

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

LCD

Support person present: Yes

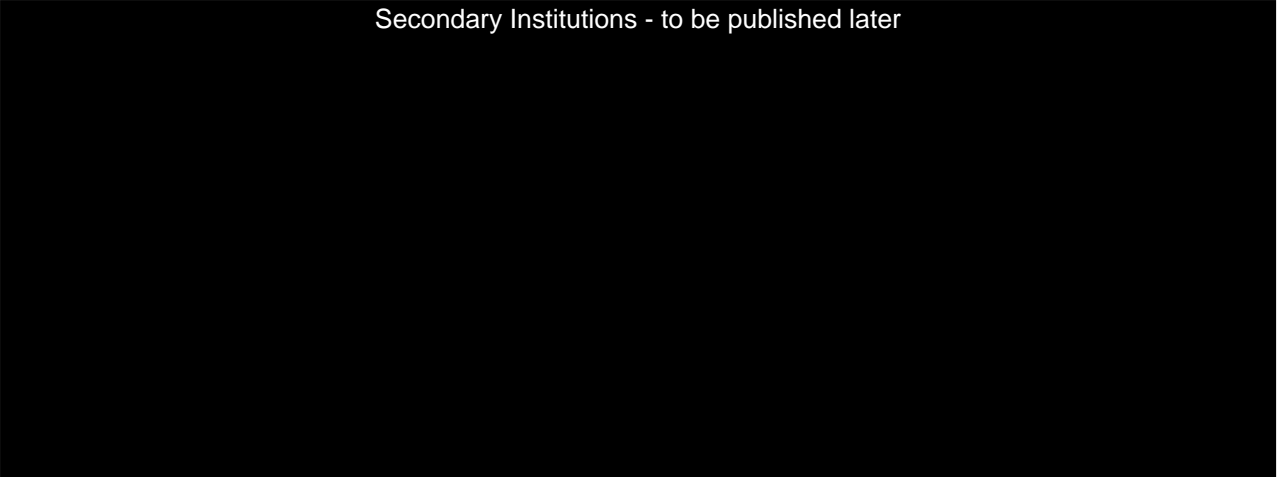
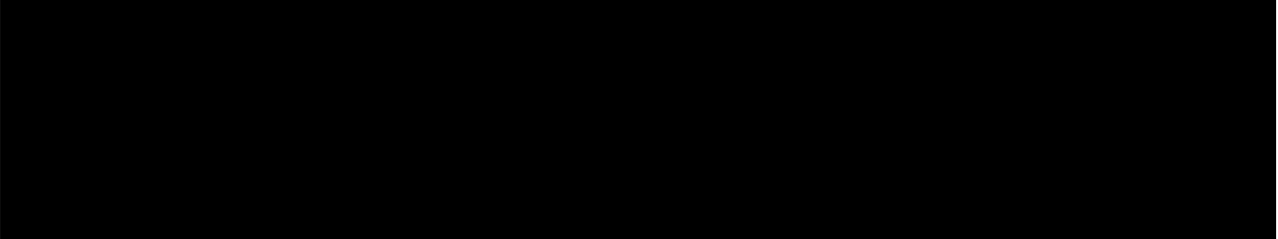
1. My name is LCD My date of birth is 1944. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. My mother and father have both passed away. Their names were and I am the oldest of three children. I have a younger sister who is one year and ten months younger than me. My younger brother committed suicide. He was about seven years younger than me.
3. During my early childhood we moved around quite a bit. We didn't know we were poor, but our accommodation was quite bad. I was born in Glasgow. We then moved to and then on to After that we moved in with an aunt for a few months before moving to a different house in I was then put in care, in a children's home in Dunoon. I was in care for nearly three years then went back to We then moved to and then we went to the convent. Basically it was a happy life. We had lots of relatives around in the same situation as we were.
4. It was through the Glasgow Corporation, Health and Welfare that we were sent to Dunoon. was in Blair Vardach Children's Home, Helensburgh, when he was six months old. We saw him again when he was four.

5. My dad was a welder in the shipyards, so he went where the jobs were, which sometimes meant him going down south. He had an alcohol problem that we didn't know about. It was made clear to us when we were in Nazareth House.
6. We were in the children's home in Dunoon because my mum was in a sanatorium. She had tuberculosis (TB). She signed herself out and we moved to a new house but unfortunately she was then diagnosed as terminally ill and died. My grandfather told me it took three priests to keep us together to go to Nazareth House. So it would appear strings were pulled to keep us together, which didn't work out.
7. My dad's alcohol problem dictated that before we went to Dunoon I looked after the house. I was nine years old. Basically what I did was wait at the tram stop on a Friday night to get money from my father to allow me to go and pay the little shop that gave me food on tick. We looked after our brother, who was in a pram. He was only months old. We used to take him from the house to the nursery a couple of miles away. We were in Maryhill Road and this was in Queen Margaret Drive. We would walk there and get the tram back to school.

#### **Dunoon Children's Home, Clyde Cottage, King Street, Dunoon**

8.  Secondary Institutions - to be published later
9. 

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

10.

## Nazareth House, Cardonald

### Routine at Nazareth House, Cardonald

#### *First day*

11. I'd have been eleven or twelve years old when I went into Nazareth House, Cardonald. We went to Nazareth House by taxi with our father. Our cases were taken from us and we were taken to the sewing room, where clothes were given to us by two ladies in there, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were older girls that had never left the home. We never seen our own clothes again.
12. I got the case back but nothing else. There were all sorts of things in the case including some photos. I kept two or three of the photos, but I don't know where I kept them. They were hidden for some of the time. They were mostly of my mum and [REDACTED] and me with my dad at Portobello. I've still got those. I got the photos back from a painter who had found them in a hidey hole and gave me them back.
13. The nursery in Nazareth House had boys and girls. The main children's area, in the other side there were 64, 65 of us at one point and the extra one was [REDACTED]. I was given a cell with [REDACTED]. It was just the two of us for about a year and then another lad came in. His name was [REDACTED]. He would have been about the same age as [REDACTED]. I looked after both the boys as I was told I knew about boys. I think Sister [REDACTED] LFH meant physically.
14. We were given a number when we arrived. I was number [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was given a new date of birth and a new name. She has always

been known as [REDACTED] and her birthday was [REDACTED] Sister LFH told her she would now be [REDACTED] and her birthday would be on the [REDACTED] Her birth certificate said [REDACTED] but she was always known as [REDACTED]. She was called [REDACTED] by the family. We never found out the reason why. My birthday is [REDACTED] so it was difficult to change that.

15. We were taken to the dormitory and shown our beds. A girl was told to take us to see the refectory, play room and the outside yard space. Basically that was it, that was us. We then followed what everyone else did and that was our first day. We didn't do very well at this, asking questions, speaking when we were eating. You couldn't eat and drink at the same time as this was a punishable offence. So that was drilled into us over the next few days.
16. We had to grow our hair, that was the rules. It was short, we had ringlets at one time but at Dunoon we went a bit shorter. We had to grow it at Nazareth House; we weren't allowed to cut it. I didn't mind this until I was doing my day release at college. I saved up and went to get my haircut. This didn't go down well and as a result I didn't have money for quite some time. I was fifteen.
17. I stayed on at school until fourth year, just for six months to allow me to get into college. Most of my salary was going to the convent. Once I'd started doing work and college I obviously made friends and I would meet up with them. We'd go to the local cinemas, so all that was stopped for quite some time because I got my haircut.
18. As I said, I wasn't in a dormitory, I was in the cell. I was twelve and [REDACTED] was four. My bed was just under the window. [REDACTED] bed was against the wall, and when [REDACTED] came his bed was behind the door. They were iron bedsteads with rough bedding. When you come from a poor background your expectations aren't too high. I was moved into a dormitory when [REDACTED] moved away to Aberdeen.
19. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were the only boys in the convent. We didn't get to say goodbye to [REDACTED]. He was found behind the stage playing doctors and nurses with a girl. They were six years old. My grandparents couldn't take him as he kept running away from

school, and the next thing we were told was that he was in Aberdeen. He was sent to Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

20. I went to visit him once, a year later. I was sent up on holiday. He didn't have much to do with me. I'd seen him when he was four and had him until he was six. He wasn't comfortable with me, so I went out and about with the girls in the convent. But he didn't tell me anything. Nothing. I was fourteen and had been given a room of my own.
21. As I said, in Cardonald, the year before I left I was moved into a dormitory. These were split into three sections. The section closest to the first door was where Sister LFH slept. That was her cell. Then there was four or five beds in the first bit, then four and then five. The age group was five to fifteen years old. Usually when you reached fifteen years old you moved into parish houses and looked after priests or were farmed out to families who needed a domestic or you stayed on as an unpaid helper. Well, you got pocket money.

*Mornings and bedtime*

22. The nuns got us up in the morning at about seven o'clock or earlier. You immediately got on your knees and prayed. This gave Sister LFH the opportunity to check if you'd wet the bed. If you did you were taken into the washroom and caned. She didn't always come into our cell as she was busy elsewhere. You then went to the washroom and washed your hands and face.
23. You then went back to the dormitory and got changed. If you weren't going to mass you went down for breakfast. You would be told when you were going to mass. At one point I got a bit religious and I wanted to go to mass every day for lent. and Sister LFH saw me walking down with my beret on and said "Where are you going?". I told her I was going to mass for lent and she said "You'll do as you're told; you're staying here and looking after the wee ones". I started to protest but I was slapped forcibly. So I was stopped from going to mass instead of being encouraged to go.

24. You all got together for prayers in the red dormitory. Then we went downstairs for breakfast. There was eight to each table and there were two rows of tables. The floor was highly polished linoleum. We polished it, mostly with rags on our feet. The ceilings were very high. At the back was where the serving pots were washed. They were plastic. The food came through a hatch into the scullery. This was dished up into these plastic pots and taken to the tables and put out on to the plates. Then there was a little fiction about what you had just had for breakfast written into a book at the back. This was for the benefit of inspectors from the local authorities and was not a reflection on what we had for eating.

25. In bed, you had to sleep with your hands across your chest in case you interfered with yourself.

#### *Food*

26. We had something we called 'sleekit pie', which they called meat and potato pie. This was the left-overs from the previous four to five days under a beautiful pastry case. It looked lovely. Even as I'm speaking I can smell it. For collation we had glasses of milk with bread and butter, but it wasn't butter it was margarine.

27. The milk, that was delivered free, was left lying for a week or two in the changing room. It was clear at the top, well light brown, and green at the bottom. This was what you were expected to drink. I was lucky enough to sit beside a girl called [REDACTED] and in exchange for a read of 'Love comics' that someone gave me in school she drank my milk and ate my fat.

28. If you didn't eat breakfast it was then served up at lunch time, with lunch on top of the breakfast. If you didn't eat this then you got it for dinner, with dinner on top of it. This happened until the plate couldn't hold any more. So throwing up happened. If you threw up you were caned. You were told you were lucky to get what you got. In the evening, if caning wasn't enough, you had to clean all the dishes and polish the

floor. And this sometimes until 10 o'clock at night when the whole place would be in darkness.

29. We did well on feast days especially at Christmas and Easter. The food was more palatable then. Sometimes you got cake. We started working in the kitchen and the laundry and the nun there, Sister Carmel baked cakes. If we were working we did manual work. We built a rockery outside, she left her cakes on the window ledge to cool and sometimes some would go missing. She knew but she never said anything.
30. There was no talking in the dining room or you would be caned. It was a garden cane that would be used and it was quite substantial. Some of us started to hide the canes. This which meant Sister LFH would go out to the play room where there was a door leading out into a sluice room and three toilets. She would go out there and get a mop or a broom and break it over her knee. You would get hit with the broken handle which meant you'd get skelfs in your hand. The punishment was delivered when kneeling down.
31. One day, when I was at school, I was in the sewing class and Miss Jemson asked me why I wasn't sewing, and then she looked at my hands which were covered in skelfs and bleeding. She was very angry about it and left. She then came back and said she'd reported it, but told me not to think anything would happen. So she knew about it. So I was excused from sewing, but that's all that happened.
32. One time one of the nuns had dysentery. We all got it. There was mince that was fed to us and it was disgusting. We had to eat it. It was rancid and someone had handled it. We all went to Belvedere Hospital. There was about twelve of us there. There was a room with nuns in it too. The hospital was great. I think we were in there for a fortnight, or longer. I can't remember any contact with the authorities after we had dysentery.
33. There were old folk at the convent too. They were paying to stay there. They ate different food. We were told we lived on their charity and they paid for us at Nazareth House, but it was the local authority that paid them.

*School*

34. I went from one school, Larkhall and then I went to St Augustine's when I was expected to sit qualifying exams. You had to do dictation, which I did. But I never sat my qualifying exams. Different councils did educational things differently, which meant not covering a wide curriculum. For example, I never learnt fractions or long division at school in Cardonald.
35. There was a wall in the convent on one side there was Our Lady of Lourdes secondary school, on the opposite side of the road was Our Lady of Lourdes primary school and on the other side of the convent was the Our Lady of Lourdes Church.
36. When I went into the secondary school, the headmaster asked whether I had notes and I said I didn't have notes. I hadn't sat my qualifying exams. He asked if I was bright and I said no, so he put me into the lowest class, 11B. [REDACTED] went into the mainstream class because she had sat her qualifying exams and went into languages classes. I went into domestic science classes.
37. I worked my way through my classes which went well because my report card was good. I came first in the class and then I went into a higher stream and I came sixth. Then I went into fourth year. There was only five or six of us in the class. I came fourth, so that was okay. Unfortunately [REDACTED] didn't always have a good report card and she was caned. I came first a few times. Sister [REDACTED] LFH had to sign the report card. I found the school work quite straightforward. I was happy.
38. [REDACTED] and I were not encouraged to socialise and mix. I looked after the boys. The only time we were together for a while was when we stayed with our grandparents for between ten days and a fortnight.
39. At school when you were doing P.E. and you were pretty minging, you weren't allowed to shower with the other girls if you didn't have your bathing gown, which was worn while bathing in the convent.



*Birthdays and Christmas*

40. I was given a watch from my granddad for my Christmas one year. He had come to visit. He wasn't able to visit on the last Sunday in the month, which was visiting Sunday which was from two o'clock until four o'clock. He came up on a different day and when he was in the front sitting room he gave me a watch. When he left, Sister LFH saw it and said, "You certainly won't have that" and took it from me. I never saw it again.
41. Christmas Eve was busy, getting the place ready for Christmas day. There were never birthday presents or cakes. Birthdays weren't acknowledged at all.
42. We got Easter eggs one Easter, and Sister LFH took them from us and put them in a glass fronted cabinet on show. We found out how to open the cabinet and sneaked in and ate our chocolate. We smoothed out the wrappers and put them back and she never noticed. They were from my grandfather and my uncle who occasionally visited. There were other children's eggs there too, which we also stole for them.

*Bathing*

43. We got a bath once a week. There were three baths and sixteen of us to get a bath at any one time. The wee ones went first. It was usually too hot for them, but they had to sit down. So when it was your turn what you did was you put on your wash gown and someone would hold up a sheet while you took it off to get in the bath. In the water was another gown which you put over yourself. The water was cold by the time we got our baths, and you didn't know how many of the younger kids had peed in the water. All the other teams had to bath in the same room. And that was our bathing.
44. When we washed our hair there were long benches in the changing room and there were two galvanised baths. In them was pink pine disinfectant and you went through the routine. The water wasn't changed if anyone had head lice. If you went

immediately afterwards the chances were the head lice might be on the side and we always got it, and that was another routine.

You had to dry your own hair with a towel. It was a caning offence if you didn't do it fast enough. Straight after we got our hair washed we had to be in church, so you'd help the wee ones get their hair dried. Other children would give you a hand with this. This happened in the afternoon. I think it was on a Friday because we'd go to church. There'd be a short service and then confession. Bath day was a different day from the day you washed your hair because all the other teams had to bath in the same room.

### *Working*

45. If you were in the kitchen, you'd do a lot of washing up. There were big mixers. Sister Carmel, I can't remember who was there before her, but I loved her to bits and she would get you to help in the kitchen sometimes, mixing up eggs and flour, peeling potatoes. She taught me to fry eggs for Sunday breakfast.
46. We liked working in the laundry. It was heavy work and very hot, but we enjoyed it. Everything was washed by hand and dried on these pull out horses and put through rollers. Then you had to iron them. The nun in the laundry would shout but she never lost her temper. We got a big pot of tea at eleven o'clock in the laundry, and got big outsiders of bread and butter. That was for us workers. The nun wouldn't eat, but she'd have her tea.
47. We built the rockery, carrying quite large stones. One day the painter who saved my photos, started to take the big stones. He said that girls weren't physically capable of lifting heavy weights. He took a big stone, and I had to tell him to hide because we could hear Sister LFH shouting. We told him to dodge round and go in the back way. So he just helped with that one stone. We also helped in the nursery, just with the cleaning. We pulled out the beds and made them.

48. Then there was "tattie howking". That was a bit embarrassing because the school overlooked the field. It was once a year and we'd be kept off school to pick potatoes from a huge field at the side of the convent.
49. I was terrified of LHO in the nursery. She never did anything, but her eyes used to go red when she was angry. I'm sure she was the devil. She supervised you making up the beds for the toddlers and cleaning the floors and the pipes, and we had to clean out the dentist's room as well. We also cleaned the stairs, corridors and toilets.

### *Visits/Inspections*

50. We would know when there was an inspection as there were nice little rugs at the side of the beds and nice pyjamas folded up. There were cupboards out in the corridors and in those were clothes, shoes and bedding. This was brought out for the inspections.
51. No-one ever spoke to us and they were shown these beautiful bedrooms that we had cleaned. There were little teddies put on the beds. It looked absolutely pristine. There were fictional menus put out too. The inspectors were shown round each of the areas. We didn't know what was happening until the nice bedspreads came out. Afterwards we were told to put them all back when the inspectors left.
52. I never saw a social worker and had never had one allocated in Nazareth House or Dunoon.

### *Healthcare*

53. We never had medical examinations. If the doctor was called he would say a good dose of Epsom salts would sort anything. I think we got injections from the school nurse.

54. We did go to the dentist. He had a lovely assistant who was a nice young man, but he just took your teeth out. If you had toothache, the tooth was pulled. I have seven teeth left in my mouth. I think we went to the dentist every two years.
55. Nothing was routine except for nit picking which happened on a Saturday. We stood in a line and checked the one next to you. If you said they were okay Sister [LFH] would check, and if it wasn't okay then the one who checked for nits and the one with the nits got punished. You had to pick out the nits with your fingers if someone had them. There were no bone combs.

### **Abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald**

56. Sister [LFH] would make you kneel before hitting you over your hands because she was quite small and had podgy hands. If you pulled your hands away she would hit you anywhere she could. She would punch too. Somebody would get it every day. It was a good day if you didn't get hit. During choir practice you'd get it if you didn't know the words. It was any excuse really. For example if your shoes weren't on right or your laces were not tied. Or if your ribbons were falling out and your pig tails were not done right, anything.
57. You had your underwear changed once a week. You had to show Sister [LFH] your pants, and if there was a mark on them you were caned. That happened frequently. When my brother [ ] was four he was given white pants and there was a mark on them once. He was taken into the washroom and caned and he moved so he was caned on the head, face, thighs and legs. He was black and blue. They kept him off school. We didn't see him. We weren't allowed to see him. I went to the police the next day. I spoke to the sergeant on duty. When I started speaking about Nazareth House, he told me to get back to school. I didn't tell anyone, maybe one or two children in my class. This was because I was ashamed and because I was in care.

58. "None of your family wanted you". This was Sister [LFH] mantra. The psychological bit. The physical part was bad enough, but the psychological bit still sticks. She once told me I'd end up at Govan Cross with a pin in my coat and a cigarette dangling from my mouth. It was the psychological aspect of it. I was pleased when many years later they built a shopping centre on that spot, so no more Govan Cross.
59. Basically, she'd say, "The reason you're in here is because nobody wants you. You're part of a big family and none of them would step forward and have you. Even your grandparents didn't want you", or "You won't amount to anything", "gutter snipe" was one of her favourites, I was a gutter snipe. It was the constant drip, drip. "Your father abandoned you, he was worthless". It was constant. You didn't know when that would happen because you didn't have to do anything wrong for it to happen.
60. Maybe your beret was on the wrong way, so you'd be told to fix it or get a slap in the face, which invariably happened when you were against the wall. So you'd get slapped and your head would hit against the wall.
61. At one point she set up a little sitting room and put [redacted] and me into it and she was talking about a little house that we could go into with [redacted]. That was one conversation and nothing happened. When I was fifteen, she encouraged me to walk around the grounds with the [redacted] [LMR]. He was between 32 and 34 years old, and I think the little house she referred to was his house [redacted]. He gave me chocolate and things. He didn't have many teeth. We held hands and once he tried to kiss me, and that was totally out of order.
62. A girl in my class, I can't remember her name, gave me the 'Love comics'. She gave me ballet shoes instead of the boys' shoes we had to wear. We changed into them before we left the grounds every morning. We took our pigtails out and put our ponytails in. We got caught.
63. We had wellingtons and one day we took them off and put our shoes on. We went back at lunch time, and our wellingtons were missing. Sister [LFH] was there and

she already had her cane in her hand. I can't remember going back to school that afternoon. She confiscated the ballet shoes. The same girl also gave me a bra. I washed it one day thinking that [LFH] was on holiday, but she was back and found it. That was the last time I saw it.

64. The next day this girl gave me money for bus fares, and I ran away to my grandfathers. He said I couldn't stay there. He gave me my father's address, which I didn't have because we'd lost touch. I went to see my father, who by this time stayed with a lady and she had a girl called [REDACTED]. I was only there a short time and again it was a slum property. They stayed in a place called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] The police came and removed me. I was fourteen by then.
65. At the police station I was given tea and toast. I told a cleaning lady why I'd run away and she started telling the young police officers, but they said there was nothing they could do and had to take me back. When I got back the mother superior was there with [LFH] but I was just sent to my room, I wasn't caned. I think it was because the mother superior was there.
66. Things carried on. I wasn't caned as much after running away. One time after that I took the flu. I was put into the sick room. People brought me food. I couldn't eat, but they'd get rid of it for me. After about four or five days, there was a book case and I took a book to read. I read some of it, but laid it at the side of the bed and [LFH] saw it. She said if I was okay to read then I was okay to get up, and she told me to get up and get dressed. I walked upstairs and my legs gave way, and she punched me in the back to get me moving. If you were in bed sick, you stayed in bed. You didn't move. No-one was allowed to talk to you except the ones that came in with your food.
67. I had to go back to school, unwell. The domestic science teacher had set up a house and you were to go in and clean it and do the laundry and little cookery classes, and I remember her saying to me, "Go and sit down." So I sat for a double lesson. So that was it, a sick child being told to sit out the lesson.

68. You were so pleased when you were chosen to go to parties. We loved Lewis' party at Christmas. The staff put on a party for quite a wide selection of children's homes across the city. Some of the Rangers and Celtic players would be there and some comedians. Stanley Baxter gave me a shilling and I said "I'm not supposed to accept, I'm here to help", and he said "Buy yourself and couple of fags and a box of matches".
69. What would happen was that you'd be called into the playroom and [LFH] would be standing on the balcony, and she would choose you. Sometimes you were half way up the stairs and she'd say, "No, no, I remember", and she'd bring up something she'd caned you for in the past. So you'd be so excited that you were going, and then she'd do that. There'd be at least three that wouldn't be picked because she'd bring up something that they'd done in the past. And even if you got upstairs, it didn't mean you were safe. You had on your Sunday clothes but if you didn't look right, if there was a stain on them, then you weren't going. Until you were actually out of the door and on your way there you weren't sure you were actually going. We also went to the taxi man's party.
70. People would want to take you for holidays. She'd line you up for this. I went to a family in Dumbarton. It was meant to be for a fortnight, but it ended up for a month. I remember getting my little case all ready and I was absolutely terrified that she was going to find something and wouldn't be able to go. It was always in your mind, the constant fear of being brought down and humiliated.
71. [LMD] who looked after the blue team, was a lay person. There was a girl called [REDACTED] in that team. [REDACTED] wasn't well, I didn't see this but a few did. She was playing up and threw herself on the floor, and [LMD] stood on her hair and [REDACTED] passed out. Then we heard [REDACTED] was in hospital. She went to Mearns Kirk Hospital and I was told to visit her. I went [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The next time I saw her she was in her coffin. [REDACTED]

72. LMD was only there about a year, but another thing about her was that she was getting married and [REDACTED] another girl from the convent, [REDACTED] and I were invited to the wedding. We were dressed up nicely. We got the bus. We were starving. We were at the service but we weren't treated very well. We took it that we were the token orphans, [REDACTED] It wasn't a good experience.
73. Sister LFI was kind of free with her hands. I don't think she or Sister LMF caned people, but they were in charge of other teams so I'm not sure. I didn't see them caning anyone. LFI had a strong Irish accent. Sister LFH was in charge of the other nuns.
74. We saw one five year old who had wet the bed, standing in the hall with the wet sheet over her head. I found her asleep during the night, still in the hall and I put her to her bed and said to her, "If she asks, just say I put you to bed". By that time I was bolshie.
75. When I left, thrown out in fact, for disobedience, [REDACTED] cleaned LFH cell and found letters from my grandfather and other relatives. Sister LFH had kept them all. She didn't get rid of them, but they'd all been opened. She'd read them all. We didn't get any of them.
76. We had Irish country dancing, Scottish country dancing and violin lessons and she made me buy a violin. By that time she had a bank book with some of my money. Some money had been taken out for my keep. This was my earnings when I was on day release. I did two days at college and three days nursery training. Sister LFH kept my earnings.
77. There was one part that I found particularly onerous. When you were menstruating you were given linens, three pieces of linen to wear. When you wore it your thighs were red raw. When you washed the linens and they were found on a radiator you'd get caned because your number was on them. The linens were rough and really bad. It was bad enough going through this period/time.



78. We don't know what happened to [REDACTED] in Aberdeen. He never spoke about it. We knew what happened in Cardonald. You had to see Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED]. She had a gleam in her eye when she was caning you, and it was as if she was getting carried away. Nowadays I'd say she was getting sexual satisfaction.
79. I had hidden my photos down the side of a mantelpiece, behind the pipes. I used to sneak up to the dormitory. I went upstairs and realised that the beds had been moved, and the painter asked if I was looking for "these" and they were it was my photos. The next time I saw the guys that worked with him, they told me he'd died in a motor cycle accident. You got to know them because they painted the whole place. They were good guys mostly and maybe aware of the regime.

#### **Leaving Nazareth House, Cardonald**

80. Nobody listened to you. Even after I left, I told [REDACTED] a friend of mine about our treatment. We went to college together and we'd been in primary school together. I told her about things. [REDACTED] was still in the convent I was out by then. [REDACTED] told her sister who was head teacher at Lourdes Primary, and she just said, "They were horrible kids anyway: obviously they had to be kept in line somehow".
81. I was thrown out of the convent. I was invited to a wedding, but for some reason Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED] said I wasn't going. I decided I was going. I went to the wedding and when I returned my case, another case and my nursery nurse uniforms were in a wee bundle and I was told to leave the premises.
82. I couldn't carry everything so I took them to the chapel house and asked if I could leave my uniforms and one of the cases there. At that time I was seeing a lad, and I kept the other case at his parents' house. When I went to get my things from the chapel house my case was there but my uniform wasn't.

83. On the Monday when I went to college I was called to the Dean's office and my lecturer was sitting with the Dean. The Dean said, "We've had a phone call that you're not fit to look after children and you'll be dismissed from your course immediately. You threw your uniforms away: you threw them over the wall at the chapel house". I said I didn't and told them the story and he said "That's immaterial". The lecturer said "She doesn't know her and you don't know her, I know her. This girl stays, she's was one of my best pupils", and kept me. She then told me that I'd work hard and study hard and pass my exams. If it had been up to the Dean I'd have been out.

### **Reporting Abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald**

84. We contacted a lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, and he wanted us to go to a psychologist. He wanted reports. [REDACTED] went but I didn't.

### **Life after being in care**

85. When I was thrown out of Nazareth House I had actually fallen out with my boyfriend, but his stepdad and mum were fine. [REDACTED] a girl I befriended, was in the same residential nursery. Things were going missing from there. One day I was worried that my bus fares would be stolen because everybody else had things stolen, money, a compact, a lipstick, etc. Matron said it had to be one of three of us, [REDACTED] a girl called [REDACTED] and I because she'd never had anything like this before. The three of us became quite close.
86. [REDACTED] and I got a room on the top floor of a very nice house in [REDACTED]. Mrs [REDACTED] rented it to us until I was thrown out for being insolent. I had a bowel problem that turned out to be haemorrhoids that were bleeding badly. I was operated on and couldn't work, so I couldn't pay my rent. Mrs [REDACTED] said, "You can do the housework". So that was me, a couple of days out of hospital and when I went home I ended up cleaning Mrs [REDACTED] house, Hoovering, cleaning the stairs, washing

up. She was never happy that there was an Arab gentleman staying next door. He used to wait for me on a Saturday to run me down to Central Station, so that I could meet my boyfriend. She didn't like him because he was an Arab.

87. We then moved to [REDACTED] unfortunately that was freezing cold. The landlady had fixed the gas meter. If you put a shilling in it you couldn't even cook a pan of chips with it. There was a girl in the flat below. Her father was a minister in the Black Isle. She was training to be a physiotherapist, and she wanted to go home because her father was ill. I gave her my rent money to go to the Black Isle and she never came back. We were thrown out of there.
88. We then went to [REDACTED] The landlady was a friend of my aunt's. She was good to us. We had a huge room. She would make food like mince and tatties and said her family couldn't eat it and asked if we could help her out.
89. [REDACTED] moved down to London as her husband came out of the merchant navy. He was an engineer. I'd met my husband by that time and had begun working in a private home. My husband and I weren't quite careful enough, and I ended up pregnant. We got married and stayed with my in-laws for four years. We then moved to Cumbernauld. [REDACTED]
90. I then went into retail [REDACTED] working at the checkouts. I thoroughly enjoyed it. When my daughter was eight or nine years of age I fell pregnant again but miscarried after four and a half months. I stayed in the house after my miscarriage. I became depressed. My husband didn't know about it until a neighbour said I hadn't been out midweek for months. They had done my shopping.
91. I went full time in retail and applied for a job as a clerkess in the credit office. I did it for two years, and then a supervisor's position became available. I applied for that and got it. The manageress went off sick; she had lied about her age. I applied for and got that job. I was there for two years then a vacancy became available in personnel. I got the job but it entailed making people redundant. I didn't like this so I

asked to do it my way and was allowed to do it my way. The place closed down and along with 210 people I became redundant. The warehouse was closed down. I had the old diehards left that weren't leaving until the last minute, and I had expenses of about £300 left so we had a big party.

92. I was asked to set up a team. I was asked to do a "refurb" and did Perth, Hamilton, Falkirk and Stirling [REDACTED] stores with my little band of workers. I was then asked to apply for a job on the road. They called us area personnel and training officers. My beat was Glasgow down to Saltcoats and Largs down to Campbeltown.
93. Things started to change and we were given projects instead of routine personnel and training. I was given Northern Ireland and Northern England down to Barrow in Furness. I had to put in a new system, turning full time staff into part time when appropriate. I'd leave home on a Sunday or Monday and return on a Friday. My husband wasn't too happy.
94. One day when I was in Belfast he called and asked me where Boots was. I told him it was just round the corner from me, and he said a bomb had gone off there. So there was a bit of friction at home. I became redundant about a year later. My husband was pleased.
95. I put my CV down on paper of what I'd achieved and got a job at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I stayed there for thirteen and a half years until I retired. I was doing the job of teaching people how to treat other people. They called it customer service. I worked with cleaners to consultants. We did a whole training needs analysis and I had to carry it out. I set up a learning centre with computers. I made up a training programme for people to become computer literate. I loved it.
96. When I was married I had my brother [REDACTED] down for a holiday and he came down for a couple of weeks, but he didn't interact with us very well. He would disappear for hours on end. He actually walked about eight miles home one night. We were out looking for him. He seemed quite disturbed.

97. When [REDACTED] left Aberdeen he went to stay with my father, then he went to the army. He met his wife. I was at his wedding. That's the first I'd seen of him since my father's funeral. My aunt had got in touch and told me that my father had died. I'd been to see him once. By this time he was in Livingston. He'd had two more daughters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were his, [REDACTED] was his step daughter.
98. Everybody loved my father. He was sociable and charming, but I was told my mother thought he was playing away from home on more than one occasion because he was working away from home.
99. I didn't see anything of [REDACTED] after that until days before his death. They were in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for a year or two. He did the nasty on his wife and she left him. He came home, he was invalided out of the army. The reason given was that he had arthritis, but he had mental health problems. I've spoken to his wife [REDACTED] and she said he never wanted kids.
100. He stayed with our sister [REDACTED] and he wanted her to throw her husband and kids out and set up home with her. He had tried once before to throw himself in front of a bus first, in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s husband went to pick him up.
101. He came to see me. He'd been touring. He said he'd been to Beachy Head but he didn't fancy jumping off there. When he turned up at the house my husband had been through chemotherapy and radiotherapy. I said to [REDACTED] "Are you staying?", but he didn't. I got a call from [REDACTED] saying he had been found dead in his car in [REDACTED]. He left a note to [REDACTED] saying, "I told you I'd do it".

### Impact

102. Years ago now, I was working at [REDACTED] and there was a programme coming on about abuse, telling how people were coming forward for an inquiry. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I knew the programme was coming up. Just as an aside, I said to the

person who was helping us, "What could an inquiry do?". She said the inquiry would help people understand what has to be put in place now and what should happen to help children going forward. Also it would help people to be clearer about what people want for children and how staff are trained.. So she took me through that.

103. So I told her this programme was on and when I next saw her, a couple of weeks later, her words were that she was incandescent with rage. Bishop Conti had come on and said the kids in these places were delinquents and defective and therefore children had to be kept in line. She told me that her husband, who was also a lawyer, came home from a night out and she was wandering around the sitting room with a large gin and tonic, swearing. And from that day it has rankled, and when I thought about this I thought, I'm going forward. People I knew weren't defective. They weren't delinquents.
104. I had support from my friend [REDACTED] who I had met at the nursery where the thefts took place, who took me home to her mum's at the weekend. We'd go dancing. We received no help from Nazareth House. Sister [REDACTED] LFH told [REDACTED] I'd been kicked out of college because I'd thrown my uniform over a wall.
105. My uncle [REDACTED] would give me a loan if I was short. He couldn't tell his wife though. We had an aunt named [REDACTED] in Hamilton. Her son [REDACTED] said that his father's ship was torpedoed in the war and he'd been in the water too long causing his disability. My uncle [REDACTED] my mother's brother, was invalided out of the army in World war two to New Zealand. Aunt [REDACTED] had TB too [REDACTED]. She did what she could. She was a lovely lady. She was in our lives as much as she could. She had four boys and an invalid husband.
106. The emotional side of it, my sister and I talk about together. We've told some people about the funny side of things. I detest bullies. It's visceral; I feel it in the pit of my stomach. It's the bullying part, having no control. In respect of the nurturing side, we did it ourselves at Nazareth House. Not as siblings, we had our own friends. That part of it was a good part.

- 107. I went to the archdiocese and asked what was happening regarding the complaints. I spoke to a counsellor and after pouring my heart out for an hour he said the best thing I can offer you is that you go and have tea with the nuns. He said other people have done it and found benefit from it. I said the only way I want to see a nun in future life is through a spiritualist. I left there very angry and I'm still very angry.
- 108. You do things and get on with life but who knows where I'd have been in life. But I had no help from any organisation or welfare.
- 109. I'm a confident person, being the eldest of three and having boy cousins. Dunoon was great. They were nurturing there. You didn't know it at the time, but that helped. Clyde Cottage, King Street, Dunoon. The likes of aunt [REDACTED] and uncle [REDACTED] were stabilizers. Good people.
- 110. My hopes for the Inquiry are that there's been apologies all over the world except Scotland. I'd like a full blown apology and an acknowledgement. I'd like an apology from Conti, in writing, that we weren't delinquents or defective. We weren't believed then, we will be believed now.
- 111. There's a children's house over the road from me. These kids get blamed for everything. Educate the general public. You can't educate all of the public but you can hopefully do it one person at a time.

**Other information**

- 112. 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.

LCD

Signed..... [REDACTED] .....

Dated..... 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 .....

