

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LBS

Support person present: No

1. My name is [REDACTED] LBS [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1953. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Life before going into Nazareth House

2. I went to Nazareth House in Cardonald, Glasgow when I was eight years old. My family circumstances weren't good prior to me going there. My mother and father were both alcoholics, him more than her. My dad used to batter my mum. That was scary but my dad never touched us. We lived in a single end in Edinburgh. That was where I was born. Sometimes mum wasn't there and we were left to our own devices.
3. My mum told me later on, when I was about eighteen, that she couldn't cope with both my dad and us children. My mum went to speak to the local priest thinking the Catholic Church could help us. I don't think there was any Social Work involvement at that stage. Eventually we were given a Social Worker. We only ever saw her twice. It was then that the wheels were put in motion for us to go to Nazareth House.
4. I had two brothers and a sister. When myself and my sister went into Nazareth House we were all separated. My two brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were younger than me. I think it was Nazareth House in Penicuik that they went to. They are now both alcoholics which is sad.

5. My sister [REDACTED] who we call [REDACTED] was eighteen months younger than me. [REDACTED] and me went into Nazareth House together. I remember being told that we were going on a holiday and that we would have a great time. I think we went by car. There was something inside me that knew there was something wrong to Nazareth House. When we went through the gates the fear was tangible.

Nazareth House, Cardonald

First few days

6. The first person we met was Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED]. She had a harsh horrible voice. The place itself was massive. I was terrified. My sister [REDACTED] 'cooied' into me. She was very scared and didn't know what was going on. The Social Worker had come with us. The Social Worker never introduced herself to us so I don't know her name. She disappeared with the nun and left us on our own in the parlour. We were terrified.
7. When they came back the Social Worker disappeared. Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED] took me to a sitting room and said the group I would be in was the RED group. The nun in charge of this group was called Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED]. Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] wasn't there for the first few days I was there. I think she was on retreat. Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED] was in charge. I was later told that Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] wasn't in charge. I was told that nobody was in charge. Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] was the one who did the caning. I know Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] was in charge of the RED group. She would cane you now and again. Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED] did more of the caning.
8. [REDACTED] LCC [REDACTED] was one of the girls in the home. She was lovely. She never seemed to get into trouble. I think she was the one who, on the first day, took me up to the dorm to wash my hair and get washed and changed. She told me I shouldn't answer back, which was probably the worst thing to say to me. I hated some of the other kids because they were pets or cliques.

9. There were clothes on the bed that I had to put on. I never saw my own clothes again. It wasn't a uniform we wore, it was just dresses. While some of the dresses were really nice I only seemed to be given rags.
10. After putting the dress on I was taken down to the living room. This was a room we used to just sit around in talking. Some of the children had toys. Nobody introduced me to anybody. There was a bell that rang at about four o'clock which was when tea was.
11. A few days later I met Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED]. The first thing Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] did was grab me by the hair and shake my head. She called me a filthy brat. She said I had lice and that she was going to delouse me. She then took a steel comb and dragged it through my hair. The pain was awful. My head was bleeding. I was screaming. She just called me a dirty brat.
12. I can't remember if my hair was cut before or after it was washed. I just remember the sound of the scissors as they grabbed and cut. Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] also used straight Kirby grips. She dug three of them into my bleeding head. It was done to make sure I did not have a fringe. My hair had originally been down to my shoulders but it was then cut to ear level. Everyone's hair was like that.

Routine

13. We would get up at about 6am to get washed. We then went to mass, had breakfast then washed and dried the dishes. There was a bell that would ring for breakfast, dinner and tea. After doing the dishes we would go to school. We went back to Nazareth House for lunch as we weren't allowed to eat at the school. Those that were in trouble would have to wash the dishes after lunch and I was always in trouble. Sometimes you would only just make the afternoon class because of this. After school you would get out of your uniform, do your homework then have tea. After tea you would go into the living room for recreation. Then it would be bed at 7pm. The older ones, those at fifteen or sixteen, would go to bed maybe an hour later.

Mealtimes

14. I found the food okay because I was always hungry. I didn't like the lumps in the porridge. I would just leave them. The only thing I didn't like was a pudding called sago. It was like frog spawn. I hated it. I would vomit it up. Sister [REDACTED] LFP would take great delight in taking what I had vomited and shoving it all back in my mouth, vomit and all. I would vomit again and the whole thing would start all over again. It got to the point I was choking and vomit was coming down my nose. It was still there at the next meal. One of the girls eventually took it away and covered for me pretending I had eaten it. This only happened the once because after that one of the others would eat it for me.

Number of People in Nazareth House

15. I can't remember exactly how many children were in the home but I think it would be about thirty. You went into the groups when you came out of the nursery. That was when you were four or five. I can't be definite but I think the ages in each group were between five and fifteen. There were two other groups called the GREEN and BLUE groups. There would have been approximately thirty children in the house. I'm not absolutely sure of the numbers. That is probably because I was so young at the time.

Bedtime

16. The RED group had three dorms. The middle one had three or four beds. The other two had at least four beds. I was in the third bed down. I can't remember how many others were in the dorm. I think I was in that dorm for most of my time in the home.
17. Sister [REDACTED] LFP used to make us lie on our beds on our backs with our hands crossed over our chests. We had to spell out INRI on our foreheads with our fingers to "Remind us that we murdered Jesus". I got dragged out of bed several times because I was lying on my side. I would get hit by Sister [REDACTED] LFP if my hands slipped down to my side. It would be a hit on the head or a slap on the face.

because I was lying on my side. I would get hit by Sister [LFP] if my hands slipped down to my side. It would be a hit on the head or a slap on the face.

18. When you were in your bed you weren't allowed out of it, even to go to the toilet. If Sister [LFH] heard you get up she would tell you to get back to bed. The pain of keeping it in was agony.
19. I only wet the bed once. When I did Sister [LFP] made all the children stand around me. She then rubbed the wet sheet and urine in my face and told the other children to laugh at me. I was too scared to wet the bed ever again.
20. I was later moved to the first dormitory. I think that was so Sister [LFS], who took over from Sister [LFP] could scream at me to do things, like "Do this and do that", and get the younger kids up. I remember when I first saw Sister [LFS]. I thought she was lovely and kind. I immediately took to her but when I introduced myself she said "I know who you are and I'll be keeping my eye on you". After that I had no trust in her. [REDACTED]. A slap from her would send you flying. I'm sure some would say that Sister [LFS] was great. I'm sure she was to them but not to me.
21. Sister [LFS] slept in her own bedroom. We called their bedrooms cells. They were attached to the dorms. Sister [LFS] used to knock on the door to me and shout at me to get the children up.

Washing and Bathing

22. We got a bath once a week. I was usually last. That meant, by the time I got into the water, the water would be freezing and filthy. It would be so bad that when I got out there would be a line of scum. It was horrible. I remember, when I was about twelve or thirteen and starting to develop, realising Sister [LFS] was watching me in the bath through a screen. She did this on several occasions. I didn't like it.

Leisure Time

23. We had a TV which we would watch on a Sunday. I loved the Count of Monte Christo. I loved period dramas. I loved to read the books of Charles Dickens too. There was a cabinet that had loads of books in it. When I was about thirteen I asked to read a book so often that Sister **LFS** eventually picked it up and threw the book at me saying "You won't understand it anyway". It was David Copperfield.

Chores

24. I was always doing chores. I never got to do anything. Once I got to play netball. Even then I had to beg the teacher to ask the nuns if I could be included in the team.
25. I made my bed and the beds of some of the smaller children. Every bed was stripped to make sure it wasn't wet. I was always doing dishes. On a Saturday, during the big clean, we would wax the floors with big square rags on our feet. This was very tiring at first but we could have fun pretending we were skating. Obviously I didn't tell the nuns I was enjoying it. They would soon have stopped it if they thought it was giving us some fun. We would have to sweep the stairs too. Although we had chores to do on a Saturday, if I was being punished they would make sure I had something to do all Saturday.
26. One day I was cleaning the shoes for all the kids. I got them all really shiny. Sister **LFS** kicked them about and told me to start again. I did so and she kicked them about again and told me to start all over again. I was exhausted.

Trips and Holidays

27. I was never allowed to go on the annual taxi outing to Troon. On one occasion I was in a green dress when all the others were getting into the taxis. I was so sad that the others were getting to go and I wasn't. One of the drivers tried to persuade one of the sisters to let me go but she refused. He then suddenly grabbed me and put me in his taxi saying "I've got plenty of space". I couldn't get into the taxi quick enough and

what a day I had. It was great fun. The reason I wasn't allowed to go to such trips was because the nuns thought I was a "troublesome" child.

28. One time I heard there was a trip to Fairlie and either one or two of the kids drowned. All the nuns did was kneel on the sand and pray that God would save them. Can you believe that? You would just take your things off and go and rescue them. How could people do that, just kneel in the sand and watch kids drown? It's unbelievable.

Schooling and Education

29. Our school was Our Lady of Lourdes. It was practically adjoined to the home. In school the little pets had nice uniforms. I had an old pleated skirt. My blazer was frayed and my tie was old. The girls that the nuns liked all had pretty stuff to wear. One of my friends from school, [REDACTED] thought I came from a really poor family. After school I would wait till the others got on the bus so that they wouldn't know I was in the convent. They eventually found out but were actually really nice about it.
30. It was ordinary teachers at the school, not nuns. Mrs Wilson was one of the teachers. She was really nice to me. [REDACTED] was a pet, a favoured child, who constantly told the nuns on me. Mrs Wilson would often ask me to wait behind. She would give me a foil with two digestive biscuits with malt and tell me to sit down and eat them. [REDACTED] told the nuns about this and I got caned. I had to tell Mrs Wilson that I got fed in Nazareth House and that I couldn't take the biscuits anymore. Mrs Wilson was understanding about that.
31. Mrs Wilson later gave me a medal of Our Lady for Religious Knowledge. I was so proud of it. I tried to wear it in a way that the nuns wouldn't see it but Sister [REDACTED] LFS saw it one day. She grabbed it and threw it down the sink. Mrs Wilson asked me what had happened to it. I had to pretend that I had simply lost it. She knew I was lying. She patted me on the shoulder and said "That's okay". She was just so lovely and it's important for me to remember that.

32. Mrs Rooney was a secondary teacher. The nuns wouldn't allow me to go to lessons on the "facts of life". Mrs Rooney split the class into two and did the class twice simply so that I wouldn't be left alone. She was so nice.
33. Other teachers weren't so nice. I got the belt a lot. It could be for something as simple as turning round and asking somebody for a pencil. The belt was really sore. It would often leave welts on me. As sore as it was I would never let them see me cry.
34. The girls in my class at school would tell me about the things between men and women. I'm sure they made some things up. They told me about periods but I was fourteen and hadn't yet had a period. When I did have one I was in class at the time. One of the girls told me I had to go tell somebody. I told Sister LFS but she just told me to go away. I ended up having to use rough toilet paper until later when one of the other girls gave me a sanitary pad. I didn't even know how to use it. She had to show me.
35. I was never allowed to look at my report card. When I took them home to Sister LFS she would open them. She would then batter me and say that I was thick and stupid. She would say that the report card was terrible and then make me stand in front of the picture of Our Lady with the report card on my head. I could be there for hours.
36. It was years later, when I was doing a course on sign language, that one of the tutors somehow got hold of my report cards. It turned out that I was pretty clever. Not brilliant but I could have done quite well. I always thought I was stupid.
37. I was quite bright when I was young and could take in a lot. They wore me down by constantly telling me I couldn't do anything, that I was stupid and that I would never amount to anything. In the end I didn't. It was a self-professing prophecy. I wanted to be a nurse but they said I was too stupid and thick to be a nurse. One of the favoured pets got to go to Langside College to do a nursing course but Sister LFS said I couldn't go. I was desperate to be a nurse.

Healthcare and abuse whilst being treated

38. I don't remember any of the kids being taken to the hospital except when my sister [REDACTED] went to get her tonsils out. Even then the nuns were reluctant. [REDACTED] was complaining about a sore throat for days. I kept on at the nuns about this. They eventually called in a doctor who immediately sent her to the hospital where she got her tonsils out.
39. Sister [REDACTED] LFS once put a poultice on me. That was agony because it was so hot.
40. One day, when I was about eleven or twelve, I was dozing in a chair because my ears were sore. I was so tired. Sister [REDACTED] LFS came in and told me to get up. I started bawling my eyes out saying I wasn't well. That was the first time I recall ever feeling sorry for myself. The nun in the pharmacy was really nice but she poured boiling olive oil into my ear. My God, the pain was indescribable. I ran away screaming. I used to have a lot of pain in my ears. After the treatment I was in terrible pain and sat back on the chair. Sister [REDACTED] LFS came in again and told me to get up. As I got up all this brown stuff started pouring out of my ear. I was terrified.
41. Mr [REDACTED] LGG was the dentist who would give you gas. He used to touch you down below. One of the girls said he went even further but I don't know anything about that.
42. Dr [REDACTED] LKQ was always supposed to have a nun present when examining us girls but he would tell them to go get something. When they left he would play with himself while inserting his finger inside me. This happened whenever he felt he could get away with it. I don't know how often it happened but it happened on several occasions. You couldn't tell the nuns about this as they simply didn't believe us. I did try to tell Sister [REDACTED] LFS She just said I was a brat.

Religious Instruction

43. I only saw priests at mass. I loved God so much when I was little. I loved going into the chapel. I loved Lent because you could go into the chapel anytime you wanted wearing your mantilla. I loved the peace and quiet and the way I could just talk to God.

Visits from Family

44. My dad came to see us a few times. One time he said mum was at the gate and we walked down to the gate. My mum was there and she said something like "Come to your mammy". I was about to go up to her but heard Sister [LFH] clapping her hands. Dad said "Don't tell the nuns that it's your ma at the gate". Sister [LFH] took me inside and asked me who was at the gate. She kept me there for ages until I finally cracked and told her who it was. I got caned and got my hair pulled for not telling the truth straight away. She said I was a brat and that I would never get to see my ma again. She said I would never see either of my parents again.
45. After that I had a lot of anger against my mum because she never came back. Years later she told me that she couldn't have come back. She said she tried but that the reason they couldn't come back was because the nuns had called my dad into the sitting room and told him that neither he or my mum would be allowed back to see me. He relayed this message to my mum and that was why, according to my mum, they never came back. That really upset me. I didn't see her as a mother which is why I always called her [REDACTED]
46. Years later my brother [REDACTED] was told that [REDACTED] had stolen the candlesticks from the chapel in the home that he was in which was why she wasn't allowed back. The nuns told me that [REDACTED] was on the streets and I was worried about her being out in the cold. One of the other girls eventually told me that what the nuns meant was that [REDACTED] went with men and was a prostitute.

Visits from other People

47. Sometimes some of the children were taken out for the day by volunteers. A Mr and Mrs McCauley took me out one day to a rough area in Glasgow. It was some kind of tenement. They were very kind to me and gave me a book "Black Beauty" and a jigsaw but one of the nuns took them off me when I returned to the home. One day one of the nuns said that Mr and Mrs McCauley were getting too old and that I wouldn't be going back out with them. I was heartbroken. It would only be for a day that they would have taken me out.
48. When I was nine or ten I started getting taken out by a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] whose first names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were so nice to us. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
49. Sister [REDACTED] LFL could be both kind and brutal. Her kindness was in letting me go out with the [REDACTED]. They also offered to take my sister [REDACTED] out as well. That made me really jealous.
50. Sometimes we did stay over with the [REDACTED] but it was never going to lead to them fostering us. They were such a lovely couple. I'm still in contact with them to this day. I felt so happy when we stayed with them, it was just so lovely.
51. I was allowed out with [REDACTED] LGJ who was a civilian who worked there. She and her sister took me to the Trossachs. It was a lovely day though I remember her asking me not to tell the nuns she smoked.

Inspections of Nazareth House

52. We did get visitors who I assume were commissioners or inspectors, something like that. This happened several times. They didn't speak to us. We knew they would be coming because we had to get into our best Sunday clothes and the toys would be brought out. We would be told to play with each other, smile and under no

circumstances were we to fight. I would sit reading a book. As soon as they left the toys would be put away and we were changed into our usual rags. We were always warned that they were coming but they never spoke to us kids. It was obvious they were some sort of inspectors and all this was done to give them a false good impression.

Siblings

53. I felt that [REDACTED] was lucky because she was one of the favoured ones. She was all dainty with blonde hair and blue eyes. She wouldn't say much whereas I had a mouth on me. I would constantly answer back. I soon learned that I would get battered whether I answered back or not so I ended up answering back all the time. That led to me getting into all sorts of trouble throughout my time there.
54. I wasn't in the same dorm as my sister. We weren't allowed to be together as sisters. We were separated from the beginning. I felt that they thought I would contaminate her. She was also in the RED group but in a different dorm. [REDACTED] never complained. She was very inward and just did what the nuns told her to do.
55. The separation from [REDACTED] caused a bad division between us. It's only over the last couple of years that we've got on together. I grew to hate her because I always thought of her as this wee pious thing who never spoke up or spoke up for me. She had had all the nice clothes and got to go to parties yet I was always treated so badly. My daughter said we should either make up or not speak at all. Me and [REDACTED] once had a massive argument and didn't speak for months. Things have got better since I realised that we were simply different people.
56. I haven't been able to locate my brothers. Both are alcoholics and both were raped while in care. [REDACTED] says it was when he was a bit older. He went into care aged three.

Personal Possessions and Clothes

57. The only thing I ever remember getting was a set of oil paints. I got them one Christmas. I loved them. They had pictures of birds on them which I painted. I was so ecstatic about getting them. I used them once and put them away in a tidy fashion. I don't know what happened but they got opened and spilled. Sister LFS went crazy. Her face went red. She was screaming and spit was flying out of her mouth. She was like a mad fiend. She screamed "You will never get anything else. Ever". I was crying and tried to explain that I had put them away properly but she didn't believe me.
58. Mr and Mrs McCauley once bought me a book, Black Beauty, and a jigsaw puzzle. When I got back to the home the book and jigsaw were taken away from me but later returned. I read the book loads of times until one day Sister LFS took it away with the jigsaw. She said I was too old for them.
59. Whenever visitors gave us sweets we had to put them unopened in a big box. We never saw them again. We did get given the odd sweet on a Sunday but it was a rare occasion. Nine times out of ten I wouldn't get anything because I had answered back or something like that.
60. At the home I didn't get much pocket money. That was mainly because I was always getting punished. One of the ways they punished me was by withholding pocket money. On one occasion I was given thruppence but as I was walking out of the home I heard Sister LFS clapping her hands and calling us over. She said that something had happened and, because of it, I had to hand back my thruppence. That was one of the worst feelings in the world, getting that little something and getting it taken back off me. Looking back I think she did it deliberately. I was broken-hearted at that.
61. The only clothes we had were the ones we arrived in. My granny later sent us clothes but we never got them. Somebody told me they were in a cupboard and, when I looked, sure enough there were parcels with my granny's writing on them. I remember there were clothes and a lovely wee pair of brown boots. Somebody clipped on me that I had been in the cupboard. I got grabbed by the hair and thrown to

the ground with her still pulling my hair. My feet never touched the ground. I got told that neither of us would be given what my gran had sent us because they were filthy rags. I was in a rage and I told them that I wanted the stuff my granny had sent us. That was another example of me not being able to keep my mouth shut. I'm still the same. I think it's something that's inbred in me. [REDACTED] is totally different. She is so quiet. My daughter always said that I would have got on better if I had learned to keep quiet, but I couldn't.

62. I seemed to always get the worst dresses. I remember that if they gave me one I liked I would pretend not to like it. I would insist that I wouldn't wear it because, if I suggested I liked it, they would take it back off me. I learned to do that for a few things i.e. pretend I didn't like something when I secretly did. That way they wouldn't take things off me that I liked or stop me doing things I liked doing. It was my way of surviving.
63. When I was about twelve we were all photographed together. We all wore nice dresses and blue ribbons. The dresses were taken off us as soon as the photo had been taken. In the photo it looks as if we are all smiling but it was forced. We only smiled because the nuns told us that we better had do. When the dresses were taken off us it was back on with the old clothes.

Abuse at Nazareth House

64. None of the nuns showed kindness. Even the babies got hit. My friend told me she had seen the babies, about two years old, being hit with wooden spoons by Sister [REDACTED] LFT
65. When you were to be punished Sister [REDACTED] LFH would tell you to stand outside her cell. You could be there for hours. You knew you were going to get caned. That made the waiting worse. I would try and get into the green room to talk to someone but I was scared I would get caught. You would get the thick cane on your hands. The pain was awful. The thin cane was used on your back and shoulders. That was agony. When I got caned I wasn't allowed to go swimming but could go to gym. If I

had gym afterwards I would ask the other girls how bad the marks were. I wouldn't look in the mirror because the nuns always said we would see the devil if we did.

66. I would get caned at least once a week, usually for answering back. If I didn't get caned then I'd get hit on the head or over the face. Caning was always done over your clothing.
67. [REDACTED] was another girl there. She and I used to get our heads bashed together. That was the worst pain you could imagine. We'd be forced to wait with our heads bowed down just waiting for Sister [REDACTED] LFP to bash them together. When she did it was agony. I could actually see bright lights and stars in my head. Sister [REDACTED] LFP was from Plymouth. She used to say that the Scots were a filthy race, that we were like pigs and animals. She used to say that in Plymouth you could eat your food off the pavement.
68. One time I got into a pushing fight with one of the others and Sister [REDACTED] LFS let the rest kick into me and pull my hair. They didn't want to but they were too scared not to do as they were told. After that I had to stand in front of the statue of Our Lady.
69. One time I was trying to get involved in a group talk. Sister [REDACTED] LFS asked me what I was doing. I said I was just listening. She told me to get away. When I said "No" she grabbed me by the hair, dragged me then threw me. I cracked my head on a radiator. She didn't care. She just said "Get up and get to your bed". I don't recall losing consciousness.
70. Sometimes I thought I deserved my punishments. I think that was just the way it was. It was built in to me that I deserved the punishments.

Abuse – [REDACTED] LFU

71. I was allowed out with "Uncle" [REDACTED] LFU who had an elderly sister. They stayed in [REDACTED] which was a Tower Block in Glasgow. He abused me. His sister used to say "Come out of that room. Leave that girl alone". I was with them for a

week and the abuse happened every night. His sister was lovely to me and I think she actually tried to save me from him.

72. He used to come to the home and visit. He would take me for a walk. This would be in the gardens of the convent at the back. He would fondle my breasts and masturbate while he did so. I tried to tell Sister [LFS] about him but she just said I was a liar and a filthy brat. He fondled me over and under my clothes while we walked in the garden. I was so scared of him. The nuns simply wouldn't believe me.
73. I've no idea how I ended up staying with [LFU] I simply got my case packed and got told I was going away for a week. I thought I was going on holiday. I was thirteen. In the flat he didn't rape me. He just did more of what he did to me in the garden though he would pull my pyjamas away from me.
74. I later met Cardinal Winning. He told me that he had tracked [LFU] name with [REDACTED] and that [LFU] was dead.

Work

75. When I was fifteen the nuns got me a job [REDACTED] I had left school at Christmas and started work in the January. Since I had left school they had to find me something to do because you weren't allowed to be idle. I hated the job. One of the bosses was fine but the other one was a real bully. It was Sister [LFS] who told me one day that I had the job. She just told me where it was and said I could either get the bus or walk. I walked. My job there was serving. It was like a big shop. I served biscuits and butter and things like that. I couldn't tell you how much I got paid. My wages were in a wee brown envelope. I had to hand it over to the nuns unopened. They said that since I was now an adult I had to pay for my upkeep.

Leaving Nazareth House

76. I found out I was leaving Nazareth House from my sister [REDACTED]. I came home one night after working in [REDACTED] and I saw that [REDACTED] was really upset and was crying. I thought

somebody had battered her. She wouldn't tell me what had upset her. I kept on at her. Eventually she blurted out "You're leaving, you're going somewhere else". I thought that this meant I was going to the children's home at Bishopton. It turned out that I was going to a hostel in Maryhill.

77. Sister LFS packed a case for me, walked me to the gate and told me to get the bus to Glasgow then a number 61 bus to Maryhill. She told me to ask them to let me off near [REDACTED]. Other than that all she said was "Behave yourself". And that was that. I had left Nazareth House.

Reporting of abuse

78. We never got to speak to anybody privately. If we did get the chance we were too scared to speak up. There wasn't anybody who any of us could speak to about what was happening. Sometimes I would shout "I'm telling on you" when one of the nuns battered me. I knew even as I said it that there was nobody I could tell.
79. I never told anybody about the things that happened to me because I was told I would be sent to the borstal in Bishopton if I did. I would say "It would be better than this dump". That was typical of me, I couldn't keep my mouth shut. I'm sure my life would have been much easier if I could have kept quiet. I was afraid to say anything because they would say that I would be sent away and never seen again. That scared the life out of me. There were some people who went away who I never saw again.
80. I never reported the abuse at Nazareth House to the police. There would have been no point as nobody would have believed us.
81. Somebody once told me that it's worse for a boy than a girl to be abused. To me abuse is abuse regardless of gender.

82. I think the first person I told about the abuse was my friend [REDACTED]. That was just after my daughter was born in 1984. My husband knew I had been in Nazareth House but I never told him about the abuse.

Life after Nazareth House

The Hostel in Maryhill

83. After I left Nazareth House I went to a hostel in Maryhill. The first person I met at the hostel was Sister Anne. She was just the sweetest person. She was so unlike the nuns in Nazareth House. She said "We will get on. As long as you do what you're supposed to do, we'll get on". She said that on a Saturday I could go out and stay out till 10pm. I was scared to go out because I didn't know where I could go.
84. While in the hostel I worked in [REDACTED] biscuit factory which was in, I think, [REDACTED]. I would give Sister Ann my wages to keep for me and she would give me, I think, ten shillings for myself. Sister Anne taught me how to budget, sort of. She told me to pay my bills for my keep. She would keep the rest of my money for me till I needed it. This meant I didn't fall into debt. I was always able to get money off her when I needed it. She also said that if I wanted anything I should save up for it.
85. We weren't taught to sew, cook or anything like that by the nuns in the hostel. There was a nice woman in the hostel who used to make such lovely food for us. She was so nice. I remember one time when I was ill and she brought me tea in bed.
86. At the hostel I met a girl called [REDACTED]. She took me under her wing and looked after me. I remember she drank a lot. She used to get me a beer, I think it was Carlsberg Special. I drank it but it was disgusting. We would go up a close, drink it and walk about. [REDACTED] was an alcoholic and died in a fire.

87. In the hostel we had rooms that maybe three of you would share. The older you got the more likely it was that you got your own room. That was at the very top. By that time you would be ready to leave the hostel.

88. I was in the hostel till I was nineteen. When I was eighteen Sister Ann said I would have to move on but added that there was a place next door that I could move into. She said I would have to pay for it. I ended up on my own in this little room. I hated it. I had always had people around me. I was so lonely in that wee room. I found it very difficult to cope being on my own.

Visits to Nazareth House and Cardinal Thomas Winning

89. There was a set of nuns in Paisley who I got to know. They apologised for what had happened to me in Nazareth House. I told them it wasn't them who had done anything. They said that they were all part of it.

90. About fifteen years ago, after I met the nuns in Paisley, I went back to Nazareth House. I spoke to one of the Sisters. She said she could only see me for ten minutes. I told her what had happened. She said that anybody who had returned to the home spoke only of having good times there. I told her that I hadn't had any good times and she made an appointment for me to go back. When I went back there were three of them. They said they lived a life of obedience. I told them that had nothing to do with them beating kids. Sister Joan was one of the nuns from Paisley. She come along with me. She wasn't wearing a habit. She stuck up for me. When they realised she was a nun their whole attitude changed and suddenly they were so nice. It just showed you how they could switch it on and off.

91. I met with Cardinal Thomas Winning three times. I asked Cardinal Winning about the abuse. He said it's because a big lot of them were Irish and there was a lot of poverty with big families and that they would get a couple of them into the priesthood and some of them in to becoming nuns. However, a lot of them didn't want to be priests or nuns and they were only doing as they were told so I suppose they took their anger out on us.

92. One time when I went back with Cardinal Winning we spoke with a nun who asked if I wanted to go for a walk around Nazareth House. I didn't recognise the place. There were lush carpets everywhere whereas I remembered the concrete floors I had to scrub.
93. The third time I met Cardinal Winning I was shocked because he said "I know you're going to court. How much would you like us to pay you to drop the case"? I know he wouldn't have had the authority to say those things. It must have come from higher up. There were [REDACTED] taking the matter to court but [REDACTED] weren't present at the time and I told him I didn't want money. The offer was verbal. Nobody else was present when he said that. I was shocked that he thought I could be bought off. I was never interested in money. After that I didn't feel I could ever go back and see Cardinal Winning. He had broken my trust in him and I was upset.

The Court Case

94. I went forward with the case against the nuns after a discussion with my sister. I felt it was my duty to back up what the others were saying as I knew what had gone on. That was when I got in contact with the lawyer Cameron Fyffe.
95. During the court case, I was cross examined by the nuns' Counsel. They brought up the fact I had been raped though and that I didn't know his name. I was traumatised and dumbfounded that something so personal spoken about in confidence could be brought out in an open court.
96. Nobody from Nazareth House turned up for the case. The only person who ever apologised to me was Cardinal Winning and that was just in private between the two of us. After the case I phoned Hammersmith where the Head of the Order stayed. The Mother Superior wasn't there. However, I spoke to somebody else and told them what had happened.

97. The court case that [REDACTED] took against the nuns and lost totally destroyed the [REDACTED] applicants. [REDACTED] I remember the judge saying that we had had our day in court and that that should be some comfort to us. All I ever wanted was for the abuse to be acknowledged and to get an apology.

Treatment

98. I saw a psychologist called [REDACTED] who did two tests with me. She then did a report which Cameron Fyffe, my lawyer. He gave me a copy of the report. It said there were inconsistencies in one of the accounts of my life and that I was not telling the whole truth about the sexual abuse I had received. Basically it said I was not telling them everything.
99. Just before the court case the nun's defence team sent me a letter forcing me to go to Sheffield to see a Professor Tantom. They said if I didn't go I would be held in contempt of court. Cameron Fyffe told me I had to go. I was of the opinion that they were trying to break me by sending me to Sheffield [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When I saw him he kept saying "I don't want to do this". He said "That's right, you had a terrible accident on a swing and you were unconscious". I told him no such thing had ever happened to me. He then said "You dislocated your shoulder". Again I told him no such thing had happened to me. It turned out he had the wrong records. I don't know if he ever prepared a report for the court. I don't see how he could have since he didn't have the right records.
100. I haven't had any further counselling after the court case. To be honest, I don't want it. When I saw [REDACTED] in the eighties she was very professional and very good with me but she did promise that what I told her was in confidence. However, things that I told her got read out in court. I now accept that this wasn't her fault but I was angry at what happened. I know what counsellors will say but it will never make what happened go away.

Records

101. When I took my case against the nuns to court they said they had no records of me, yet Mother Conlith showed that she could tell me the day I went in and the day I left. I would still like to get my records as I feel they must exist. I remember that Sister **LFH** would spend a lot of her time filling out a book and if you passed her she would shout out "Who's that? What are you doing?"
102. During the court case they said "The pursuer was a troublesome child". I asked how they could know that if they didn't have any records. They couldn't answer that one.

Impact

103. For many years after being in Nazareth House I had a habit of putting my arms up anytime somebody approached me or put their arms round my shoulders. That was because I had to do that when the nuns went to hit me. I remember seeing a boy when I was 21. I would do that any time he tried to put his arm round me. He asked me to stop doing it because it made it look to other people that he was trying to hit me, which he wasn't.
104. The things that had happened to me in my life caused problems with my marriage. It was maybe unfair on my husband because I hated being touched. I hated the intimacy side of marriage and was glad when it was over.
105. During my twenties I drank quite a lot. This was mainly because it helped me feel better. I stopped drinking when I got pregnant with my daughter. I never took it up again. I am on anti-depressants and have been since my early thirties. I can't cope without them.
106. Another way it has affected me is the rage I feel when I see the nun outside Marks and Spencer's in Glasgow collecting for Nazareth House. I see the nun laughing and

joking with people and I just think "How dare you?" I know she wasn't one of those who abused me but she's there representing those nuns. They have never once admitted responsibility for what they did.

Final Comments

- 107. I'm sure there were some who look back at their time at Nazareth House and say they had been happy but they were the pets, the favourites. That wasn't my recollection of the place. The abuse I suffered there has stayed with me for the rest of my life. Similarly it will be there for everybody else who went through such things. I think you just have to get on with your life the best that you can. If you do that then they haven't won. That's what I get out of it. They haven't won because they haven't broken me.

- 108. I don't have much hope for the Inquiry because the nuns are never going to apologise. It's good that the Inquiry will hopefully change things but abuse will still go on behind closed doors. It's good that the Inquiry is trying to do something and to help it learn about people. Cardinal Winning said they should have given Social Work Services to the families to try and keep them together.

Disclosure

- 109. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed. LBS

Dated. 27.3.2017