

THE SCOTTISH CHILD ABUSE INQUIRYWITNESS STATEMENT OF SISTER MARIE THERESE DOCHERTY

1. My name is Marie Therese Docherty. I have also been known in the past as Sister Alphonso. My date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1941 and my contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I make this statement further to the statement that I made to the Inquiry dated the [REDACTED] 2018.
3. I have given details of my background and how I entered the Order of the Sisters of the Nazareth and my time within the Order.
4. The Inquiry and others will be aware of the four convictions that I have had against me in relation to criminal proceedings that began in 2000. The Inquiry will also be aware that I had been originally charged with twenty four offences and, after a protracted hearing, was convicted of four offences through due process of the Court.
5. It is clear that a lot of the allegations were not made out but I acknowledge that the persons who made the allegations still feel that when they were within my care that I mistreated them and I regret this very much.
6. The Inquiry will be all too aware of the length of time which has passed in relation to when the allegations of which I was convicted have taken place. At the time of the Court proceedings in relation to the criminal case against me was a time of extreme difficulty for me but also, I am sure, for the persons who made the complaints. I had significant health difficulties at the time of the criminal case which, again, the Inquiry would be aware of and these health difficulties continue.
7. The Court case and the allegations that were made against me have been something that I have continuously thought about and reflected from the eighteen years since my conviction. I acknowledge that during the criminal case that I denied my involvement in the offences of which I was convicted and continued to deny the offences. This has been a long and difficult period in my life and I have reflected very carefully in relation to the matters that were made especially given the upcoming Inquiry. I want to assist the Inquiry as much as I possibly can and have thought deep and hard in relation to my time at which the convictions relate to and when the proceedings and convictions against me took place.
8. I would like to state now that I acknowledge and accept the findings of the Court and the convictions for the offences which I committed. This is a matter of deep regret to myself but moreso it troubles me significantly that I caused any harm by committing the offences and I am truly sorry and apologise for the hurt that I have caused to the persons affected.
9. I would only state that this has been a long process for everyone concerned and, whilst I understand my acknowledgement for committing the offences may come at a late stage, I do hope and pray that this acknowledgement will go some way to ease any pain and hurt that I may have caused and assist in the healing process which I hope the Inquiry will be able to fulfil.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Sister Marie Therese Docherty

15th June 2018.