was as long as a year. The new group building was still attached to and part of Nazareth House.

66. Christopher states that I did not have the scrutiny of the other nuns. All the nuns had their own jobs to do. I was just looking after the group and there was no one interfering with us.
67. Christopher states when he was in the new group he started to take what he now knows to be panic attacks, but then he called them dizzy turns. He also started to feel physically sick at meal times. He claims I would punish him by putting him in isolation in the laundry area of the new unit or take him to the old part of the building and leave him in the rooms there. That did not happen. We were finished in the old part of the building and didn't go back in there for any reason. I never put him in the laundry.
68. Christopher has said in his statement that I had some young female helpers who lived on site. I remember them. One was called Bernadette Ferry, an English girl called Julie and Linda. Bernadette worked as staff in the old house with me but didn't come to the new house. She married and left. I don't remember Julie. Linda was Linda Argo and she was employed as staff. She worked with me. None of these girls were particularly young.
69. In relation to food he claims that it came over from the main house and was inedible, tasteless and you could choke on the stringy meat. That is not right. I would not have tolerated food like that.
70. Christopher said there were drawers on the dining room table where children started stuffing the food and when I found out I went mental and they all got it and I slapped them about. He says the drawers were then removed and after that if they didn't eat the food I allegedly hit them about the head. That is wrong, when we went to the group home we had new tables so there were no drawers. I never hit anyone about the head or anywhere else. What Christopher said just did not happen.

71. Christopher says that sometimes in the evening they would be sitting watching TV and if they were caught watching something which was inappropriate I would go mental. Apparently I had a chair where I liked to sit and watch the TV. There was certainly lots of room for people to spread about but I didn't have a special seat because I rarely sat down. I did not go mental at any time.
72. Christopher says that when we were in Girvan on a holiday I was sometimes quite good fun when we were at the shows but at one point I put a spoonful of Marmite into [REDACTED] mouth because he wanted to know what it tasted like. It apparently made him sick. That just did not happen. We were staying at a guest house where food was provided.
73. In his statement Christopher claims that I marched him round to the doctors because of his sickness and dizzy turns and that I realised something wasn't right. I didn't take him there. I didn't even know where the doctor's surgery was. In his medical records he claims they indicate he was given an opiate drug to settle his stomach and calm him down. The doctor thought it was homesickness but, looking back, Christopher now thinks he was actually having panic attacks due to my brutal behaviour and the isolation punishments. I didn't take him to the doctors so I never heard the doctor saying that. I didn't put anyone in isolation. The house was a big open house and there was no-where like that.
74. Christopher mentions that on the religious side they were constantly told of their worthlessness and that no-one wanted them. That is not true. I never told any child that. I did my best so that every child could get on in life.
75. In a section of the statement entitled 'Abuse' Christopher states that he left in the winter of 1978. I am sure he was still there when I left in [REDACTED] 1978.
76. Christopher mentions that during the night another nun would come into the dorms with a torch and check for bed-wetters, and anyone who wet the bed would be pulled out of their bed and the nun would 'give them one'. He claims they would be made to strip their bed in the middle of the night and that the nuns would be in a rage. None

of this happened when I was there. This was untrue. There was only one girl who occasionally wet her bed. Christopher Daly did not wet his bed.

77. Christopher also states "Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] would put the wet sheet on the kid's head and they were made to walk about with it. They were then made to wash their bed sheets in the laundry area and we would all see this. It was humiliation for them. There were washing machines but they had to hand wash the sheets. Other kids picked up on this and called them names. The other kids were only doing this because they were seeing this behaviour from the nuns". That did not happen. The sheets went out to be washed. As I previously said [REDACTED] was the only one who wet the bed. Christopher did not witness anything like this and it did not happen to [REDACTED] or to anybody else.
78. Christopher goes on to say "Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] was severe but I don't remember her punching or kicking me in the old bit. If you were bad you were isolated to darkened rooms. If she heard you swearing or something she would put you in a dark room and leave you there for hours. She didn't lock you in but you were too frightened to leave. She told you not to move or put on a light. You did as you were told, but I don't remember any physical stuff in the old part. Once or twice she used a small mortuary room which was used to store the dead bodies of the elderly residents if they died over the weekend. It was big enough for two coffins. She locked me in there once or twice. You would be put in there if you were arguing with other kids, if you wouldn't eat your dinner or if you were physically sick. I was often sick with the food in there and that was the punishment. I was locked in that room when there were two closed coffins in it. I didn't know if there were dead bodies in them or not. I felt frightened and alone. Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] had the key. I was left in isolation in the mortuary for up to an hour, but my other isolations were longer. [REDACTED] was isolated for a week all because he never ate his jelly. He was put in the room and fed jelly all week. [REDACTED] The isolation punishment happened to others [REDACTED]

79. I never punched, kicked or hit Chris Daly or any other child. There were no darkened rooms and I did not isolate anybody. They were not that kind of children. I never heard him or anyone else swearing. I never put anybody in a darkened room. I didn't even know there was a mortuary in Nazareth House. We had no connection with the old people. I don't know if there was any room where they would put the old people when they died. I didn't put anybody in there. What he has said that happened to [REDACTED] just did not happen.
80. Christopher goes on to say *"We had to go to mass and benediction and then I found that the noise used to get exacerbated in my head and I would get dizzy and I had to run out the chapel. I was having a panic attack. I was punished for this by being placed in isolation for hours, sometimes even a whole day. When Sister LDX [REDACTED] put me in isolation I started hallucinating and panicking"*.
81. We did go to mass, but we didn't go to benediction. I don't even know if there was benediction. If it was on we definitely didn't go to it. What he has said about having panic attacks and me putting him in isolation did not happen.
82. Christopher said *"When Sister LDX [REDACTED] went into a rage she would punch and kick. It would happen when I was physically sick. One morning I was sick after breakfast in the toilet. She went crazy. She grabbed me and pulled me about and put me outside in the freezing cold and just left me there. I was just wearing my shirt, tie, socks and underpants. I was looking over at Union Grove at the tenement buildings and I was wondering if I should run over and tell someone what she was doing to me."* I never punched, kicked or hit him. What he has said just did not happen.
83. Christopher went on to say *"Another occasion was before bedtime when Sister LDX [REDACTED] came in to put the lights out in the dorm. You were meant to be kneeling at the side of your bed saying your prayers in your pyjamas. She came in and we were all chucking pillows at each other and were in various stages of undress. I just had underpants on. She started shouting "This is not a nudist colony" and she grabbed me. She was screaming with rage. She took us all out into the corridor and then one by one took us out into the snow. This was at night time. There was heavy snow on*

the ground. I just had my pants on and nothing else. I was left outside in the snow for 45 minutes. I was freezing. It still sticks in my mind”.

84. This did not happen and I did not grab anyone. Neither did it happen in the snow or in sunshine.
85. Christopher also said *“That was the way Sister [LDX] reacted. It wasn’t just me it was the others too. [] was in a room and had his hands over his ears and was making a noise. She had been shouting [] He never saw her coming in. She then got him and slapped him to the floor. She would do things like that. Instead of just saying “Stop it” she just went into a rage about it. These things happened in front of other members of staff.”* This did not happen in front of anyone because it did not happen.
86. Christopher went on to say *“It just got worse in the new group. Sister [LDX] had control. There were no other nuns around and she would punch and kick us for silly trivial things. It was constant when we moved to the new group”.* That did not happen at all.
87. Christopher said he witnessed me being cruel to the other kids as well as himself. I wasn’t cruel to him or anyone else ever. He remembers [] kicking me between the legs and pulling my veil off because I had been punching and kicking him. That did not happen.

[LBR]

also known as

[LBR]

88. I know of a [LBR]. She had a brother and two sisters in my group in Nazareth House, Aberdeen. They were [] She came on a few occasions to visit her brother and sisters. She was not in my group nor was she in care in Nazareth House, Aberdeen at the same time when I was there. She may have been in care before I got there but I don’t know any information about her.

89. In her statement [LBR] says that she was in Nazareth House in Glasgow and that when she arrived I took her upstairs along with Sister Anthony and Sister [LHA]. I did work in Glasgow for three months but I never had any contact with any children. I was collecting money when I was there. I never saw [LBR] when I was there. I don't remember a Sister Anthony or Sister [LHA]. I don't even know them.
90. I remember that [LBR] came a few times to visit her siblings when they were in my group in Aberdeen. She says in her statement "*I went back to Nazareth House in Aberdeen to see [REDACTED] I arrived unexpectedly. There were hardly any kids left. Nazareth House was mostly looking after elderly people by this point. The kids that were left were in a little building that had been built onto the side of the main building. When I arrived, the nun that met me, Sister [LDX] was raging that I had turned up without any warning. I watched as she went over to a room and unlocked the door. Inside the room was [REDACTED] He was sitting on a bed and when he saw me he said [LBR] [REDACTED] was covered in bruises. She just said that 'boys are boys'. I told her to get all the kids ready as I was going to be taking them out for the day. She started to act like a 'nun' towards me*".
91. I remember [LBR] coming to Nazareth House. She never actually came into the group home. She never went into [REDACTED] bedroom. She only came into the kitchen because she knew a Sister in there. She would then get a message to her siblings and they would go down and meet her there. I don't know why she said there were very few kids left as they were all still there by the time I left. I was not raging because anyone could come into Nazareth House, any visitor, relation, or social worker. The house was open to that. There were no locks on any of the doors.
92. [LBR] goes on to say "*I took them to the pictures and a Chinese restaurant. The things they were telling me sounded just as bad as when I was there. They told me that if they did anything wrong, Sister [LDX] would lock them in the room. [REDACTED] was thirteen, [REDACTED] was eleven and [REDACTED] was ten*". That never happened and there were no locks on the doors.

93. LBR continues by saying *"I bought them an outfit each. I took them to a corner shop and bought them some sweets and fruit. They each had their own bag. I took them back to Nazareth House. Sister LDX was not there when I returned. I left them and walked to the gates. It was only a walk of about thirty feet. I heard a piercing scream. I turned round and saw [REDACTED] screaming and banging on the window. Sister LDX had returned and she had taken everything off them and she was hitting them. I had a big row with her. There was nothing I could do really and I had to walk away and leave them"*
94. That did not happen. I had no communication with LBR apart from saying hello to her in the kitchen. She did not go out the gate and she did not come into the group home.
95. LBR then says she spoke with Father Kinoulti and arranged to speak to [REDACTED] Sister LKG LBR subsequently spoke to her about my behaviour towards her siblings. LBR was told by Sister LKG there was nothing she could do. Sister LKG was a collecting sister. I never heard of Father Kinoulti. Sister LKG never spoke to me about what LBR had said and I never heard anything about it. LBR then claims that not long after that I ceased to be a nun and started work with an oil company. I wish that was true and I would have had some money now. I returned to Ireland where I had a temporary job for a month and I stayed with my brother. I then got my full time job which I did for 22 years.

LBA

96. I remember a boy LBA when he was at Nazareth House although I knew him then as LBA I think he had two brothers. I have been told that he says he was in Sister LFB side and I took over from her in 1973. In particular he says *"Sister LDX took over from Sister LFB and became the head of the section. I remember things being completely different when she came in. The culture completely changed. It was so much more relaxed. The cod liver oil and the malt stopped. There was none of the Brylcreem in your hair. Never once did she hurt me physically. She was a caring nun. I look back and realise she was a younger nun"*

coming through as the old guard was dying off. I wouldn't have a bad word to say about Sister [LDX]

97. I don't know anything about the cod liver oil, malt or Brylcreem. He also refers to a Sister [LFZ] and she left about the same time as Sister [LFB]. She was replaced by Sister [LRC]. He does not say anything bad about me, in fact quite the opposite. He described me as being a caring nun and never once did I hurt him. My response to that is that this is a good description. I didn't hurt him or any other child.

Specific allegations of abuse about other sisters and staff

98. I have been advised that allegations have been made about other sisters both at Nazareth House, Cardonald and Nazareth House, Aberdeen, during the times when I was there.

Sister [LTX] and Sister [FAF]

99. [LBR] in her statement says "[redacted] and I were taken up to the second floor. That's when Sister [LTX] started her abuse. She called us names and said we were 'Glasgow tinks'. Sister [FAF] stood playing with her rosary beads. She then wandered off and I heard water running in another room. There was a rocking-horse in the room we were in. We all went over to it and Sister [LTX] slapped us for touching it.

100. I know Sister [LTX]. I am not sure if she was there when I did my childcare course. She was definitely there when I went back in 1973. I never heard the expression used about being 'Glasgow tinks'. I didn't know there were rocking horses there. I was never in the girls side so I wouldn't know.

101. Sister [FAF] was an old nun who was in Aberdeen when I did my childcare course. I don't think she had any specific duties. She wasn't there when I went back to work and was in charge of the group from 1973.
102. [LBR] went on to say that when they arrived they were to be given a bath and Jeyes disinfectant was put in the water. Sister [LTX] then cut their clothes off with scissors. I don't know anything about that. When children came in I wasn't involved in making sure they were clean. I can't imagine they would cut their clothes off them but I don't know. I have never heard of any child being put in a bath of disinfectant. There has never been any mention to me of the disinfectant and it just couldn't happen.
103. [LBR] went on to say that Sister [LTX] then started hitting them with her knuckles and then with her belt. She especially hit them on the back of the legs with the belt. I never saw Sister [LTX] or any other nun hitting any child, and no child ever told me they had been hit by her. I only ever wore a belt when I went to church or the choir. We didn't normally wear our belts during the normal day.
104. [] was in Sister [LTX]'s group before she came to me. She occasionally wet the bed, maybe twice a week. There was no fuss made about it. She was never made to put the wet sheet over her head, or wash her own sheets. That never happened. [] was embarrassed by the fact she wet the bed.
105. [LBR] says that Sister [FAF] and Sister [LTX] used to start checking for wet sheets at about four in the morning. [LBR] asked Sister [LKG] if they could get pots to sit beside their beds but she had told [LBR] that this wasn't allowed. [LBR] went on to say that when Sister [LKG] was not there, Sister [LTX] and Sister [FAF] used to pull the girls out of their beds if it was wet, put the wet bed sheets over their heads and call them 'smelly'. The bed wetters would then have a cold bath. I don't know anything about that. I never saw or heard anything like that. No child ever complained to me about the treatment they got if they had wet the bed. When [] came to my group she never mentioned anything to me about what

Sister [LTX] and [FAF] did to her. I never made a fuss or discussed it with her when [] wet the bed. I made light of it and it ceased altogether.

106. In her statement, in relation to food, [LBR] claims " *We were fed the same food all the time. Every Monday it was the same thing, every Tuesday it was the same thing and so on. Wednesday was the night I dreaded. We were always served steak and kidney pie. I hated it with a passion. I would vomit it up and I was made to eat it. Sister [LTX] used to stand at the front of the dining hall. When our food arrived she would crack raw eggs into the mashed potatoes and mix it in.*"

107. I never heard anything like that. There was a perfectly good cook in the kitchen.

108. I have been told that [LBR] has given information about an incident with Sister [LTX] where [LBR] front teeth got knocked out. The Mother Superior was involved and [FAJ] and her husband witnessed it. I never heard anything about that incident and it was never discussed.

[FAJ] Father [LSO] [] and []

109. I remember [FAJ] She worked in one of the girls groups. I didn't have a lot of communication with her. I used to see her coming and going from Nazareth House. She lived []. I don't really know these other names and didn't work with them.

Sister [LFB]

110. I have been told that a [LCF] has given a statement claiming that he was abused by Sister [LFB] at Nazareth House, Aberdeen. I took over from Sister [LFB] and I never worked with her. She left before I got there. None of the children ever mentioned anything to me about Sister [LFB] or a change of treatment by me. No one said anything to me about her being aggressive.

Sister [FAF]

111. I have been told that an AAK who would have used the surname family name when she was in care, has given a statement to the Inquiry. She refers to children being humiliated if they wet the bed. Sister FAF she claimed, was involved in this behaviour.
112. I never heard anything about this. AAK also talks about Sister FAF forcing children to eat food, re-serving uneaten meals and being forced to eat food and vomit. AAK also says she was made to put cloths on her feet to polish the floor. I don't know anything about either of these things involving the food or the polishing. Neither of these things happened where I was or in my group.
113. AAK talks about being locked in a cupboard under the stairs. I don't know anything about that. AAK talks about when a nun died being made to kiss the nun. I was never there when a nun died and it seems beyond belief that this would happen. AAK also talks about Sister FAF pulling a girl aside and telling her she was nothing but an orphan and that she didn't appreciate everything that had been done for her. She claims children were repeatedly told this. I never heard anything like that.

Reporting of abuse

114. In all my time at Nazareth House in Aberdeen I never saw anything that could be considered to be abuse. I was never approached by a child who told me they had been abused. I never heard anything else to indicate to me that any abuse had or was taking place. If I had been told, heard or suspected anything had happened I would have looked into it and done something about it. I am not sure whether I would have recorded anything anywhere.

Social work involvement

115. I have been asked if I am aware of a social worker by the name of Chris Hargreaves from my time at Nazareth House, Aberdeen. This name does not mean anything to me. I don't know what [REDACTED] social worker was called. It was a female social worker who dropped them off but I don't know her name or if she was their social worker.
116. I was never made aware that Chris Daly [REDACTED] had ever complained about me being aggressive [REDACTED]. I am not aware that there was a document from 1977 held at Drumchapel social work team stating there continued to be complaints from [REDACTED] about my aggression.

Lessons to be learned

117. From my childcare training and my experience in dealing with children I think it would have been helpful and beneficial if I had been passed relevant information when the social work department brought children to us and left them in our care.
118. I know that information was not passed to me when I first started at Nazareth House in Aberdeen and I think it should have been. It wasn't done at the time I was there but I think it is done now. Information was recorded in the school in Dublin where I went after I left Nazareth House. I think it worked much better when information was recorded.
119. I think there should be more intervention by the social work department and more contact with the parents which would be better for the children. I don't believe that in Aberdeen we effectively looked at the emotional needs of the children. What would probably be a good idea would be if each child had a designated person that the child can go and talk to if they had any problems.
120. Also at the school in Dublin we had multi-disciplinary meetings. This was much better because it meant we considered every aspect of the child. We looked at the social, emotional and educational needs of the child and it was all recorded. I know

now that the recording of information in Aberdeen wasn't as good as it should have been.

Other information

121. I would regularly praise the children for anything worthwhile they did. I would always ask them how they got on at school and if they behaved. I would always say 'well done' to them. I didn't cuddle any of the children. There was no reason why, it just didn't happen.
122. I don't suppose the children's emotional needs were met very well. The children could come and talk to me about anything. I talked a lot to the children and we talked about what they had been doing that day. If they wanted to, they could talk to the Mother Superior. She was the most open, progressive woman, and one of the best at Nazareth House. The children didn't have a designated person within or outside the establishment that they could speak to about any concerns or worries. The children used to talk amongst themselves.
123. I don't know and cannot think of any reason why either Christopher Daly or LBR LBR would have said any of these things about me. I never even had a conversation with LBR. She was never in my group. Christopher and I were good friends. We would often sit and chat. I never had any disagreements and I never abused him.
124. I didn't go to Nazareth House to hurt or harm any child. My main aim was to make the best life I could for the children. The biggest drawback in Aberdeen was that there was no contact with parents. To make a success of any child you need to be in touch and have the support of the parents. The children need to know that their parents care about them. When I was in London the advantage was that all the children had parents who came in and were involved with their children in the evenings and at weekends.

125. It was difficult for the children in Aberdeen because the children didn't know what was going to happen to them or where they were going to end up. [REDACTED] lovely, quiet well behaved children. Chris Daly was always a quiet timid boy. He would only really play football if he was pressured in to it if they were short of a player. He didn't like the rough and tumble of it.
126. I went to [REDACTED] wedding which was in Nazareth House. This was many years after I had left. I had a photograph taken with the [REDACTED] which I have provided to the Inquiry. In the photograph are [REDACTED]
127. Two years ago on New Year's Eve in 2015 I met with [REDACTED] in Dublin. We had arranged to meet and we had tea together. We talked about Nazareth House, the children who were there, and other things but we never talked about the court case against Sisters of Nazareth and myself. I thought I was good friends with the [REDACTED] and I thought they cared about me because I cared about them. I talked to [REDACTED] about everything but because he never mentioned the court case, neither did I. We got on as friends and we still have each other's phone numbers.
128. In relation to the other allegations that have been made against the other Sisters and staff when I was there, I cannot say if this is true or not. If it is true then it is absolutely dreadful. I cannot believe that it could happen, and I never heard anything like that being done. If the things that have been said by these people who have given statements are true then there is no doubt that it would be considered to be abuse.
129. I cannot offer any explanation why so many adults, who were children in care at the time, have come forward claiming they were abused when they were in Nazareth House. I never saw anything that could be called abuse in the four years I was at Nazareth House, Aberdeen.

130. I never abused, punched, kicked or hit any child with my hands or anything. I never heard about any abuse that was going on when I was in Nazareth House, Aberdeen. There were two things which I consider important for children in care, education and sport. If children are well educated they will get on in life. If they play sport they will be able to join clubs or groups and get on that way. I always did what I could for the children in my care
131. 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.

LDX

Signed.....

Dated.....

28. 05. 2018