

## APPENDIX – Glasgow Nazareth House (Cardonald)

**Part A – Background**1. Characteristics1.1 History of the Organisation and Establishment

## Past

- i. When, how and why was the organisation founded?

In 1851 Sr. Basile Marie (Victoire Larmenier), Little Sister of the Poor, came to London to establish a Foundation for the care of the elderly poor. This was at the request of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, strongly supported by Cardinal Wiseman, first Archbishop of Westminster. By 1857, the Sisters had built the first Nazareth House in Hammersmith, and by this time they were also caring for poor and infirm children. In 1861, the Hammersmith community was permitted by the Holy See to separate from the Little Sisters of the Poor, and in 1864 they were recognised by Rome as a diocesan religious community under the title Sisters of Nazareth.

- ii. What part did the provision in Scotland of residential care (including foster care) for children play in the organisation's purpose, operation and activities?

Each Foundation or House was established at the request of the local Bishop (Ordinary). Bishops invited the Sisters into their dioceses to care for these children. This was the foundation of our mission for children. The first such request following the Hammersmith Foundation came from a Bishop in Scotland. Right Reverend Dr James Kyle, the Bishop of North District of Scotland, asked the Mother General to found a house in Aberdeen to look after the poor. Thus, in 1862 The Sisters opened a house that provided care for children and care for the elderly. Thereafter The Sisters opened houses to provide care for children and the elderly in Kilmarnock, Glasgow and Edinburgh at the request of the local Bishops.

- iii. When and how did the organisation become involved in the provision of residential care (including foster care) for children in Scotland?

See answer 1.1 ii.

- iv. Why did the organisation consider that it had the competence to be responsible for, and manage the care of, children in establishments?

The Congregation has cared for children since its foundation in 1851 by our Foundress, Victoire Larmenier. The children were poor destitute children living on the streets of London with no one to care for them. Sisters could only come into a diocese if they were invited to do so by the local Bishop. The plight of children was very desperate in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with many children living on the streets and in dire poverty. Bishops invited the Sisters into their dioceses to care for these children. This was the foundation of our mission for children.

- v. How many establishments did the organisation run, where were they located, over what period were they in operation, and what were their names?

There were four Houses in Scotland:

- Aberdeen Nazareth House: founded 18/02/1862: Children in residential care until 03/03/1983
- Kilmarnock Nazareth House: founded 04/02/1891: Children in residential care until April 1981
- Glasgow (also known as Cardonald) Nazareth House: founded 10/07/1902: Children in residential care until January 1985
- Edinburgh (also known as Lasswade and Bonnyrigg) Nazareth House: founded 28/07/1931: Children in residential care until 31/05/1984

vi. When, how and why was each of these establishments founded?

Glasgow: This house was opened on 10/07/1902 at the request of Right Reverend Charles Petre Eyre, Archbishop of Glasgow, for the reception of "the poor orphan and afflicted."

vii. In the case of any establishment which is no longer in operation, when and why did it cease operating?

The Children's Home in Glasgow closed in January 1985 once the last child had left. The Home closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the House. There were fewer referrals over time due to changes in government legislation with regards to the residential care of children. The legislation meant that foster care became the preferred option for children. There were also fewer sisters to run the homes. Fewer younger women joined the Congregation and this led to a review of the numbers of sisters in the community. As a result the Congregation consolidated their resources and closed a number of houses in the UK Region.

Glasgow Nazareth House, which has continued to accommodate the elderly residents and the Sisters since January 1985, remains open.

viii. If the organisation itself is no longer involved in the provision of residential care for children in Scotland, when and why did it cease to be so involved?

The Congregation has not provided residential care for children in Scotland since the last child left Glasgow Nazareth House in January 1985. All the children's homes run by the Congregation in the United Kingdom were closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the homes in consequence to new legislation and fewer Sisters being able to assist.

ix. If the organisation was founded as a religious order by members of a particular faith or church, what was the precise relationship between the order and the religious hierarchy within that faith or church?

Victoire Larmenier was invited to perform her charitable work in London (1<sup>st</sup> foundation) by the then Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Wiseman, in 1851. The Congregation is a Pontifical Congregation directly under Rome. The Congregation is autonomous however it is answerable to the Pope. If changes are made to its constitution then those need to be approved by Rome. Local Bishops had no authority over the Congregation. Thus although Sisters worked within a particular diocese by invitation of the area Bishop, the Bishop had no direct power or jurisdiction over either the ministry of the

Sisters or the Sisters themselves. The Bishop would examine the Sisters prior to them making their Final Vows. Bishops also visited the houses regularly throughout the 1950s and 1960s. However, such visits would not be in any official capacity relating to the elderly, children or staff, but rather in a pastoral, caring role. He was free to walk around the House visiting the elderly, children and Sisters.

- x. Within the faith or church to which the religious order belonged, what degree of autonomy was enjoyed by the order in relation to the provision of residential care for children in Scotland?

See answer 1.1. ix. The Sisters had full autonomy within each House in relation to the provision of residential care for children.

- xi. In the case of establishments that were run by members of a religious order, what degree of autonomy within the order itself was enjoyed by such members?

See answer 1.1. ix. Each House had a community of Sisters, one of whom was the Superior of the House. The Sisters were accountable and responsible to the Local Superior both in their religious life and their ministry.

#### Present

- xii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

N/A. The Congregation no longer provides child care.

On 3 September 1965 The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth was registered with the charity commission in England and Wales (registration 228906). On 18 May 2009 it was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity's Regulator (registration SC040507).

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth Charitable Trust now works in partnership with the Nazareth Care Charitable Trust. The Congregation now only undertakes a purely governance role. Nazareth Care Charitable Trust provides care to the elderly in Scotland at two homes.

- xiii. If so, please give details.

See 1.1xii above.

## 1.2 Funding of Establishment

#### Past

- i. How were the establishment's operations and activities, so far as relating to the provision of residential care for children, funded?

Funding included:

- door-to-door collecting of money and food.

- legacies
- gifts from benefactors
- raising money through bazaars, sales of work and fetes

Also, maintenance payments were received from Catholic Children's Societies, Public Assistance Boards and Local Authorities. Local Authority maintenance payments were the main source of funding for the children once they began referring children from their areas into the care of the Sisters.

- ii. Was the funding adequate to properly care for the children?

In the early years Nazareth House was a private, charitable institution which relied heavily on donations, legacies and the good will of the local people. Sisters had little or no government funding for caring for the children, and for this reason some Sisters were appointed to go out questing (collecting). Thus initially the Sisters were reliant on what they ingathered from beneficiaries. Through time the fees from local authorities gradually improved. No matter the source of the funding the children were always properly fed and clothed and in good health.

- iii. If not, why not?

See 1.3ii above.

- iv. What state support did it receive?

Local Authority fees differed from area to area, and were therefore different for different children depending upon which Local Authority referred them to the Sisters.

#### Present

- v. If the establishment continues to provide residential care for children, how is that funded?

N/A The Children's Home in Nazareth House closed in 1985.

- vi. What state support does it receive?

N/A

### 1.3 Legal Status

#### (a) Organisation

##### Past

- i. What was the legal status of the organisation since it was founded?

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth is a private voluntary organisation. It was founded in 1851 by Victoire Larmenier who was a Paris novitiate of the Little Sisters of the Poor. She came to England to make a foundation in London caring for the elderly. In 1857 she built the first Nazareth House in Hammersmith, London. By this time The Sisters were

caring for poor children as well as the elderly.

In 1861 The Sisters separated from the Little Sisters of the Poor as an independent pious society of laywomen.

In 1864 they were recognised as a diocesan religious community 'The Sisters of Nazareth'. Around this time further Nazareth houses were founded in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

In 1899 the constitutions of the Sisters of Nazareth were approved meaning that it was recognised as an international religious congregation.

On 3 September 1965 The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth was registered with the charity commission in England and Wales (registration 228906). On 18 May 2009 it was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity's Regulator (registration SC040507).

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth Charitable Trust now works in partnership with the Nazareth Care Charitable Trust. The Congregation now only undertakes a purely governance role. Nazareth Care Charitable Trust provides care to the elderly in Scotland at two homes.

The Nazareth Care Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee and was registered under the name of Victoire Larmenier Foundation with Companies house on 26 July 2005 with the company registration number 05518564. On 6 April 2006 it was registered as a charity with the charity commission in England and Wales (registration 1113666). On 10 June 2011 it was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity's Regulator (registration SC042374).

- ii. Were there any changes in the legal status of the organisation since it was founded?

See 1.3 See (a)i.

- iii. What, if any, material changes were there to the legal status of the organisation?

See 1.3 See (a)i.

- iv. What was the legal basis which authorised or enabled the organisation to become responsible for the provision of residential care (including foster care) for children in Scotland?

See appendix A.

The Children & Young Person's (Scotland) Act 1932 defined a voluntary home as a private establishment supported by voluntary contributions where children and young persons could reside away from their families. The Act required homes to register and to renew their registration annually. The establishments run by The Sisters would fall within this definition.

The Children & Young Person's (Scotland) Act 1937 defined a voluntary home as any home or other institution for the boarding, care and

maintenance of poor children or young persons, being a home or other institution supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions. The establishments run by The Sisters would fall within this definition. The Act also provided for children to be placed into care under a court order.

The Children Act 1948 made it a duty for local authorities to provide homes to accommodate the children in their care. If the authority was unable to provide this accommodation itself then it could discharge its obligation by arrangement with another local authority, boarding out or placing the child in a voluntary home. If the home was not registered with the Secretary of State the Act gave the local authority the right to remove the children from a voluntary home. The establishments run by The Sisters fell within this definition of a voluntary home.

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 defined "residential establishments" as "an establishment managed by local authority, voluntary organisation or any other person which provides residential accommodation for the purposes of the Act". Local authorities had to provide and maintain these residential (and other) establishments or arrange for them to be so maintained. Establishments not run by the local authority had to apply to be registered prior to admitting residents. The Act also provided for existing establishments to be registered. The establishments run by The Sisters would fall within the definition of residential establishment.

- v. Did that legal basis require the organisation to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in its care? If so, please give details.

See appendix A for details.

There were a number of requirements relating to:

- Registration
- Inspections
- Visits
- Management
- Record keeping
- Medical care
- Standards of sleeping accommodation
- Discipline

- vi. Did the organisation have a legal duty of care to each child in its care?

See Appendix A.

The Children & Young Person's (Scotland) Act 1937 emphasises the duty of parents and others caring for children in respect of their physical welfare. This would apply to those looking after children in voluntary homes.

Under the Children Act 1975 Act a local authority could assume parental rights itself. It could also permit voluntary organisations that were incorporated bodies or trusts to assume these rights. However this was only if it was in the child's best interests.

Under the Social Work (Residential Establishments – Childcare) (Scotland) Regulations 1987 managers of these establishments were deemed to have a duty to provide for the care, development and control of each child resident there in such a way as would be in the child's best interests.

These regulations were replaced by The Residential Establishments – Child Care (Scotland) Regulations 1996 which imposed a similar duty on managers to ensure that a child's welfare was safeguarded and promoted in accordance with the child's best interests.

Furthermore the organisation had a common law duty to take reasonable care.

#### Present

- vii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

N/A. The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above

- viii. If so, please give details.

See 1.3(a)vii above.

- ix. If the organisation is a Scottish local authority, please provide details of the predecessor authorities for the local authority area for which the authority is now responsible, and the time periods during which these authorities were the responsible authority for the area, or any part thereof.

N/A

#### (b) Establishment

##### Past

- i. Did the establishment have a special legal, statutory or other status?

See 1.3(a)iv above. Glasgow Nazareth House was founded in 1902. It was a private voluntary home for children, and thereafter a residential home for children.

- ii. If not, how was the establishment described?

N/A

- iii. What was the legal basis which authorised, or enabled, the establishment to become responsible for managing the care of children in a residential setting?

See 1.3(a)iv above.

- iv. Did that legal basis require the establishment, or its management, to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in its care? If so, please give details.

See 1.3(a)v above.

- v. Did the establishment have a legal duty of care to each child in its care?

See 1.3(a)vi above.

#### Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

N/A The Children's Home in Nazareth House closed in 1985.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A

### 1.4 Legal Responsibility

#### (a) Organisation

##### Past

- i. Did the organisation have any legal responsibility for the children in its care?

Yes.

- ii. If so, what was the nature and extent of that legal responsibility?

See Appendix A and 1.3(a)vi above.

- iii. Did any other person or organisation have any legal responsibility for the children while they were in the organisation's care?

Yes.

- iv. If so, what was the nature and extent of that responsibility?

See Appendix A.

The Children (Boarding-out etc.)(Scotland) Rules & Regulations 1947 provided that if a local authority was responsible for a child and chose not to place it with a foster parent then the local authority could place the child in an institution inspected or approved, by the Secretary of State. The local authority had wide powers to make sure that the institution they chose suited the child's best interest. They could visit the institution and satisfy themselves about the arrangements for the child's welfare. The authority had a duty to arrange visits to the children at least once a year with the visiting officer reporting to a local authority on a six-monthly basis regarding the child's health, wellbeing and behaviour, the progress of the child's education and any other matters after visiting the establishment.

Under The Children Act 1948 the local authority's powers to promote children's welfare were confined to caring for the children they received into



care under the 1948 Act and those committed to their care by a court order under the 1937 Act. Where a local authority had taken a child into care then there was a general duty on the authority to use their powers to further the child's best interests. They could not place children in homes unless it afforded the child a right to receive a religious upbringing appropriate to their background. Furthermore, where a child was placed into a voluntary home the local authority and the Secretary of State had the powers to remove children from these homes. They had a duty to inspect homes. They had a duty to ensure that children received visits.

The Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959 required that the local authority (and others running such homes) to make sure that it was run in ways that secured the wellbeing of the children in its care.

Under The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 the local authority could assume parental rights if the children's parents were dead, the child had no guardian or the parent/guardian could not care for the child. Local authorities had to provide and maintain residential (and other) establishments or arrange for them to be so maintained. The local authority could remove a child at any time. Each local authority was required to set up a social work committee and had to perform their functions under the general guidance of the Secretary of State.

The Children Act 1975 provided that any decision by a local authority about a child in its care had to take account of the need to safeguard and promote the child's welfare throughout their childhood.

The Social Work (Residential Establishments – Childcare) (Scotland) Regulations 1987 required the local authority to visit the establishment annually to make sure that it was maintaining the standards it had when first registered. If the establishments were managed by the local authority then the local authority was deemed to have a duty to provide for the care, development and control of each child resident there in such a way as would be in the child's best interests. Managers had to provide a "statement of functions and objectives". This statement included a lot of detail such as: arrangements for meeting the needs/development potential of children, education, safeguarding the children, disciplinary arrangements, arrangements for keeping records, policies for recruiting staff and healthcare arrangements, amongst other things.. Managers had to monitor how these were being implemented by receiving reports on a six monthly basis and visiting the establishments twice a year. They also had the power to make arrangements for caring for/controlling children. However, they could not authorise corporal punishment. Managers had duties to ensure that the children were getting an adequate and effective education as well as religious education appropriate to their religion. They had responsibilities to ensure the children's health.

The Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 imposed a duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. They had to undertake reviews of those in their care at regular intervals. They had to take the child's views into account. They had to promote contact with those who had parental responsibilities. They had to prepare and publish plans. Again the local authority had to provide accommodation for children where nobody had parental responsibilities, they were lost or abandoned or where those with

responsibilities could not provide suitable accommodation and care. This included putting the children into residential care. In respect of inspections the Act permitted anyone authorised by a local authority to go to a registered establishment at all reasonable times. They could undertake an inspection into the state and management of the premises and the condition and treatment of person in it. The local authority had to visit establishments at least once a year to ensure that they were maintaining their standards.

The Residential Establishments – Child Care (Scotland) Regulations 1996 required local authorities to visit registered establishments annually (at least) and ensure compliance with the statement of functions and objectives and that the establishments were maintaining residents' safety and welfare.

The Arrangements to Look After Children (Scotland) (Regulations) 1996 required local authorities to prepare a care plan before taking a child into care and they also required the authority to give written notice of any placement to various bodies. Local authorities had to undertake frequent reviews of the care plans and record their findings. They also had to keep extensive records including: the care plan, any report on the child's welfare and review documents. In terms of monitoring care the local authorities had to ensure that prior to being placed the children were examined by a doctor and thereafter received health care throughout their placement. They had to arrange three monthly visits and retain reports of those visits. They could end the placement if it was no longer in the child's best interests

- v. If the organisation had no legal responsibility for children in its care, where or with whom did legal responsibility lie?

N/A. The Sisters did have a legal responsibility. See 1.3(a)vi above

#### Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A

#### (b) Establishment

##### Past

- i. Did the establishment, or those in charge of the establishment, have any separate legal responsibility (separate from the organisation) for children in its care?

No.

- ii. If so, what was the nature of that responsibility?

N/A

## Present

- iii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Children's Home in Nazareth House closed in 1985.

- iv. If so, please give details.

N/A

1.5 Ethos

## (a) Organisation

## Past

- i. What did the organisation see as its function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the residential care service it provided for children?

The Constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth define who the Sisters are as a Congregation and guides their way of life. The Constitutions set out the mission of The Sisters. The Constitutions set out their mission as follows:

1923 edition: "the reception and education of foundlings or abandoned children, of those who are deformed or who suffer from incurable diseases, provided these diseases be not mental, epileptic or contagious"

1962 edition: "the reception of orphan or abandoned children, of those who are deformed or who suffer from incurable diseases, provided these diseases be not mental, epileptic or contagious" "The Sisters may also teach in parish school, conduct day nurseries and establish maternity homes, chiefly for unmarried mothers, when requested to do so by the Ordinary."

1979 edition: "the care of needy and deprived children, whom the Sisters receive into houses properly adapted to that purpose" also "teaching in parish primary school, conducting day nurseries", care of maternity homes"

1984 edition: "the care of deprived children, whom the Sisters receive into houses properly adapted to that purpose" also "day nurseries, teaching in schools, Catechetics, Maternity Homes"

- ii. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, what vows were taken by members of the order and at which point in their training?

After 6 to 12 months as a postulant a young woman is Received into the Congregation and is a Novice for 1 to 2 years, after which she takes three vows of chastity, poverty and obedience for one year. These vows are renewed annually for three years, and then for a further two years before she takes her Final Vows after 5 years.

- iii. What did the organisation see as the establishment's function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the service that the establishment provided to children accommodated there?

The function, ethos and mission of each Nazareth House was to provide a service to children in the following ways:

- To foster Christian values and morals
- To provide a loving, caring and safe environment
- To provide or enable an appropriate education and training for life
- To encourage development of children via lots of different activities, holidays etc

- iv. Were there changes over time in terms of what the organisation saw as its function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the residential care service it provided for children?

The ethos remained the same throughout. In essence the Congregation saw its function, in terms of its apostolate to children, as the care of needy children. The way in which this care was provided changed and developed in line with changes in society and government legislation regarding child care.

- v. If so, what were the changes and when and why did they come into effect?

See 1.5(a)iv above.

- vi. Were there changes over time in terms of what the organisation saw as the establishment's function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the service that the establishment provided to children accommodated there?

The Congregation saw the function of the Sisters' work with children at Glasgow Nazareth House as providing the best possible care for the children living at the House. This did not change. The way in which care was provided changed over time in line with changes in society and in government legislation regarding the residential care of children.

- vii. If so, what were the changes and when and why did they come into effect?

The ethos of the Congregation remained the same throughout however there were practical changes. In 1957 family groups, including boys, were introduced at Glasgow. In 1970s changes in professional guidelines and legislation led to the promotion of fostering as a preferable alternative to residential care, so children were admitted for shorter periods of time to the House.

#### Present

- viii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- ix. If so, please give details.

N/A

## (b) Establishment

## Past

- i. What services were provided at the establishment, in terms of care for children?

Children were provided with a clean, safe, loving and caring home, giving them stability in their lives. The Sisters tried within their means to make Nazareth House a home from home for the children. Although they could never make up for a child's parents they tried to care for the children in a "motherly" manner. They provided:

- A loving, caring environment
- Food
- Education and activities
- Training
- Religion and sacraments
- Clothing
- Accommodation

- ii. Did the establishment care for children of both sexes?

In this house the Sisters cared for girls and babies of both sexes (0-5 years) between 1902 and the late 1950s. Girls, boys and babies of both sexes were cared for from the late 1950s until 1985.

- iii. If the establishment cared for children of one sex only, what was the thinking behind that policy?

It was considered at this time that it was more appropriate to care for and educate large groups of children of different sexes separately.

- iv. Were any special child care, or child protection measures, taken in the light of that policy? If so, please provide details.

Until the introduction of family groups in the late 1950s, girls only were cared for at this house.

- v. What was the daily routine for boys/girls cared for at the establishment?

The Sisters sought to provide a daily routine which mirrored that in ordinary family life, including:

- Prayers
- Meals
- School & homework
- Walks and outdoor activities
- Learning crafts and skills for life, eg. sewing
- Recreation

There was an increase in extra-curricular activities over the years, which included going out to school, holidays, outings, clubs etc.

- vi. What were the on-site activities for children cared for at the establishment?

The on-site activities for the children included

- School (until 1951)
- Church (religious observances, festivals, retreats)
- Games, dancing, singing and playing instruments, concerts, and use of the playgrounds
- Gym instruction, arts & crafts sessions & music lessons
- Parties, film shows and visits

- vii. What were the off-site activities for them?

The off-site activities for the children included:

- Day trips
- Holidays (including residential camps)
- School
- Trips to the theatre and cinema and to the circus and pantomimes
- Scouts, Cubs and Guides
- Many different sports including swimming
- Clubs

- viii. Did children work manually, either at the establishment, or externally (e.g. farming work or other labour), or both?

There are no specific records held regarding this, however there is reference to the girls working in the nursery and kitchen in Glasgow Nazareth House. This would have been the older girls. The Sisters tried within their means to mirror family life. That included encouraging children to undertake chores when they were of suitable age to do so, as they would in a family home. Those chores included assisting in the kitchen and with the laundry. Furthermore, it is understood that those of school leaving age who could not find employment may have been employed within the houses and paid wages.

- ix. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, were any prospective members of the order who were in training permitted to care for children?

Novices were not involved in the ministry of the Congregation until after they made their first vows.

#### Present

- x. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Children's Home in Nazareth House closed in 1985.

- xi. If so, please give details.

N/A

1.6 Numbers

## (a) Organisation

## Past

- i. How many children did the organisation accommodate at a time and in how many establishments?

There were four establishments in Scotland:  
Aberdeen 1862-1983, Kilmarnock 1891-1981, Glasgow 1902-1985,  
Edinburgh 1931-1984

Number of children accommodated in Nazareth Houses in Scotland:  
(numbers of children in residence at one point in time each year)

1929	567
1930	632
1931	674
1932	688
1933	681
1934	688
1935	655
1936	662
1937	686
1938	682
[1939-1940 no extant statistics]	
1941	681
1942	720
1943	749
1944	739
1945	641
1946	674
1947	670
1948	676
1949	660
[1950 no extant statistics]	
1951	630
1952	570
1953	521
1954	473
1955	432
1956	406
1957	397
1958	384
1959	315
1960	276
1961	352
1962	328
1963	333
1964	344
1965	302
1966	349
1967	345

1968	347
1969	340
1970	345
1971	333
1972	318
1973	296
1974	305
1975	307
1976	312
1977	287
1978	249
1979	213
1980	190
1981	68
1982/1983	36
1984	7
1985	0

- ii. Please provide details of any material changes in numbers of children, or numbers of establishments, and the reasons for those changes?

Numbers of children in Nazareth Houses in Scotland were substantially reduced by the end of 1950s due to the creation of family groups within the Houses. More space was required within each House and thus overall numbers were reduced. Also, numbers of children were steadily decreasing in the 1970s and 1980s due to the changes in legislation and guidance regarding the care of children, which resulted in fewer referrals.

- iii. How many children in total were accommodated by the organisation?

14,766 children were accommodated in Scotland by the Congregation: (Aberdeen 6120, Kilmarnock 2055, Glasgow 3895, Edinburgh 2696)

- iv. What numbers (if any) were placed in foster care by the organisation?

The Congregation did not place any children into foster care. The social work services may have placed children at Nazareth House into foster care however The Congregation have no records relating to this.

- v. In general terms, was the main service provided by the organisation the provision of residential care for children in establishments, or was it the provision of foster care?

Provision of residential care.

#### Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1xii above.

- vii. If so, please give details.



N/A
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## (b) Establishment

## Past

- i. How many children did the establishment accommodate at a time?

1930s & 1940's: 174-235 children were accommodated at a time (depending on the number of referrals)
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- 1950's: 176-83 children (decreasing steadily over the course of the decade)
- 1960's: 74-103 children
- 1970's: 94-72 children
- 1984: 51 children

- ii. Did this change, and if so, what were the reasons?

There was a gradual decrease in the number of children accommodated. In the 1950s family groups were introduced and fostering increased. Changes were made in line with changes in government legislation and current thinking regarding child residential care.
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- iii. How many children in total were cared for at the establishment?

3895 children were accommodated between 1902 and 1985.
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- iv. What accommodation was provided for the children?

From 1930 to 1957 the girls slept in dormitories and had their own living accommodation (separate from the elderly residents and the Sisters' convent.) From 1957 smaller bedrooms within family groups were introduced for boys and girls separately.
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- v. How many children occupied a bedroom/dormitory/house?

There are no records held providing this information.
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## Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Children's Home in Nazareth House closed in 1985.
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- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A
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## 1.7 Children's Background/Experience

### Past

- i. Did the children admitted to the establishment generally have a shared background and/or shared experiences?

The children admitted to Glasgow Nazareth House were usually deprived, and often fell under one of the following categories:

- 1 or both parents passed away, or not living at home
- Children of unmarried mothers; the children given for adoption or fostering and thus placed into care
- Ill-health of one of the parents
- Neglect
- Lack of suitable accommodation
- Poverty

Until c.1960, the number of children recorded as baptised indicates that until this time the children were mainly Roman Catholics. At Glasgow Nazareth House it was recorded that in 1980 "the majority of the 70 children are Catholic".

- ii. Were children admitted into the care of the organisation as a whole, or were they admitted into the care of a particular establishment?

Children were admitted into a particular house but could be moved between houses; for example, prior to the introduction of family groups, children, leaving a nursery in a single-sex house were moved if necessary into a house which accommodated boys or girls.

- iii. If children were admitted into the care of the organisation, did the organisation decide which establishment they would be admitted into?

Occasionally, in earlier years, children were given into care of the Congregation and went into the care of whichever house had room for them. However, in general children were admitted by the particular House rather than the Congregation. Children were usually placed near to their family if this was possible.

- iv. Who placed children with the organisation?

Until the 1950s, children were placed by public assistance boards, parish priests, self-referrals (family) and the Edinburgh Catholic Enquiry Office. In later years the majority of referrals were by local authorities.

- v. From 15 April 1971 (the date on which the Children's Hearing system was introduced), did the organisation/establishment receive children mainly from the Children's Hearing system?

The Congregation were not involved with the Children's Hearing system but through that children were placed with the Congregation.

- vi. If not, how generally did children come to be admitted into the care of the organisation?  
 N/A. See 1.7 iv above.
- vii. Was there a gender or other admission policy or practice operated by the organisation or any establishment run by it?  
 Between 1930 and the late 1950s there were some houses that practiced a policy of housing either boys or girls. Most of these also accommodated babies of both sexes. Some houses had units specifically for mothers and babies.  
  
 Kilmarnock and Glasgow Nazareth Houses accommodated girls only until 1960s along with babies of both sexes.  
  
 By the 1960s, with the introduction of family groups, both sexes were accommodated in all of the Congregation's children's homes.
- viii. What was the policy/procedure and practice regarding admission of siblings?  
 Until the late 1950s, siblings of different sexes were sent either to different houses, or lived in different wings within the same house. From the late 1950s sibling children were in different groups but within the same house.
- ix. How long did children typically remain in the care of the organisation?  
 The length of time children spent in a Nazareth House varied from their whole childhood to a few days depending on their circumstances. The length of stay in general was much decreased by the 1970's.
- x. Were children moved between different establishments run by the organisation?  
 Children were admitted into a particular house but could be moved between houses; for example, prior to the introduction of family groups, children, leaving a nursery in a single-sex house were moved if necessary into a house which accommodated boys or girls.
- xi. If so, in what circumstances?  
 See 1.7x above.
- xii. Generally did children typically stay in one, or more than one, establishment?  
 Generally, children stayed within one house.
- xiii. What provision was made for contact between siblings while siblings were at the establishment?  
 From the late 1950s onwards, if it was at all possible, siblings were kept together within the Children's section of the House. If they could not be kept together they would be allowed to visit each other in their different groups, meet when they were at School play together outside and see each other or when they went home for family visits.

- xiv. What provision was made for contact between children and their parents and wider family while children were at the establishment?

If children had visitors, including family members, they would be allowed to see them in a private room, privately. Some children went home for family visits.

- xv. What provision was made for information sharing/updates about the children to their parents?

In the early days information would have shared and updated about the children to their parents during visits. In later time this was done through Social Workers and Reviews, if the parents wished to attend these.

- xvi. What provision was made for information sharing/updates about parents to their children?

Children were able to have visits from their relatives where this was appropriate, and to go home for visits. Also in later years children were encouraged to create individual "life-story" books written with Social Workers. These included photographs.

- xvii. What provision was made for the celebration of children's birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions?

Children celebrated birthdays, Christmas and other occasions with parties, festivities, gifts, special foods etc. There were always Easter eggs for all the children at Easter.

- xviii. What was the process for review of children's continued residence at the establishment, in terms of whether they continued to require to be there?

In the earlier days children would have stayed in the Home until they were of School leaving age, and then were found employment, sometimes with living-in accommodation, unless they had a family to return to. In later times there were regular reviews held for each child with Social Workers.

- xix. When children left the care of the establishment, what was the process for discharge?

The children were prepared for their discharge, and supported throughout the process. In some cases children returned to their families when they reached school-leaving age. For other children the Sisters, staff, teachers and social workers worked to find suitable employment and accommodation for them. Catholic Societies such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of St. Columba and the Children's Rescue Society helped to find suitable accommodation. If no accommodation could be found, or a child was not ready to live outside he/she would stay at Nazareth House whilst going out to work or study until they were ready to look after themselves. Sometimes children would be found "living in" employment or placed in apprenticeships. In at least one Nazareth House there was a Sister designated as the "After-Care Sister", who was responsible for keeping in touch with girls and boys who were about to leave or had left Nazareth House. Girls were encouraged to undertake vocational courses at college

including commercial courses, typing, nursing and nursery nursing, sometimes starting these courses before they left care.

- xx. What support was offered to children when they left the care of the establishment?

Prior to the 1950s girls were often placed with families to work in the kitchen or provide child care. Those placements tended to include accommodation. The Sisters tried to place boys in apprenticeships. From the 1950s The Sisters encouraged the children to undertake courses. Furthermore, after leaving school many children returned to their families.

The Sisters kept in touch with 'old girls and boys' who left their care. They kept 'disposal books' where they would record notes of contact with former residents and how they were getting on. They retained these for many years after the children had left. The Sisters were interested in and cared about their former residents. If needed the Sisters provided help with accommodation, employment, training/further education to former residents. Home Office Inspectors were particularly interested in after-care, and were pleased to find that girls were encouraged to undertake nursery nursing courses. It was recorded that visitors to Glasgow Nazareth House visited the "Aftercare Department". If former Nazareth House children were in any difficulty, or their employment situation broke down, they were welcomed back and the Sisters would try to help their situation. Return visits were encouraged and holidays taken at Nazareth Houses. Annual reunions were held at the House and were well-attended.

- xxi. What information was sought by the organisation and/or establishment about what children leaving its care planned to go on to do?

Sisters would encourage and assist children to plan their future and often helped them gain employment when possible. Some children would have been reunited with their families after school leaving age.

- xxii. Was such information retained and updated?

In each House the Sisters kept report books where they recorded information about former children whenever they had contact with them. Some of these record books have survived, and are retained. e.g. For Glasgow Nazareth House there are Girls' Disposal Books from 1917 until 1955, which include addresses and remarks about the former child's well-being and situation.

- xxiii. What was provided in terms of after-care for children/young people once they left the establishment?

Former children were encouraged to stay in touch with the Sisters and to come back to the House for reunions and holidays. The Sisters took a keen interest in the well-being of former children, e.g. girls at college came "home" during their vacations. At Glasgow Nazareth House there was special accommodation for such visitors. The Sisters would try to help any former child who was in difficulties.

## Present

- xxiv. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1xii above.

- xxv. If so, please give details.

N/A

1.8 Staff Background

## (a) Organisation

## Past

- i. How many people were employed by the organisation who had some responsibility for residential care services for children?

The Sisters were responsible for care of the children however they were not employed by the Congregation. From the 1960s/1970s the Congregation employed some lay staff. In any event they have no records for the lay staff.

- ii. How many people were employed by the organisation at any one time who had some responsibility for residential care services for children?

See 1.8(a)i above.

- iii. What experience/qualifications did such staff have?

See 1.8(a)i above.

- iv. If the organisation is a religious order, how many members of the order had a responsibility for residential care services for children provided by the organisation in Scotland?

In each of the four houses in Scotland responsibility for the care of the children lay with the Local Superiors and the Sisters in charge of the children. There would be a sister in charge of each of the groups within each House.

Between 1930 and 1985	88 Sisters worked with children at Aberdeen
	30 Sisters worked with children at Kilmarnock
	60 Sisters worked with children at Glasgow
	58 Sisters worked with children at Edinburgh.

It should be noted that some of these Sisters worked at more than one of the four houses, as they were frequently transferred between houses. The total number of Sisters working at the Scottish Nazareth houses was 195. However, there are records missing in relation to the war years.

- v. What experience/qualifications did such members have, to equip them to discharge their responsibilities?

From the late 1940s Sisters who worked with children, or who may do so in the years to come, undertook Child Care Courses, House Mothers courses and/or Teaching and Social Work qualifications.

The Sisters of Nazareth hold a General Chapter every six years, in which they meet together to elect Sisters to different positions in the organisation, to review the events of the previous six years and to plan for the future. At this Chapter the Superior General presents a report to the Congregation, and this is included in the Chapter Minutes (DA/1/4) which are held in the archive. From 1949 to 1982 inclusive there was a strong emphasis on training Sisters, particularly in child care. At the 1964 Chapter the Superior General reported that "we have made desperate efforts to train as many Sisters as possible." We also searched the Minutes of the Northern Region Council Meetings. We have the following statistics:

**1946-1949:** 4 sisters qualified as teachers, 2 sisters were awarded certificates following completion of the Home Office course in Child Care, 2 sisters were in training for general nursing and sisters (number not specified) were also being trained as nursery nurses.

**1952-1958:** 17 sisters trained as nursery nurses, 4 sisters trained as nurses, 10 sisters obtained Teacher's Certificates, 10 sisters were awarded certificates following completion of the Home Office course in Child Care.

**1958-1964:** 16 sisters qualified as teachers, 12 completed their General Nursing training and 4 their Midwifery training; 12 sisters were awarded NNEBs (Nursery Nursing qualification).

**1964-1970:** 17 sisters trained as teachers and 17 as nurses, 11 took courses in Child Care and 8 gained the NNEB qualification.

**19/10/1970:** 3 Sisters were finishing their Child Care Course in Aberdeen at the end of October, and 2 Sisters selected by Mother General are to commence [the course] in Aberdeen at the beginning of November.

**28/01/1971:** 2 Sisters were commencing Child Care Course in February. 2 Sisters were completing the same course in February.

**05/08/1971:** 2 Sisters were commencing Child Care Course in Aberdeen in August. 2 Sisters were completing the course in October.

**24/02/1972:** 3 Sisters were completing their Teacher Training in June.

**05/07/1972:** 2 Sisters were commencing the Child Care Course in Aberdeen in November.

**03/07/1973:** 3 Sisters successfully completed S.E.N. training. 4 Sisters were commencing this training in August in Kilmarnock. 1 Sisters completed Teacher Training. 1 Sister was commencing this training in October.

**1970-1976:** 1 sister completed an Advanced Child Care Course, 33 other sisters qualified in Child Care, 3 were awarded the NNEB, 2 completed a course in residential social work, 4 sisters trained as teachers and 1 as a nursery teacher.

**1976-1982:** 1 sister qualified in residential social work, 2 gained Certificates of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW), 2 sisters trained as teachers and 3 others gained Diplomas in Special Education; 1 sister gained a Diploma in Advanced Nursing and 2 undertook the Advanced Course in Child Care; 1 sister completed a Social Welfare certificate.

The above lists of courses do not include all of the training undertaken by Sisters during this period. Some Sisters, for example, qualified in catering or studied for higher degrees. Furthermore, it was not always the case that Sisters trained in Scotland remained in the Scottish houses following the completion of their courses.

#### Prese

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1xii above.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A

#### (b) Establishment

##### Past

- i. How many persons were employed in some capacity at the establishment?

The Sisters were responsible for care of the children however they were not employed by the Congregation. From the 1960s/1970s the Congregation employed some lay staff. In any event they have no records for the lay staff.

- ii. How many of those persons had the opportunity of unaccompanied access to a child, or children, cared for at the establishment?

The Congregation has no records for the lay staff.

- iii. How many were involved in the provision of care to children accommodated at the establishment (child care workers)?

Year	Sisters	Year	Sisters	Year	Sisters
1929	5	1951	6	1972	4
1930	6	1952	6	1973	6
1931	6	1953	6	1974	4
1932	7	1954	7	1975	4
1933	6	1955	3	1976	3
1934	6	1956	4	1977	4
1935	4	1957	5	1978	4
1936	4	1958	5	1979	4
1937	4	1959	6	1980	4
1938	4	1960	7	1981	4
1939	4	1961	5	1982	3
1940	6	1962	7	1983	2
1941	6	1963	7	1984	1
1942	6	1964	3	1985	1



1943-1944	No records	1965	6		
1945	6	1966	5		
1946	No records	1967	4		
1947	6	1968	5		
1948	6	1969	5		
1949	5	1970	8		
1950	7	1971	4		

iv. What experience and/or qualifications, if any, did the child care workers require to have?

See 1.8(a)v above.

v. What was the child care worker/child numbers ratio?

No records held for lay staff.

vi. What was the gender balance of the child care workers?

No records held. However, until the late 1970s lay staff were only female.

vii. Was any attempt made to employ child care workers in looking after children of the same sex as those workers?

No records held.

Present

viii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Children's Home in Nazareth House closed in 1985.

ix. If so, please give details.

N/A

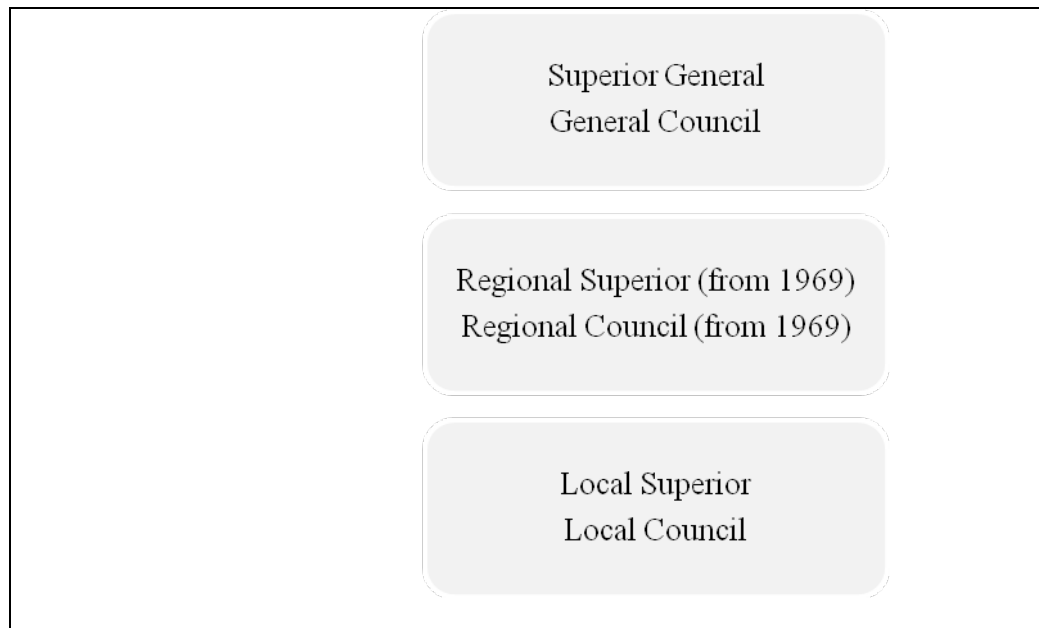
2. Organisational Structure and Oversight

2.1 Governance

Past

i. What were the governance arrangements within the organisation?

The governance within the Congregation consisted of;



- ii. How were the members of the governing body selected?

The Superior General and General Councillors are elected by members of the Congregation at the General Chapters held every 6 years. All other positions within the Congregation are appointed by the Superior General and her Councillors.

- iii. What qualifications and/or training, if any, did the members require to have in relation to the provision of residential care services for children?

None of the governing body necessarily has qualifications or training in childcare.

- iv. Did the members receive remuneration?

None of the members receive remuneration.

- v. What was the nature of the accountability and oversight regime between the organisation's governing body and the establishment?

The Local Superior in each House was accountable to the Superior General, who arranged for regular Visitations to each House. From 1969 the Local Superior was accountable first to the Regional Superior who was herself accountable to the Superior General. Regional Superiors also arranged Visitations to each House. The Superior General also continued General Visitations of the Houses at least once every three years. The Congregation rules required that the Superior General and the Regional General had to visit each House every three years. Those visits were formal and recorded. However, other visits would frequently take place in between those required visits.

- vi. What visits were made by the governing body to the establishment?

See 2.1 v above. General Visitations and Regional Visitations were made to the House by the Superior General and/or General Councillors, and from 1969, also by the Regional Superior and/or Regional Councillors. Visitations

of each Nazareth House were (and are) a Canonical requirement.

vii. What was the purpose of such visits?

From The Constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth 1984

*“(a) The method of visitation is maternal.*

*Its chief purpose is to strengthen the Sisters in their vocation; to encourage their zeal and the participation of all in their community, their Region, the Congregation; to promote sisterly harmony; to help the Sisters in difficulty or perplexity; to foster religious observance; to correct any faults, disorders or abuses; to remedy any unfairness or injustice in administration.*

*(b) Where correction or remedy is called for, the Visitor must act decisively and promptly.*

*(c) Dispositions made by the Visitor regarding the community are to be communicated without delay to all concerned, preferably in writing.”*

Thus, the purpose of the visit was to;

- give support and advice and to oversee the running of individual establishments
- enforce policies and procedures
- enquire about the welfare of the Sisters, children and the elderly

viii. How frequently did these happen?

General Visitations by the Superior General were made to each house at least once every three years, and sometimes more frequently. After 1969 Regional Visitations were made to each house in the Region by the Regional Superior every three years. However the Regional Superior would visit the house at least once a year and often more frequently.

ix. Were children interviewed, or spoken to, by members of the governing body during such visits?

Yes, children were spoken to and enjoyed visits from the Visitors. They would not have been formally interviewed by the Visitors unless this was requested. The children often gave concerts and entertainments for the Visitors at Aberdeen and Kilmarnock Nazareth Houses.

x. If so, were establishment staff present while children were interviewed or spoken to?

The children were spoken to as the visitors made their way around the house. Therefore, sometimes the children were alone when spoken to and sometimes in the company of other children, staff or Sisters.

xi. Were reports of such visits made and discussed by the governing body?

Yes, visitation reports were written after every Visitation. The reports were discussed within the General Council and with the Local Superior and Council.

- xii. Did visits result in changes to the organisation's policy, procedure and/or practice? If so, please give examples.

There is no evidence in the records held that Visitations changed the Congregation's policies. However, if something was changed in one house and it worked well, this change was often adopted by other houses. In practice, any changes suggested at Visitations were put into practice as soon as possible; for example, at Glasgow Nazareth House changes were made to the children's accommodation following the 1950 Visitation. Visitors often suggested the same changes at more than one house, so these changes then became widespread within the Congregation's houses.

## Present

- xiii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- xiv. If so, please give details.

N/A

## 2.2 Culture

### Past

- i. What was the nature of the culture within the organisation?

Throughout the years the culture reflected the ethos of the organisation. The culture was to care for and nurture children and to prepare them for adult life when they departed the care of the organisation. The Sisters housed, educated and cared for the children. In doing so they followed the guidance set out in the Directory of the Congregation. The Directory was guidance from the Superior General on how the Sisters were to carry out their employment.

- ii. Was that culture reflected in the organisation's policies, procedures and/or practice in relation the provision of residential care services for children?

In the earlier days, prior to the 1960s, there were little in the way of written policies and procedures. However, the Directory of the Congregation contained notes as to how the Sisters were to carry out their employment and other aspects of life in the Congregation. That guidance changed as time progressed. Furthermore, the culture was reflected in the procedures and practice which were demonstrated by the Local Superior and the older sisters to the younger sisters in the houses. When policies and procedures in child-care became common practice, the care given to each child would have been evident within the child's care plan, reviews and reports. There are surviving case files for some Aberdeen, Kilmarnock and Glasgow Nazareth House children, dating back to the 1950s. Items in these files include: "History of Case", "Progressive Case History", medical records and certificates, reports, correspondence, application forms, Memoranda regarding Children's Hearings, Case Reviews, birth and baptism certificates, photographs.

However, not all items appear in all files, and some files contain little information.

iii. How can that be demonstrated?

See 2.2 ii above. This would have been demonstrated by the reports, care plans and reviews written about the children.

iv. Did the running of establishments reflect the organisation's culture, policies and procedures?

Yes, see 2.2 ii above. The running of individual houses reflected the Congregation's culture of nurturing children. As residential care of children progressed over the years, and the Sisters were gaining professional qualifications within this field (from the late 1940s), the care given to children reflected these changes.

v. If not, please provide a representative range of examples and explain, by reference to those examples, why particular establishments were not, in material ways, run in accordance with the organisation's then culture, policies and procedures and what, if anything, was done to change that state of affairs?

See 2.2 ii above. The running of houses did reflect the Congregation's culture.

vi. When and why did any changes in the culture of the organisation come about?

The Congregation tried to keep abreast of the times with regard to the residential care of children, and this changed over the years. Changes came about due to the on-going training of Sisters and changes in government legislation. Having said this, the basic culture of nurturing and maternal care never changed; how it was delivered did.

vii. Were any changes in culture driven by internal influences, incidents, experiences or events within the organisation, or any of the establishments run by the organisation?

Not usually. However, when something positive happened and worked in one House this was then adopted in other Houses, for example, changing meal times. A major change was the introduction of family groups as opposed to larger groups of children.

viii. Were there any changes in culture that were driven by abuse, or alleged abuse, of children cared for at the establishment?

No, not to our knowledge.

ix. If so, when did they occur and how did they manifest themselves?

No changes were made to our knowledge.

- x. Were any changes in culture driven by any external influences or factors and if so what were those influences or factors?

As the development and thinking with regard to the residential care of children changed over the years, the Sisters tried to adopt these changes and adapt the living accommodation of the children accordingly. It should be remembered that society in general changed considerably in its attitude to child-care over the span of years under consideration by the Inquiry, and government legislation changes reflected this.

Present

- xi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- xii. If so, please give details.

N/A

- xiii. To what extent, if any, has abuse or alleged abuse of children cared for at any establishments caused, or contributed to, the adoption of the current policies, procedures and/or practices of the organisation, in relation to the provision of residential care services for children including the safeguarding and child protection arrangements applying to its current establishments?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

2.3 Leadership

Past

- i. How was the establishment managed and led?

Each House had a community of Sisters of varying numbers. The community was headed by the Local Superior, who in turn had two Local Councillors and a Bursar to assist her in the running of the House. These Sisters would meet every month and address any issues in the House.

- ii. What were the names and qualifications of the persons in charge of the establishment? Please include the dates for when each of the persons was in charge.

Sister	Dates	Position
Sr Dominica of the Cross Cam bell	1928-1933	Superior
	1934-1937	Superior
Sr Mary Placida O'Doherty	1937-1942	Superior
Sr Mary Augustine Hogg	1945	Superior
	1946-1952	Superior
	1952-1958	Superior
Sr Mary St. Ultan Fleming	1958-1961	Superior
	1961-1967	Superior
	1968-1970	Superior

Sr Mary of Carmel McBride	1971-1973	Superior
Sr Mary St. Macartan McCrory	1973-1976	Superior
	1977-1982	Superior
	1983-1985	Superior

No records are held regarding the qualifications held by these Superiors, apart from Sister [REDACTED] who was a trained and qualified nursery nurse. (All of these Superiors have passed away).

- iii. What was the oversight and supervision arrangements by senior management within the establishment?

The Local Superior would go around the House to give oversight of the safe and efficient running of the Home.

- iv. What were the oversight arrangements by the organisation, including visits by or on behalf of the organisation?

From The Constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth 1984

“The Superior General is to visit officially, either personally or through a delegate each House in the Congregation once every three years. With the consent of her Council, she may appoint a competent Sister, delegating to her what powers she deems fit, to make a special Visitation in whole or in part, and if required, assign to her a Sister who acts as companion and secretary.”

Thus, General visitations and regional visitations were made to the establishment by the Superior General and/or the General Councillors, and from 1969, also by the Regional Superior and/or Regional Councillors.

Prior to the 1970s the Superior General liaised with the Local Superiors at the houses. From the 1970s the Regional Superiors liaised with the Local Superiors. The Local Superiors were assisted by council members and a bursar. However, only the Local Superiors would actively oversee the houses. They would walk round the houses and talk to the children and the sisters/lay staff. They would check that children were well cared for in that they were clean, well fed and well clothed. If there were any issues then the Local Superiors would report to the General Superior (pre 1970) or the Regional superiors (post 1970).

#### Present

- v. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

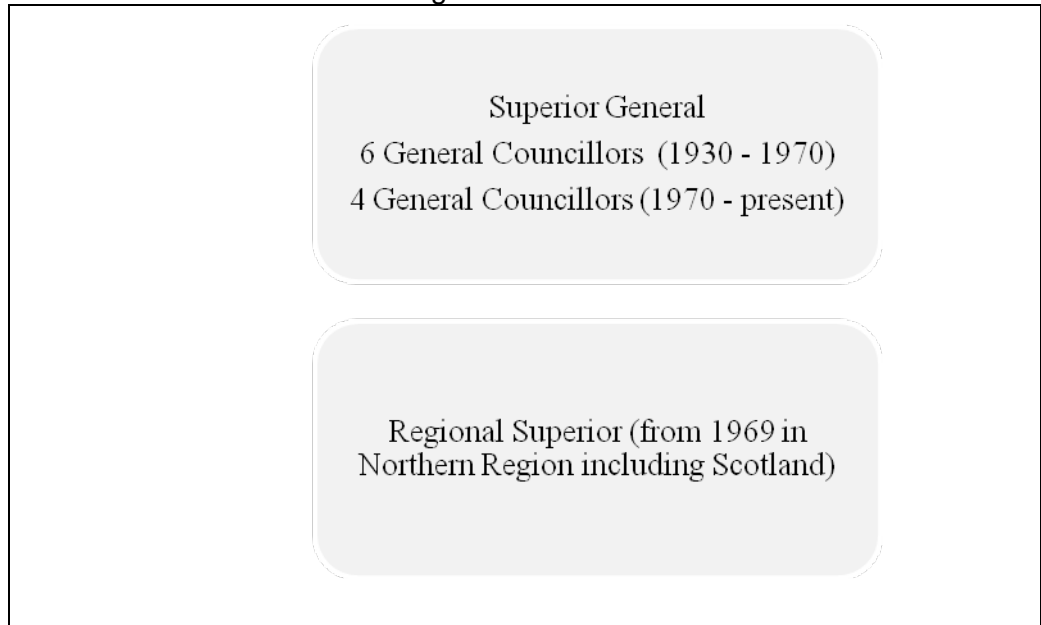
- vi. If so, please give details

N/A

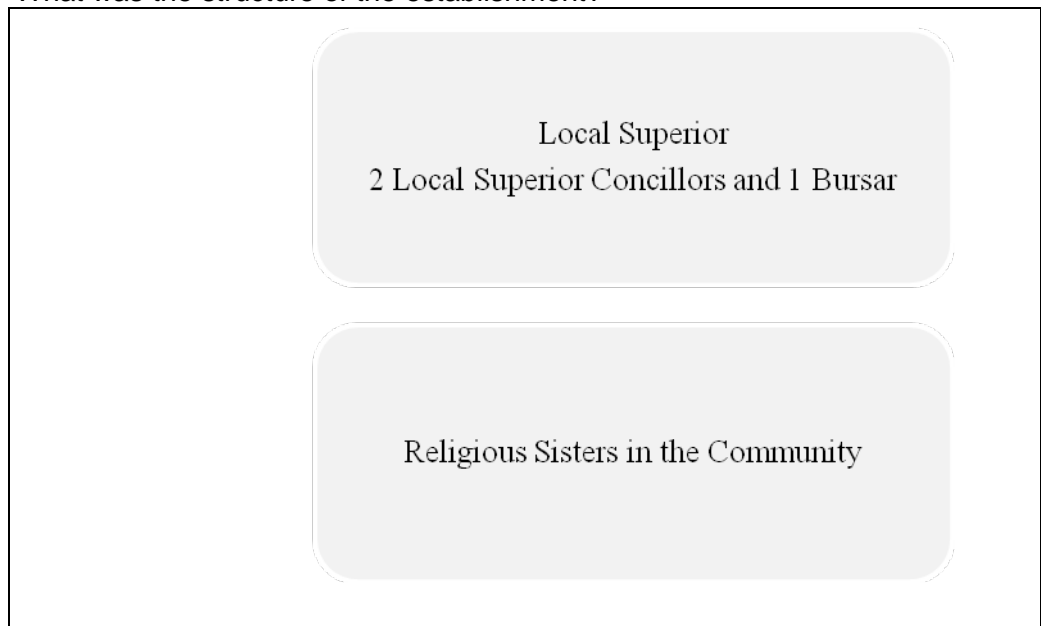
## 2.4 Structure

### Past

- i. What was the structure of the organisation?



- ii. What was the structure of the establishment?



### Present

- iii. With reference to the present position, is the answer to the above question different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See



1.1 xii above.

iv. If so, please give details.

N/A

## 2.5 Hierarchy and Control

Past

i. What was the hierarchy within the organisation?

The hierarchy within the organisation comprised of:

Superior General\*

*\*Superior General assisted by her Council exercises full and immediate authority over all the Sisters and Houses of the Congregation, and is ultimately responsible for the welfare of all.*

6 members of the General Council (1930 - 1970)  
4 members of the General Council (1970 - present)

Regional Superior\*\*  
Regional Councillors\*\*

*\*\* (1969 - present in Northern Region including Scotland)*

Local Superiors  
Local Councillors  
Local Bursar

Sisters in the Community

Thus, The Sisters in the houses were accountable to the Local Superior who in turn were accountable to the Superior General. Following the introduction of Regions the Local Superior reported to the Regional Superior. See 2.5 iv below.

ii. What was the structure of responsibility within the organisation?

The structure of responsibility was as above (2.5i).

iii. What were the lines of accountability?

The lines of accountability were as above (2.5i).

iv. Within the organisation, who had senior management/corporate/organisational responsibility for the managers/management teams/leadership teams who managed the establishment on a day-to-day basis?

The Superior General and the General Council always had the senior management responsibility. When the regions were established the intermediate management was the Regional Superior and her Councillors.

- v. What were the reporting arrangements between the establishment and the organisation?

The Local Superior of the house would report to the Regional Superior with regard to matters of a serious nature or for advice. Prior to Regions being set up all reporting would have been to the Superior General.

- vi. Within the establishment itself, who had managerial responsibility for, or was in overall charge of, those employed there, including in particular those who were involved in the day-to-day care of children, and any other persons who had contact with the children?

The Local Superior had overall charge of those employed in the house.

Senior Sisters were responsible for the children.

- vii. To whom were child care workers within the establishment directly responsible?

To the Local Superior and the Sister in charge of the children.

- viii. Who, within the organisation, took decisions on matters of policy, procedure and/or practice in relation to the establishment?

Superior General, Regional Superior when regions were established and Local Superior.

- ix. Who, within the organisation, was responsible for the implementation of, and compliance with, the organisation's policies, procedures and/or practices at the establishment?

Regional Superior, Local Superior and Senior Sister in charge of the children.

#### Present

- x. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- xi. If so, please give details.

N/A

## 2.6 External Oversight

#### Past

- i. What were the arrangements for external oversight of the organisation and the establishment?

There are no surviving records regarding arrangements for external oversight however the organisations (listed below) made arrangements to visit the houses. In the Foundations of the Congregation there are references to recommendations or comments made. Where inspections were undertaken by public bodies they may retain any reports which were produced.

- ii. Who visited the organisation and/or the establishment in an official or statutory capacity and for what purpose?

There were regular visits at Glasgow Nazareth House from;

- Medical Officer, Doctors, Dentists and Opticians
- Health Department for Scotland
- Scottish Advisory Council on Child Care
- Inspector Public Assistance Coatbridge
- Social Welfare Officers from Edinburgh
- Social Services
- Social Workers
- Home Office/ Department
- Education Department

- iii. How often did this occur?

- Home Office visited annually
- Local Authorities – annually
- Social Workers – monthly or when necessary
- Health inspectors – annually
- Doctors – when necessary

- iv. What did these visits involve in practice?

There are numerous accounts of visits to the Scottish Nazareth Houses by external officials in the Histories of the Foundations throughout the period in question. Officials usually visited all parts of the House occupied by the children, including the schools in the early days, the refectories and kitchens and the dormitories/bedrooms. Visitors often spoke to the children, and the children entertained them with dancing and singing. They sometimes made suggestions, and then, on later visits, commented about changes or improvements made in line with those suggestions. Education officials sometimes examined the children in the schools in various subjects (eg arithmetic, English). Officials often commented on the fact that the children looked happy, healthy, well-dressed and well cared for. Visitors from external bodies (Home, Education and Health Departments) also examined the children's records. Social workers checked families who hosted children during holiday periods

- v. What involvement did local authorities have with the organisation and/or the establishment in respect of residential care services for children?

- Inspections
- Referral
- Financial support
- Health services

- Reviews
- Liaison with families, and foster placements where appropriate

vi. What involvement did local authorities have with the organisation and the establishment in respect of the children at the establishment?

See 2.6 v above.

vii. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, what actual involvement and/or responsibility, whether formal or informal, did the Catholic Hierarchy/Bishops' Conference have, either directly or at diocesan level, in the creation, governance, management and/or oversight of the establishment?

Because we are a Papal Congregation, the Catholic Hierarchy/Bishops' Conference had no involvement in the creation, governance, management or oversight of the establishment.

viii. What was the nature and extent of any pastoral care provided to the establishment, if it was run by a religious order?

The spiritual development of the children was important. Morning and night prayers were supervised by the Sister in charge of the children. Children were taught to have a moral conscience, the difference between right and wrong and how to act as good citizens.

Reconciliation service (Confession) by the local chaplain or parish priest was available and encouraged initially at the houses and then at the local parish. The children attended Mass on Sundays and special feast days. They also joined the local parish for first communion and confirmation.

The Sisters were always available to listen to and counsel children when needed, and social workers fulfilled this pastoral role too.

Present

ix. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

x. If so, please give details.

N/A

## Part B – Current Statement

### 3. Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission

#### 3.1 Acknowledgement of Abuse

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that between 1930 and 17 December 2014 some children cared for at the establishment were abused?

In recent years the Congregation has received allegations of abuse from adults who, as children, had been resident at one of the Nazareth Houses in Scotland. These allegations were made many years after the events. For the reasons already set out, there are no relevant records to allow the Congregation to assess the extent and scale of any abuse. The Sisters acknowledge that there were times when the care provided to children did not meet the level it ought. With the benefit of hindsight the Congregation understands that staffing ratios were too low; care was provided by sisters who had little training and were often still young and inexperienced; and oversight of the groups and the sisters was not structured or proactively monitored. Where any child was abused then the Congregation apologises unreservedly for that.

In addition, Sister Marie Docherty was convicted in 2000 of offences against four children. The Congregation does accept that those children were abused.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse?

The Congregation cared for 14,766 children in Scotland. They have received 257 civil actions and 147 complaints. One sister was prosecuted and was convicted on charges relating to four children.

- iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

Review of the records of claims, complaints and the criminal prosecution.

### 3.2 Acknowledgement of Systemic Failures

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that its systems failed to protect children cared for at the establishment between 1930 and 17 December 2014 from abuse?

The Congregation accepts that where any child was abused then their systems failed to protect those children.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent of such systemic failures?

The Congregation's assessment is as set out at 3.1 ii.

- iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

The Congregation's assessment is based on the complaints and allegations they have received.

- iv. What is the organisation/establishment's explanation for such failures?

The Congregation did not want any child to be left destitute, uncared for or at risk. They therefore strove to accept every such child whenever possible. They cared for large numbers of children. In the early years in particular, each

sister was responsible for a group of over 30 children. The older children (the girls in particular) were expected to help care for the younger. Until the 1960s there was little support from lay staff. The sisters were often young and had little formal training. They were moved from one house to another. They did not necessarily have an aptitude or affinity for child care. There was not the ratio of carers to children that would now be considered appropriate. There was not the structured planning and oversight of care provision, nor the detailed record keeping, that would now be the norm. Although children were adequately nourished and clothed resources were very tight, were almost exclusively from donations in early years, and were managed on a frugal basis.

In consequence while the Congregation believes that most sisters sought to care for and nurture the children in their group, they recognise that there was the risk of poor practice and even of abuse.

### 3.3 Acknowledgement of Failures/Deficiencies in Response

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that there were failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse, and allegations of abuse, of children cared for at the establishment between 1930 and 17 December 2014?

Many adults who had been children at a Nazareth House return to see the place where they grew up and to see the sisters who cared for them. The Congregation provides after-care support to those children on an informal basis.

The Congregation did not receive allegations of abuse until many years after the events concerned. Where the police made investigations the Congregation assisted them. Where there were claims for damages the Congregation referred those to their insurer, as was appropriate.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent of such failures in its response?

The Congregation does not accept that they failed in their response to allegations of abuse.

- iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

Not applicable.

- iv. What is the organisation's explanation for such failures/deficiencies?

Not applicable.

### 3.4 Changes

- i. To what extent has the organisation/establishment implemented changes to its policies/procedures and practices as a result of its acknowledgment in relation to 3.1 – 3.3 above?

The Congregation has not cared for children in a residential setting in Scotland since 1985. To that extent they cannot make changes to their policies and practice.

However, children do still come in to Nazareth Houses, for visits, for events or to see elderly residents. The Congregation therefore maintains and enforces policies on:

- Protection of children entering a Nazareth House;
- Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults;
- Training of staff and sisters in contact with children;
- Document retention.