

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MDD

Support person present: No

1. My name is MDD but I am known as MDD. My name as a child in care was MDD. My date of birth is 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Edinburgh. My parents were called and . I had six brothers and four sisters. We all had the same parents. My brothers were called LBA . My sisters were called , . My eldest sibling was born in 1947/8 and the youngest was born in 1965/6.
3. My father was an alcoholic and my mother couldn't cope with all the children. I was taken into care in 1958 when I was six months old. LBA and I were put into care in Nazareth House, Aberdeen. were put into a different Nazareth House in Edinburgh. I found this out from my records which I recovered about 25 years ago.

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

4. My earliest recollection is when I was three years old. I was in the nursery. There was quite a strict routine. I remember being punished by Sister LGR. She slapped me on the back of the legs with a rubber knife. The nursery cared for babies and children up

to age five. There were lots of cots and children screaming. There were some toys but not a lot. I remember being taken outside for a walk and being put in a cot for a nap in the afternoon. I was moved to the boys' section when I was about five. I left the nursery just before I started school. This was traumatic. I was moved from the nursery environment and put in with people I didn't know. I was in Sister [REDACTED] LDQ [REDACTED] group until I was seven and then Sister [REDACTED] LFB [REDACTED] group after that. There were sixteen in my group. There were about 34 or 35 boys overall aged six up to fourteen. We all had numbers. I was number eleven. I was called by my number or [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED] or a derogatory name.

5. The institution itself was granite built. I remember it as being a quite daunting place. There was low light in the corridors. It was creepy with dark spaces. You could hear nuns chanting and in the darkness nuns seemed to just appear. The building however was quite warm.
6. When you went through the front door of Nazareth House, the office of the Mother Superior was on the right hand side. On the left hand side was the parlour where the visitors were taken into. The chapel was straight ahead. On both sides of the chapel were stairs. On the ground floor the old men were looked after by nuns. On the right hand side the nuns did their bathing and some had cells where they slept.
7. On the first floor, old ladies were looked after and on the left of that, a group of boys were looked after. We had a dining room and a sitting room. There were four levels altogether. On the very top level there were dormitories on either side of the stairs which were sectioned off into groups. The girls' section was in the corridor next to the chapel on the ground floor. There were three levels in their section. The girls' lives were completely separate to those of the boys.
8. Some nuns slept on the top floor. There were four dorms and then a nun's cell next to them. Then across the passageway, five dorms and a nun cell. There were a maximum of four boys in each dorm.

9. The nuns I can remember were Sister [FAF], Sister [LRC], Sister [LFB], and Sister [LFZ], Sister Columbian, Sister [LDQ], Sister Dara, Sister [LTX], Sister [LDX], Sister Frances, and Sister [LGN].
10. There were civilian staff members too. They were called Miss Fyffe, [LHQ], Maria Chipolari, [LHX], [FAJ], and Maria Fernandez. I always felt the civilian staff were quite good, not like the nuns. Apart from [LHQ].
11. The boys I can remember were [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], [LCM], [REDACTED], [LBY], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The families weren't in the same dorms.

Routine at Nazareth House

Morning and bedtime

12. The routine never deviated. The nuns woke us up early doors at 6.45am. There was a mad rush for the washroom because there were sixteen boys trying to share ten basins. The washroom had ten basins, two toilets and two baths. We washed and then went down to the dining room.
13. We went to bed between 8pm and 8.30pm. We all went at the same time. It didn't matter what age you were. We went at the same time summer and winter. We had a quick wash and then put our jammies on. We weren't allowed to talk after the lights were put out but we did. The nuns had late dinners then went to chapel so we were left alone. I don't recall seeing them when I was in bed. They kind of disappeared.

Mealtimes / Food

14. The nuns organised the meals. There was a large kitchen and a 'dumb waiter' was used to hoist meals on trays up to the various levels. Somebody like [REDACTED] LHQ [REDACTED] would collect and take the trays through to the section of boys. Sister [REDACTED] LFZ [REDACTED] group ate on the first floor. My section ate on the second floor.
15. I only recall porridge in my early years but perhaps in later years cereal was introduced. There was tea to drink and bread and butter. On a Saturday we got bacon and sausage and morning Aberdeen rolls. We were allowed to talk at breakfast but always had to hurry up. I hated the porridge. I said I didn't like it. On one occasion, Sister [REDACTED] LFB [REDACTED] held my nose and forced it down. I was physically sick and Sister [REDACTED] LFB [REDACTED] forced it into me again. She held my nose and spooned it into me. She cracked me on the head with her hand. This was the only time she lifted her hand to me. I don't know if this happened to other boys as the sections ate separately but I know Sister [REDACTED] LFZ [REDACTED] was quite handy with her hands and fists. She used to punch into them if they did something.
16. We came back from school on the bus to get our lunch. We would get soup and a bit of bread.
17. Tea was at 4.45pm or 5pm. You had to go to Benediction before you got your tea. It lasted about forty five minutes but it felt like ages. Boys and girls went to Benediction. I didn't see the nuns at tea time. Civilian staff did it. On Fridays we got fish. On Sunday we got one slice of roast beef and chips. On Thursday we got ham and tomato. There was also spaghetti and macaroni. The food was basic but home cooked. The menu never changed throughout my time at Nazareth House. It was the same menu week in and week out.

Washing and Bathing

18. We had a bath once a week on either a Thursday or a Friday. There were two baths upstairs but down the back stairs one level there were another three baths and a washroom. You just waited your turn. You queued up in your towel ready to go in. It was always rushed. They never changed the bath water. It was quite hot. Two or three boys used the same bath. You had your own towel with your number on it. Everything had your number on it. Your socks and underwear had a tag on them that said your number. [REDACTED] LHQ who worked in the dining room supervised and helped bath the younger boys.

Leisure Time

19. You could play outside in the grounds if the weather was good. The nuns would take every opportunity to get you outside if they could. The grounds were quite large. There was a football field at the back and a yard outside at the front. There were swings in the field and a big boxing shed but that was taken down in 1966. There was a garden where they grew strawberries. The girls had their own particular bit. There was no mixed play.
20. There was a sitting room of sorts which had large armchairs. It was just for the boys in your section. We used it if it was raining. It could hold quite a few. It was a large room. There were puzzles and jigsaws in cupboards. They introduced a black and white TV in 1964. It was put in the corridor because you couldn't get a signal in the room. We watched things like the Black and White Minstrel Show. The nuns controlled what we watched. If there was a film on and someone was kissing, we were told to turn our heads away. We usually watched it at night time during the winter because we were always outside in the summer. We each had a locker in the corridor next to the sitting room which had your number on it. You could keep your stuff in it.

Clothing / uniform

21. We wore play clothes at Nazareth House and we had a uniform for school. The play clothes weren't fancy. They were passed around. There was no distinction between winter and summer clothes. Ripped clothes were mended or you got hand me downs. Generally you got the same ones back from the laundry. The clothes had our numbers on them. I was number [REDACTED]. I never saw a new pair of shoes. You always got ones which had been worn by somebody else.
22. You only got one pair of underwear for a week. You weren't allowed to change it. If you had dirty underwear they would call your number out when you were queuing up to leave in your laundry and you would get whacked across the knuckles for that with a washing line stick. Usually just the once. It was sore enough to make you cry.

School

23. I went to St Peter's school. This was both primary and secondary. We went by bus. It took about twenty minutes to get there. Boys and girls went together but the girls were on the top of the bus and the boys were on the bottom of the bus so you never really saw them. There were separate entrances and separate playgrounds for boys and girls but we shared classes. There were children there from normal family homes. We all wore the same uniform.
24. I enjoyed school. We were known as the 'Nazxies' which was quite funny. There was a feeling of segregation. We were somehow different. Some teachers were quite cruel and would point it out. I had friends at school but they weren't allowed to come to Nazareth House. I liked History and English. I was hopeless at Maths. The homework was constant and you were made to do it. The nuns didn't help you with it or supervise you. You were just told to do it. We got home from school after 3pm. At 4pm there was Benediction and then we went upstairs for tea.

Trips / Holidays

25. We didn't go on lots of trips. We were taken to Plusgarden Priory. This was a monk's place outside Elgin. We used to go there for the day if there was a religious thing happening. Once a year we went to Tombae House for three weeks. It was owned by the Catholic Church. I had some of the happiest memories of my life there. Both boys' sections went together. In the summer we went to the beach with the nuns. They owned two or three beach huts. We got changed and ate sandwiches in them. We only went to the beach if it was sunny.

Birthdays and Christmas

26. I didn't know when it was my birthday until I was eight. Somebody told me it was my birthday. The teachers at school used to ask when you were born and you didn't know. I never got any birthday gifts. I never got a birthday card or Christmas card. At Christmas, you got an apple and an orange and a small toy. You were allowed to keep the toy in your locker. You had a small bedside locker which you kept your junk in. The toys were never new. They had scratches on them. They were donated by somebody. You got a Christmas dinner.

Religious Instruction

27. We said prayers constantly. At your bedside, prayers here there and everywhere. We said grace before meals. We went to Benediction every day of the week. On a Sunday you went to mass in the morning and also Benediction. The priest when I was there was called Father Ashwood. He was old. He had been there since the First World War. Different priests came in to take mass on Sundays and sometimes to visit but we never had any interaction with them. A couple of teachers used to come in and go to mass. They were treated like royalty.

Visits / Inspections

28. There was a visit from my social worker, Miss Coutts, once or twice a year. She was quite elderly. I saw her here from when I was about aged nine. We would be told we were getting a visitor from Edinburgh who was going to ask you questions about how you like it here and we were told what to say. I saw her in the parlour which was in the posh bit of the home. It had a lovely red carpet and a lovely table. We were brought in and left alone for about half an hour. The nuns were earwiggling at the door to see what you were saying. Miss Coutts was a nice person and seemed kind of concerned. I dared not say everything wasn't alright. I knew I would be punished if she told the nuns. You couldn't ask to see your social worker. Mr Thompson took over from her and I saw him until I was eighteen. I saw him at least once a year.
29. I don't remember any inspections. If there were inspections, they were done when we weren't around.

Siblings

30. I didn't know I had brothers and sisters until I was five or six. I only saw my sister [REDACTED] when I was going to Benediction or I would glance round and see her on the bus going to school.

Healthcare

31. We went to a doctor who was based at Albyn Place once a year for a check- up. One of the nuns was a trained nurse and she dealt with minor ailments. When I was four years old I had diphtheria and pneumonia. I nearly died. The nuns eventually called an ambulance to take me to hospital. There was a dentist room in Nazareth House and Dr Thow would come in and do teeth extraction. A barber came in every four weeks to cut hair.

Chores

32. We had to clean the corridors with heavy duty mops like buffing up. You would get moved onto different jobs like cleaning up the sitting rooms. This was supervised by a staff member or one of the nuns. If you didn't do this you would be punished by being hit with washing clothes sticks on the knuckles or back of the legs. They sometimes used their hands. When you were younger you got thruppence and when you got older you got sixpence. When you turned twelve you got a shilling. This was subject to your behaviour being good and all your chores being done. You were allowed to spend your money in a shop which was directly across the road from the home on a Saturday afternoon.

Running away

33. At fourteen I ran away. I stole a couple of things and sold them and got a train ticket to Edinburgh. I went to my aunt and uncle's and stayed for a couple of weeks until I was moved to St Ninian's in September 1971.

Discipline

34. There were collective punishments. If you did something wrong everybody would be punished. In effect, other people would fall out with you.

Bed Wetting

35. Civilian staff were on night duty and they got up children who were known to wet the bed and took them to the toilet. You were free to go to the toilet if you wanted. I never saw the boys who wet the bed take baths the next morning. There was a bit of a song and dance with children who wet the bed if the nuns were still up. The nuns could fly off the handle. They had tempers. I could hear Sister LFZ shouting and screaming. Her voice would echo through the corridor. She would call them Glasgow tramps and say things like 'no wonder your parents didn't want you'. They would be humiliated. The civilian staff tried to cover up but if the nuns found out, they would make them

stand in the corridor with wet sheets on top of their heads. Sometimes there would be three or four children standing. I didn't wet the bed but my brother [REDACTED] did. I saw [REDACTED] standing in the corridor.

Abuse at Nazareth House

36. When I was six, I was being chased by other boys in the boys' section. They said they were going to batter me. On the top landing there was a big laundry cupboard. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was there. He was the husband of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who worked in the kitchen. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told the boys off and then took me into the cupboard and made me masturbate him. He had got me away from the boys and this is what he expected me to do for him. I did it, probably through fear. I forgot about that quite quickly.
37. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] son, [REDACTED], was in my class at school. There were two other sons called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. When I was eight, I was allowed a sleepover at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] house which was next to Nazareth House. I don't know how it was I was allowed to have a sleepover. Normally you didn't have anything to do with the people outside. I think it was planned. When the sons were falling asleep, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] gave me a can of beer. I drank the beer. I was woken in the early hours of the morning and taken through to their bedroom. I was drowsy and still half asleep. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was holding me down by my shoulders and the next thing I knew [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was raping me. I was screaming. It was the most horrendous pain I could ever imagine in my life. I was crying. I stared at a clock on the wall until it stopped. I couldn't believe [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was a part of it because I liked her.
38. The next day they acted as though nothing had happened. I was bleeding from behind and I had a terrible sore head. I was quite hazy. I told Sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] what had happened and she confronted them. I was there when she spoke to them. They made me out to be a complete liar. She believed them. I didn't have the guts to tell her I was bleeding. If I had, I might have been believed. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did stuff to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as well. I knew him vaguely. I think he was slightly older than me.

39. After that the **LDU/L** boys kept away from me and I kept away from them. I no longer liked **LHQ** and **LDU** was still floating about. He had no official role but the nuns used him as a disciplinary figure. After that I didn't see him for a couple of years. Eventually he reappeared and I just kind of froze. I kept out of his way.
40. There was driver there called **LDS**. He drove the minibus for Nazareth House. He would take the children out or nuns to places where they had to go. There was talk of him being a right weirdo. **LDU** my daughter's mother, was at Nazareth House too. She told me that he tried to touch her up one day when she was in the car going to a doctor's appointment.
41. When I was about thirteen, Sister **LRC** was in charge of our group when Sister **LFB** was away. She was chasing me all playful into Sister **LFZ** group's sitting room. She locked the door so we couldn't be disturbed. She ended up sitting on top of me on the floor. I thought this was just playfulness. Obviously she had an ulterior motive. She lifted her habit up and she caught my hand and put it inside her pants. She made me masturbate her. I had an erection. My hormones were all over the place. I knew it wasn't normal but it kind of felt good in a way. When she climaxed she stood up and showed me how to kiss. This was a nun. It was really bizarre. I kind of felt guilty afterwards and wondered did I make this happen.
42. A couple of months later, she said she had put my name forward for a spare bedroom at the top of the landing. It was a small room and it had a single bed. I thought this was great. Unbeknown to me her motive was to come and annoy me at night and abuse me. I had full penetrative sex with her. The impression she gave me was that if I didn't do it, I would be moved back into the dorm. I was quite annoyed. I remember not wanting to do anything. I felt it was wrong. Another night she did try and I refused. I got moved back into the dorm. Then she left me alone. By that time my head was all over the place and I decided to get out of there and to run away. I was in the single room about three weeks. The other boys thought I was sucking up.
43. A couple of weeks later all of the boys were away overnight and I couldn't go. I was the only one in the section. Sister **LFB** cell was next to my bed. Her window

looked into my dorm. Sister [LFB] said I could share her cell. I went into bed with Sister [LFB]. It was creepy so I thought this was alright. She started to kiss me and one thing led to another. Sex happened again. She took me back through to my room. The following morning she apologised profusely. She was genuinely remorseful. In many ways I felt sorry for her so I never opened my mouth. My head was all over the place. I decided that I needed to get out of there. People have this image of nuns being so holy but at the end of the day they are human beings and they have the same problems. They take off the habit and there is a lot underneath. I don't think that Sister [LFB] knew what Sister [LRC] had done. There was an age gap. Sister [LRC] was happy to be with the younger nuns. Sister [LFB] was one of the older nuns.

Leaving Nazareth House

44. I was becoming rebellious in Nazareth House and in school. I ended up going to the shops and stealing. I was taken back by the police. I ran away two months after the second incident. That was the end of my stay in Nazareth House. I ran away to Edinburgh when I was fourteen. I stayed with my aunt and uncle for a couple of weeks. They were called [redacted] and [redacted]. They were in touch with the social worker because I said I didn't want to go back to Nazareth House. I didn't talk to them about the rape. It was difficult then to discuss these things. It is still difficult now. I wouldn't have had the confidence to talk about it. It was embarrassing. You felt guilty that it was somehow your fault.
45. I was placed in Liberton Remand Centre for a couple of weeks and from there I went to St Ninian's in Falkland in Fife. Mr Thompson drove me there in his car. He told me they played sport there every day and I would like it. He didn't ask me why I had run away from Nazareth House.

St Ninians, Falkland, Fife

46. I arrived in St Ninians in [REDACTED] 1971 when I was fourteen and stayed for nine months until [REDACTED] of 1972.
47. St Ninian's was quite a foreboding place. It was quite dark. The house had been built in 1860. It had huge front doors which were answered by one of the brothers. I thought 'I'm not going to like it here.' It had a bad atmosphere. It was like a sad depression. Like a fear.
48. St Ninians had originally been built for a wealthy landowner in Falkland. Years down the line when it fell into wrack and ruin it was gifted to the brothers who received money to install heating during and after the war. When you went into St Ninian's there was a huge hall which had a grand piano. There were highly polished floors. There had been paintings left on walls. There was a winding staircase in what would have been a ballroom. The rest had been changed but they kept the original appearance through the front doors.
49. Off to the left was a dining room and just ahead of it was a kitchen. Off to the right you went up a small stair which took you to the chapel. Along the corridor from the chapel was one of the brother's rooms. Then you had dormitories right round in a square shape. There was another floor you went up to by back stairs. The winding staircase took you up to the top floor and that's where the classrooms were. You went to school in the building. There was a laundry and sewing room which had two civilian staff. All the laundry was taken in and if clothes were ripped they would be mended.
50. Adjacent to the building there was stables where they used to have horses in the late nineteenth century.
51. There was a small chapel. There was no religious instruction whatsoever except chapel on a Sunday. A priest came in to do the services.

52. There were dormitories on the first floor. One of the brothers slept nearby. There were three floors. It was much smaller than Nazareth House and it was just boys. There were about fifty boys aged from about ten to fourteen and a half.
53. It was run by brothers who wore a cassock and a priest type of collar. Brother **LHC** was overall in charge at St Ninians. Then Brother **BHD** then Brother **LNA** then the music teacher Brother and then the sports Brother and a trainee brother. Brother **BHD** and Brother **LNA** were in charge of the discipline. Brother **LHC** was the figurehead of the home. He was seventy odd then. He was quite old. I feel I could have spoken to him. There was civilian staff. There was a teacher called Mr **BHB** and a gardener and groundsman.

Routine at St Ninians

First day

54. Brother **BHD** opened the door and spoke to Mr Thompson. Then Mr Thompson left me to get on with it. Brother **BHD** told me what the do's and don'ts were. He told me where I would sleep and what the routines were.

Mornings and bedtime

55. You got up and got washed and went down for your breakfast. Then you went straight up the stairs to your classroom for about nine.
56. There were about three or four in a dorm. Bedtime was around 8:30 pm – 9:00 pm.. You had to be washed and in your bed by that time. You weren't allowed to talk but people would whisper.

Mealtimes/Food

57. Breakfast was cereal like Kellogg's Cornflakes. The kitchen was next to the dining room. There was a hatch where you queued up and got your meal. All the boys ate together. It was quite a big dining room. You were allowed to talk at mealtimes.
58. After sport finished at 4:00 pm you went into the dining room and had bread and jam and a cup of tea. At 7:00 pm you got your dinner. A lot of the food was tinned like spaghetti Bolognese and macaroni and cheese. There was no home cooking. I don't recall fresh potatoes and vegetables.

Washing/bathing

59. There were bathrooms and showers. I don't remember how often we showered. I think each dorm would go and get a shower when it was their turn. I think this was at tea time after sport.

Clothing/uniform

60. There was no school uniform. We wore the same clothes all the time.

School

61. The brothers taught us. You were called by your last name. I hated school. I just didn't like being there. You would fall out with boys your own age and they would gang up on you. It was very threatening. There was about fifteen in each class. I can't recall ever getting homework. Everything was done in class. Exams were never mentioned. There was no report or a report card. You were never pushed or encouraged. You were terrified to say you didn't understand something or you would be singled out. You didn't get breaks in the morning or afternoon and you got half an hour after lunch. You finished at 3:00 pm and did sport until 4:00 pm. Sport was compulsory every day so whether it was raining or sun you had to do some type of sport for an hour. There was rugby, football and athletics.

Trips/Holidays

62. There was a trip to Fife for a rugby thing and I remember getting chips afterwards.

Leisure time/chores

63. In the afternoons and at the weekends we could play in the grounds. There used to be cross country running. After dinner some people went to the gym. I would try to do flips. There was a separate TV room. We could watch whatever was on. If the chores were done you got pocket money of a shilling.

Visits/Inspections

64. I never had any visits.

Healthcare

65. I never saw any doctors or dentists.

Running away

66. About ten of us ran away together. We went to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] parents' house in Dundee. Then we went to a derelict house where we were arrested by the police and taken to Dundee police station. We were away for a couple of days. Then we were taken back to St Ninians. We were put in isolation for punishment. No pocket money, no sport, no communication with this one or that one. I just ran away once. This was before the abuse happened. I was quite easily led in those days.

Abuse at St Ninians

67. The brothers used to shout and scream constantly like maniacs. They lost their tempers so quickly. They ruled by fear. They would punish you for minor things like not listening. Brother **BDH** would crack you across the hands or the head with this big ruler thing. Brother **LNA** was the same. He was evil as well. They also had belts around their cassocks and they would pull them out and crack you with them. The classroom was ruled by fear. There was total silence. If you were caught speaking, you got whacked big time. I witnessed physical abuse of others. There was rumours of sexual abuse.
68. One Christmas there were a few of the brothers left, maybe three. I remember Brother **LNA** and myself and another boy. I actually think it was David Sharpe. I was given a can of beer thinking it was Christmas and all this. I can't remember if I had one can or two. I was sitting in the brothers' sitting room where they relaxed. I went to bed and the next thing I knew I woke up in Brother **LNA** bed. His room was right next to the dorm. I think I was drugged. I woke up in my own bed after being in his bed. I don't know how I got from his bed to my bed. I had an horrendous headache the next day. I thought surely it can't be like that if you just have one beer. I know he definitely raped me because I was bleeding. I was painful, bleeding and confused.
69. A couple of weeks later, Brother **BHD** gave me a can of beer and I went to bed. I think they were drugging me. I went to bed and then I got woken up by him saying you have to come up I need to speak to you or something like that. I was half dazed and I went up. As he was talking I must have drifted off to sleep. The next minute I woke up and he was actually raping me. By this time I became aware, I was screaming at the top of my head. I kicked him and jumped off the bed. I came out into the corridor and as I came out into the corridor Brother **LHC** became aware of the commotion. He came out to see what was going on and I told him what happened. Brother **BHD** was ready to attack me physically. Brother **LHC** was the brother but you very rarely saw him. He told Brother **BHD** to get back into his room and he would deal with him later. He got me a blanket and covered me up as I had no clothes on. He calmed me down. He told me not to worry and that he would definitely

get this sorted out. I was really upset and crying my eyes out. I never saw Brother BHD again after that. Somebody told me he had been shipped out back to wherever they go when they get these mad urges.

Reporting of abuse at St Ninians

70. Brother LHC assured me he would deal with it personally. It didn't cross my mind to get the police involved. He said I would never have to see Brother BHD again and in many respects that was sufficient.

Leaving St Ninians

71. When I was fifteen I fell into the school leaving age category. I got told I was leaving two or three days beforehand. I was met by Mr Thompson and he told me he had a place in a hostel. He took me to Ponton House in the West End of Edinburgh. I just had the clothes I had on. I was ferried from one institution to another. It was more relaxed. Everything was done for you and I just accepted it. I shared a room with a boy around the same age as me but slightly older. A man and wife ran the hostel and their job was to feed you. It was a stopping off point for people waiting for a more permanent place. People used to come and go. I was there for three or four months.
72. I was then taken to Cephas House in Ravelston Park in Edinburgh. This was quite a posh area. I stayed there from 1972 until 1973. The houseparents were a man and wife. They had a daughter. There was nine boys and girls there altogether. Three of us shared a room. There was a more homely atmosphere. There was a family like atmosphere. There was a very relaxed and very comforting atmosphere. It was really good and I liked it. We had meals together and always spoke at the table.
73. They encouraged me to try and get a job and I got a job in a garage earning £5 a week. They took you out and helped you fill in forms for jobs. This was the first time I

had ever earned money. I did overtime on a Saturday so I ended up with £6 a week. This was my money and they didn't take it away. This was a really good feeling.

74. I decided to join the merchant navy because I had heard stories about people going to foreign countries. I joined the merchant navy programme in Leith in [REDACTED] 1973. I did my training on the training ship [REDACTED] in Leith from [REDACTED]. I went to sea as a deck boy on [REDACTED] aged fifteen and a half. This was with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. They were naval supply ships. I felt older than I was. I felt like a survivor and I was streetwise. This is when I started to go to different countries. The discipline of the navy suited me because I was used to that. I enjoyed my time in the merchant navy. I had a happy wee life there for first time in many years. The abuse went completely out of my head. I managed to forget about the horrendous things which happened. The mind acts as a safety valve until something triggers it and then it all comes flooding back.

75. Mr Thompson got in touch while I was at sea. I think he wrote me a letter. He managed to get me a place in Crescent House in Edinburgh. It was run by an elderly couple. They had young people. Girls and boys. I just used it when I was stopping off from sea. Maybe for three or four weeks at a time when I wasn't at sea. I hadn't lived a teenager's life. I had missed out on a lot of things. I had my first steady girlfriend at seventeen. This was like catching up for me.

Life after being in care

76. When I was eighteen that was my time up at Crescent House. The care system no longer needed to look after me and I was more than capable of looking after myself. When I turned eighteen Mr Thompson had written to me and said I was no longer part of the care system. I just stayed on boats after that. I enjoyed being away and seeing new places. I had met up with cousins and an aunt in uncle in Edinburgh and I stayed with them when I was home for two weeks.

77. I worked for different shipping companies. I went into a shipping pool and you went where there were job vacancies like Singapore or whatever and you would fly over there. I did this for four or four and a half years. I had been in the Persian Gulf for six months and it was absolutely boiling as usual. When the contract was up I came ashore and they wanted me to go back. I said I wasn't going and they were going to put me in front of a committee to explain why I wasn't going so I left. I joined the army the following week. I went straight into 24 weeks training. I spent six years in the army. There was more routine. On reflection, joining these places was a lifesaver for me. I felt as though I couldn't operate unless it was regimented. Unbeknown to me, I was institutionalised.
78. When I left the army my marriage split up. I had got married in 1978. I had two daughters from that marriage. I maintained contact constantly with my daughters even though I was divorced from their mother. I have always been in their lives from day one.
79. When I came out of the army, in the early eighties, I got a job as a telex operator with oil companies doing communications onshore and offshore. My job was to send weather reports. Because I worked in the army I knew how to work telex machines and not many peoples could do that in those days. There was a big oil boom in Aberdeen. The money was good. I moved around different companies until I found a company that I was steady Eddie with. Most of the work I did was contract through agencies.
80. The oil boom finished for me in 1987/88. I got a job in sales. I worked with Sky TV then I left that and went back to sea but not the merchant navy just supply boats in Aberdeen. I came back and got a job in an insurance company and I stayed there for three years. My father had died and I thought that I needed to do something with my life. There had been a reconnection made and for a short period I lived with them. My father was bad with the drink. I had some contact with my siblings. I put myself through an access degree programme and then I got a place at Aberdeen University. I took a degree there. Initially it was in Gallic studies but I changed to a combined studies degree. I had all sorts of plans to go into teaching.

81. I got married again in 1985. I was married for sixteen years. I had two more children from that relationship. After I divorced, I met [REDACTED] who had been in Nazareth House. Her sister was in my class at school when I was at Nazareth House. We formed a relationship and [REDACTED] was born. We didn't live together too long but we remained friends and I maintained contact almost on a daily basis.
82. In 2001 a friend started an internet company [REDACTED] and he asked if I wanted to come on board. We had offices in Union Street. We were building Scotland's [REDACTED]. The internet was still in its infancy. We started employing people and money was injected into the company. People were investing because it seemed like a good idea at the time. We did build Scotland's [REDACTED] and it was launched at Pittodrie stadium a couple of years later. The director started getting a bit too big for his boots and I saw what was happening. I told him I was leaving and that I didn't want my shares. After I left they moved to bigger offices where they did graphic web design. The company collapsed three months after that. I got out at the right time.

Impact

83. I have osteoarthritis and I've had a stroke. Mentally it is very difficult. The abuse in care is like a dirty little secret you carry with you in case people think you could have done something about it. There's always that element of guilt.
I was in jail 35 years ago. I couldn't settle when I first came out of the army before I got the job in telex. I ended up getting involved in crime and daft things. I ended up getting twelve months in prison and I had been full of drink and drugs.
84. Before 2007 I had a major drug problem. I was taking all sorts of drugs and was drinking heavily. I don't know what the cause of it was. My head was turning with a lot of things and I was taking lots of cocaine and heroin. I was blocking out a lot of feelings. I had a stroke in 2007 possibly as a result of the stress I was going through and because I was taking drugs. My body was saying enough is enough.

85. I ended up going to a rehabilitation centre weekly. The stroke kind of changed my life. I no longer wanted to drink or take drugs again. It saved my life in a lot of respects. I turned my life completely around after that. I was getting flashbacks when I was sleeping and I realised there was something seriously wrong. I tried to tell my doctor about it one day and I broke down. I told her about the rape when I was eight and I hadn't realised it had happened again when I was in St Ninian's. That was still to come out down the line. Over the last few years these things have come back to me.
86. I don't really trust people a lot. I trust women more than men. I've never been close to a male. I get on with women a lot better. I'll never trust males the way other people can. I'll never have that trust and has affected me big time. When I hear stories about children being abused it really gets to me. It does my head in. I can't watch programmes about it on telly. I've opened up to [REDACTED] who had been in Nazareth House as well, but I'm not ready to tell her everything and vice versa. She's got chemo brain just now so she doesn't want to talk to the police. She's been getting chemo for nearly three years now.
87. I don't handle thoughts in my head great these days. Lately I haven't been able to cope with a lot of things. My head just feels done in. I am on anti-depressants. Recently I have had to get my medication upped. I am not sleeping at all. I am reliving the scenario in my head. It's not a nice feeling. I am waiting to start counselling. The only thing I think is going to help is by telling my story and getting it done and dusted.
88. I'm not religious at all. I believe in a higher power. I believe in Spirit. A divine power. I believe that we are all energy and you can't kill energy. I don't believe in Jesus Christ. I don't believe the rubbish they tell you in bibles. It's all manufactured. I've never set foot in a chapel since. I don't like priests. I'm not saying they are all bad but they know what's going on and they have hidden it for so long. I certainly don't believe in popes. The Catholic religion is the most corrupt religion on this earth having seen it with my own eyes.

Reporting of Abuse

89. The police from Broxburn called me in 1996 or 1998 about [REDACTED] being abused. I gave them a statement and I mentioned something else to them about the nuns but they never followed it up with me. I spoke to them a few weeks ago for about four hours as a result of a referral from the Inquiry.

Records

90. I got my records about 25 years ago from the social work department. I saw that I was taken to Nazareth House in 1958 but here was minimal amount of information.

Lessons to be learned

91. Institutions that committed abuse need to be held accountable. People need to be punished. There has to be some sort of redress or compensation. Peoples' lives have been ruined. Money will never change things but people could have a more comfortable experience for whatever years they have left. There should be no loopholes in the system where something can go amiss or not be noticed. There should be deeper disclosure checks.
92. Social worker departments need to let care institutions know that children can speak to them openly and that it won't be divulged. There should be places where people can go to speak about things. Homes should have regular inspections. There should be checks and balances and regular feedback about how things are working.

Hopes for the Inquiry

- 93. I hope that accountability comes out. There should be changes for future generations. Religion based institutions should not be watching children. Care should be geared towards a family home life rather than institutions.

- 94. 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..... MDD

Dated..... 27 / 11 / 18