

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Elizabeth Hackett

Support person present: Denis Moloney (Donnelly & Wall Solicitors)

Others present: No

1. My name is Elizabeth Mary Hackett. I was known as Sister Gerard of the Passion for well over forty years. I changed my name when I took up a role in administration. From that point on I have been known as Sister Elizabeth. My date of birth is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1940. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

[REDACTED] LHW [REDACTED] *in the Order*

2. There was [REDACTED] LHW [REDACTED] who worked at Cardonald. She was known as Sister [REDACTED] LHW [REDACTED]. She was there after my time at Cardonald. She's changed her name now.

Career

Posts involving childcare

3. I entered the Sisters of Nazareth in October 1957. In 1959 I went to Plymouth for about a year and a half. After that I went to Stoke Lodge to train as a nursery nurse. After training, I went to Swansea for about eighteen months. After that I went to Middlesbrough for about six years. In 1970 I went to Nazareth House, Cardonald in Glasgow. I was there for four years and left in 1974. In 1974 I moved to Nazareth

House, Lasswade near Edinburgh. I was there from 1974 to 1978. After Lasswade, I went to Nottingham for three years.

4. In those days there wasn't a choice as to where you went. When you professed, you were told that you would be moving place to place. You just took on the place you were told to go to. You would get notification to say that you would be going to 'such and such a place' and on 'this date.' There wasn't an interview process back in those days for new posts.

Posts involving care of the elderly

5. I stopped working with children in 1981. That was when the Order was reducing its involvement in childcare. At that point I took a placement working with the elderly in Lancaster. That's what I did for the next few years. After that I went to Liverpool. After Liverpool I went to Bexhill. I was there for ten years. From there I went to Southend. I spent five years in Southend. I then got a placement in Sligo for another five years.

Posts involving administration work

6. After Sligo I went to Northampton. When I went to Northampton I left care and went into administration. I was in Northampton for three years before going to Plymouth. I was in Plymouth for ten years before moving to Liverpool in 2016. I have been at Liverpool ever since. I am the Sister Superior there.

Childcare qualifications and training

7. My first training in nursery nursing was in a place in Stoke Lodge. Stoke lodge is near Bristol. I got my National Nursery Examination Board (CACHE Diploma) or NNEB there. After Stoke Lodge I was more or less continually trained in nursery nursing childcare. I was in training throughout my time looking after children in the Order. After moving to Lasswade I started working with a lot more older children.

Because of that, I did a lot of day courses to do with working with older children. I got day releases for anything that came up. The training was all done at local colleges.

Time spent working at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

8. I didn't get any chance to visit Cardonald before I went there. I arrived at Cardonald on 4th December 1970. I worked there until 1974. In the seventies there was a bit more affluence. We received finance from social services for the children. We had an allowance for each child. I was lucky to be in charge of that age group at that time.

First day and induction

9. I met Sister McBride when I arrived. She gave the 'run down' and told me that I would be going into the nursery. I was told that I would be looking after children between the ages of two and five. There was no induction or anything like that. It was more or less 'in at the deep end.'

Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

Layout at Cardonald

10. There were three floors in the house at Cardonald. I had my own floor. My group was on the ground floor because it was made up of the younger children. The two floors above me were for the older children. On my floor there was a front and back door. There was also a bungalow in the grounds. I think they were in the process of building that just before I left. I wasn't involved with the bungalow.

11. We had a hall in the grounds where we ran a little nursery school for the children during the day. We had good grounds at Cardonald where the children could play and do activities.

The children at Cardonald

12. The children were split into groups. The groups in Cardonald didn't have particular names. They were just referred to as Sister 'so and so's' group. I looked after twenty four children in my group. I did that with four members of staff.
13. The children were mixed sex and were nearly all between the ages of two and five. I didn't really have many children below the age of two. If there were two children in a family together I may have looked after a child that was as young as eighteen months. That didn't happen often.
14. I am not sure of the timescale but towards the end of my time at Cardonald we started taking older children into my group. It was shortly before I left. It was maybe during the last six months I was there. We were cutting out the nursery and beginning to take in older children into the group if a family came in who had older siblings. We were starting to take the whole families into the groups.
15. There was not a lot of turnover of children during my time in Cardonald. The children I looked after were mostly from broken homes. We also had children whose mothers were going to university or doing courses and things like that. I had one or two children that were waiting to be fostered during my four years at Cardonald. There wasn't a lot of fostering going on at all back then.

My role in Cardonald, cover and interactions with other groups

16. As the house mother I was the person who the children came to if there was anything wrong. I took the form of 'mum'. Whenever I did anything with the children I would think "what would my mother would do?" I would look to see what my mother did and do the same type of thing. I always tried to make sure that the children had

as 'normal' a time as possible in my group. I was always conscious that the children had been deprived of their rights. I felt that I was a substitute parent. I was there to do my best for them. I always kept that view in front of me.

17. All the admin and anything like that was done by myself. Anything to do with social work always came straight to me.
18. I slept on the same floor as the children. I was on my own at night with the children. I was pretty much on duty 'twenty four seven.' There were no days off in those days. You got your holidays and your time for retreat but that was it.
19. Nazareth House being Nazareth House, there was always backup if there was a crisis. They brought help in if you needed it. I didn't have any interactions in terms of covering the other Sister's groups though.

Management structure

20. I was the house mother and the staff were responsible to me. There wasn't any 'line management' above me. There wasn't anything like that in those days. It was just me by myself. That was the same throughout my time at Cardonald.

Sisters at Cardonald

21. Sister Carmel McBride was the Superior of the house . She came from Belfast. She made sure that everything was running right. It was her job to do that. She would come over to all the floors a few times during the day. She would do that just to make sure everything was alright. If there was something coming up, or anything going on, she would get given information about that.
22. I remember some of the Sisters who had groups during my time at Cardonald. There was Sister John Ogilvie. She is dead now. There was Sister [REDACTED] LFR She ultimately left the congregation. There was a third Sister who left her group because she decided that childcare wasn't for her. She asked for a change. I can't

remember her name. Her place was taken over by another Sister who I can't remember the name of. I honestly can't remember who came in to replace me.

Others Sister I remember at Cardonald during my time there are Sister [REDACTED] LNW

[REDACTED] LNW and Sister [REDACTED] LHA

Staff in my group

23. I had four staff members in my group. I remember an Angela and a Rosina. I don't remember their surnames. I can't picture the two others. I had the same four members of staff throughout my time at Cardonald. They started long before I arrived. I have to say that I was very lucky as I had no problems with continuity of staff during my time there.
24. The staff didn't stay 'on site'. The four staff members would have their days off. It was usually myself and three staff members who would be on during the day. The staff had breaks during the day.
25. I was lucky in Glasgow because, in the evenings, some teenage girls from the local senior school came in and helped out with the children. They were teenagers from the outside who weren't residents from the home. They would play with the children for an hour in the sitting room before the children got their tea. They would also play with the children just after they had their tea. The little ones loved the teenagers. The teenagers loved being with the children. I never heard of any vetting to do with the girls that came in. They were all very nice girls.

Priests and trainee priests

26. I don't remember priests or trainee priests coming out to see my children. I don't even remember the local parish priest coming in. The parish priest had dealings with the children at school but I don't remember him coming to see my group.

Routine at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

Admission

27. I had a few new children during my time in Cardonald. Sometimes it would be the social work who admitted them. When children came in we just gave them time to settle in. We wouldn't put them totally in with the crowd at first. We would keep them with us.
28. In the nursery school we may allocate the child to a particular member of staff and make sure that they played with the new child a little bit more. We did that so that the child would maybe feel a bit more important for a while.
29. In terms of introducing the new child to the group we would bring them into the dining room. We would say to the group something like "this is 'so and so' who is joining us today. Please be nice to him." I would then do something to the effect of putting the new child with two other children at a table.
30. I remember two little boys whose mother had died. The father was just helpless. He didn't want to give them up at first. The social work arranged for those boys to stay with us during the daytime only. The father would drop them off in the morning and collect them at night. The father did that with the children until they settled. Once they settled they stayed with us permanently. It was all done so that there wasn't that big a transition.

Daily routine

31. As far as I can remember the staff came in between seven and eight in the morning. The children would be ready for 'getting up' at that time. We would then start getting the children ready. Whoever was up and ready first would get washed in the bathroom. There was always staff with the children when they washed. We then took the children down to breakfast. At about ten o'clock in the morning, after the children had had their breakfast, either myself or a staff member took the children to

the hall where we had the nursery school. We called the nursery school 'the day room.' The children would be there playing or doing different activities until lunchtime. Lunch was around twelve o'clock. It was held back at the house. After lunch the children either went back to nursery or had a play outside.

32. At about half past three or four o'clock, the children would come back over to the house. There wasn't anything formal in terms of snacks when they came back but there were drinks available if the children wanted it. The children would then have a play before tea in the sitting room. After tea the children went back to the sitting room whilst the staff tidied up. The children would have a play or watch TV. We would start bathing the children whenever tea was over. Bedtime was between half six and half seven. That was a bit early but the children were ready for it by that time. They'd been going all day long.

Sleeping arrangements

33. There were two to three children in each bedroom. They all had their own beds and cots. All the children had their own wardrobes and drawers in their rooms.
34. I don't remember there being a nap time during the day when the children were in the nursery school. I do remember in the evening that we would put children down for a nap in the sitting room should they need that. They would be supervised when they did that.

Washing and bathing

35. Bathing was done every day in the evenings. We had two baths in the bathroom. There was a curtain between the baths. Four children would be bathed at any one time with two or three staff supervising. We would change the water in-between each set of two children being washed. The children would then be put into pyjamas.

Food

36. I was lucky in Cardonald because the Sister who was in charge of the food was very particular. Her name was Sister [REDACTED] LNW [REDACTED]. She is living with me now. She is still known by that name. She is in her nineties. She was very good. She would always send over the right sauces with the right sorts of meats and that sort of thing. The food was very good at that time.
37. I was in charge of mealtimes. There was always staff with me. For breakfast there was a variety of cereal, some porridge or some toast. I'm not sure whether they had soup at lunch. I do remember there being a dinner, a pudding and a drink at lunch. I don't remember ever having a big problem with children not eating their food. I think that was because they were young and used to the food. There was also a variety of food as well.
38. If there were any children who took a dislike to any of the food, you would never ever say "I'm sorry but you have to eat it." You may speak to Sister [REDACTED] LNW [REDACTED] and get her to send up something that the child would like. She was very good like that. We would have dealt with children not eating as it came along. We wouldn't do anything hard or abnormal.

Clothes

39. It was myself and my staff who looked after the clothing. We did the washing and ironing. There wasn't anything like a uniform in the nursery. They dressed normally. All the children all had their own clothes. We bought the children clothing. People were very good in those days. Some people would bring in clothes for the children. I remember C&A being particularly good to us. They would send us a box of clothes every now and again.

Chores

40. The children were too young for chores or anything like that.

Leisure time

41. There was no shortage of children's books, crayons and things in the house and the nursery. We had plenty of toys. Cardonald was very musical. I'm not sure whether any of the children in my group did this but I know some of the older children went for lessons with someone who came in. I remember there being tin whistles. I wasn't involved with that. I also remember Irish dancing being taught in the home.

Possessions and pocket money

42. If the children got toys for their birthdays or Christmas those toys would be their own. I think there was pocket money for the children to go to the shops and things like that.

Children visiting home overnight or being taken out of the home

43. I only remember one family who went back to their family home at night. That was the family whose father was trying to settle the children in. I didn't have anyone coming in and taking out children other than that. There were no, as we used to call them, 'Fairy Aunties' in Cardonald. I didn't have anything like that.

Holidays

44. We had a holiday every year for three weeks in a place called Fairlie. Fairlie was right beside the sea. The education department had a place there for children in Glasgow who needed to get away. The education department handed the place over to the social work department and they allocated places out to the different homes that looked after children.
45. All the children would come with me and my staff. There were teachers and staff at Fairlie who worked there over the summers. All we did was be there with the

children, take them for walks or take them to the beach. The teachers and staff would make the beds, do the cleaning and things like that.

Trips

46. There was a park that was a good couple of hundred yards down the road. We used to take the children there every now and again. There was plenty of space for them to run about there.
47. The people in Glasgow were very nice. Once a year the taxi drivers would take all the children in care in Glasgow to the beach at Troon. It was a fantastic day out. All the children loved it. The taxis would hoot their horns as they went through the towns.
48. There was one time when we went out on a ride in a plane. I can't remember why but we were flown all over Scotland. We went up to Aberdeen. The whole house went on that trip.

Birthdays and Christmas

49. With there being twenty four children there was always a birthday. We were always celebrating birthdays. The children would have a cake and have a little tea party. We would sing 'Happy Birthday' and they would be given a little parcel or whatever. It might not be very much but they would be given a present.
50. There were lots of parties for the children to go to at Christmas time. We always tried to get the children toys and presents at Christmas. I don't remember us ever being short for presents.

Bed-wetting

51. All the children were free to go to the toilet during the night time if they could. I don't remember having a lot of young ones who had a problem with bed-wetting. I don't

remember it being a problem to the point that I was concerned about it. I made sure that the ones who wet the bed went to the toilet before they went to bed. That was sort of a routine for them. If you found out in the morning that there was child who had wet the bed you would deal with it. It wasn't a problem or an issue.

52. If you did find a child who had wet the bed the child would be got up and taken to the bathroom. Their clothes would be collected and put wherever they went. It wasn't an issue that you raised with the little ones. I never looked upon it as being a problem with that age group.

Schooling

Nursery

53. The younger children in my group went to the nursery in the grounds during the day. I was very much involved with the nursery school during the day. I would go across in the morning and make sure that everything was there for the children. During the day I would go backwards and forwards between the nursery and the house.

Primary school

54. The older ones who arrived towards the end of my time at Cardonald did go to school. I would imagine that if the school had had any problems with any children in my group it would have been me that they would have got in contact with. I don't remember parents evenings at that time.
55. There was a space for the children who went to school to do their homework. The teenagers who came in were very good at helping the children out with their homework.

Healthcare

56. The individual house mothers were responsible for healthcare. There was a doctor assigned to the home, I don't remember his name. He was very good at coming in. He would visit on a regular basis. If you had any particular problem you would take the child out to the doctors. I might have done a routine health check myself and filled in the logbook but I don't remember any particular health checks from persons coming in from the outside. There definitely wasn't a nurse who came around or who made appointments to see the children.
57. There was a hospital which wasn't very far away. We would take children there if there was an issue. We were able to take children to hospital if we needed to. I don't remember any of the children in my group needing to be taken to hospital.
58. If there was a problem you would take the children to the dentist.
59. We never had any deaths in the house.

Religious instruction

60. To my knowledge all the children were Catholics in Cardonald. We taught the children their prayers. We would say morning and night prayers with the children. We would say grace before meals. We would take the children for a visit to the church now and again. We would take the children to the crypt in the house. I would take some of the children to mass on Sundays. They didn't have a Sunday school at church.

Visitors

61. There were not a lot of visitors for the children but there were a few. If children had families there wasn't a problem with them visiting. I don't remember there being an influx of visitors or special days being set aside for visitors.
62. As far as I can remember, social work came to visit when I needed them or when I needed to talk to them about something. I didn't have any issues with the children. I don't remember calling in social services because of a behavioural problem or anything like that. I might have called in social workers if we had to discuss things surrounding the possible fostering of a child.
63. In those days social workers didn't come in on a regular basis. I don't know how often they came in. You wouldn't be thinking "oh the social worker is due to come in today." It wasn't like that at all. When social work did come to visit I would explain to the children what was going on and then leave them alone with the social worker. At the end of the day they didn't really know what a social worker was. They were too young to understand.

Record keeping

64. We had a logbook or a day book. It was a day to day diary of what was going on. Everything went into that. We put what the children did with their day went into that. We might put in whether they enjoyed their day. There would be a note if we had gone out or done anything special. There would be a note if anyone had visitors. We would write in it if any children did anything out of the ordinary like if one of the children had fallen. If the children had a visitor they were logged in and out in the logbook. You would write in the logbook whether the children had a nice day, where they went and things like that. Everything and anything went into the logbook.
65. I would imagine that the logbook wasn't something I started. There would have been logbooks there when I moved to Glasgow. I left my logbooks behind when I went to

Lasswade. I must have also had individual files for each child. I could have had that.

66. There was a visitors book. That book was for each individual group. We logged all the visitors in there as well as in the logbook. I never kept a punishment book.
67. Whatever documentation I had to keep I kept. I do remember having a file for social workers who came in. The paperwork I had from social services was mostly surrounding potential fostering.

Inspections

68. We had inspections or visitations from our own head office in Hammersmith. Two people from our general council came to inspect the house. They didn't come every year but they did visit. That was done worldwide with all the places the Order ran. I think we had two visitations over the four years I was at Cardonald.
69. You would have to do a list for them before they visited. It was like a form that you had to fill out. You would put all the children in that alongside details of what ages they were and the different things they did. You would have to list all the staff that you had. You would have to get everything out before they came so it could be presented to them when they came to your floor.
70. When they came they informally interviewed all the staff. They inspected the books and they spoke to the children informally. They'd just go round and speak to the children. I would have a very formal interview with the two of the people from the general council together. If there was anything they had found or anything they wanted to tell you they would say that then.
71. They would provide a report with feedback. We would all have access to that report. The report would be for the whole house. About a page or so would be devoted to my group in that report. A copy of the report would be left in my logbook. They

always said nice things in their reports. They would discuss their visit and how they went around the house. They would say what they thought about it all. They would list who they spoke to and mention that they had spoken to the children. It would be lots of little things that had happened that they were pleased with. They'd always mention whether the children were dressed nice and what things they saw at the nursery.

72. I don't remember there being anything in terms of local authority inspections. I don't remember anyone coming out. I would remember that if they had.

Review of care

73. There were reviews with social services for the children. I don't remember too much of that happening when I was in Cardonald. That was maybe because the children were so young. I don't know whether the older children in Cardonald had reviews. If they were done, they were done because they were necessary or there was a problem. The older children would say "I will tell my social worker on you" but the little ones didn't say that.
74. I do remember reviews of children's placements being held at the home. I only had two when I was in Cardonald. One concerned two sisters who were about eighteen months apart. The older sister was about four. The younger sister was called [REDACTED]. I don't remember the older sister's name. The reviews were held because the sisters were going to be placed for fostering. In the end they tried fostering the sisters out. It didn't work. The little one was alright but the older one didn't settle at all. After six months of the fostering they had to bring them back.
75. The other review concerned a girl called [REDACTED]. I can't remember her surname. She had been placed with my group when she was about nine. She had been placed for fostering before she was placed with me. That hadn't worked out. After some time in my group they decided to try her for fostering again. It didn't work out that time

either. She came back. I can't remember the social worker's name who was involved with [REDACTED]

Families

76. When the children got to five they were moved to other floors. As far as we could we would try and keep the children in groups with their older siblings when they moved on.
77. Children who had older siblings elsewhere in the house in other groups were allowed to go and see them. They could go up to the other floors. If their siblings were going out they could go with them. I remember outings where siblings from different groups were together.

Discharge from Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

78. There was a discharge process when the children went out to be fostered. Social work were involved all of the time. It was all documented. We would get a run down from social services as to what was happening.
79. If they were old enough they would be told that they were getting fostered. That happened with [REDACTED] The little ones wouldn't get that because they wouldn't understand. You might talk with the little ones and explain that they were being taken out for a while but you wouldn't explain it to the extent that they were being fostered.

Discipline and punishment

80. Discipline and punishment was never managed. How could you punish little ones? You just don't do that. I tried to be normal with them. If any of the little ones were misbehaving I would just speak to them. There was never ever any form of corporal

punishment. There was never any withdrawal of privileges. We managed. My staff knew that I didn't tolerate anything. I wouldn't tolerate it if they were cross with the children. My staff just knew that we didn't slap the children.

81. I only remember one little boy who was mischievous. He was called [REDACTED] I remember some of the staff saying that he got on their nerves. He once took my keys and buried them in the grounds. There was an elderly lady who used to come down to play piano for the children once a week. She'd play all sorts of songs and have the children marching around and doing exercises. I remember that she would never take this little boy. She wouldn't take this boy because he would never conform in any way to her. You would speak to [REDACTED] and tell him not to do this and that. All you could do is talk to him as much as you could. What else could you do?

Abuse in Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

82. I never witnessed any behaviour that I considered abusive. None of the children reported anything to me that I would consider abusive. They never did. I never heard of anything that would cause me concern in Cardonald. I never heard of anything like that happening in the home. Never.

Specific allegations of abuse against Sister [REDACTED]

83. Sister [REDACTED] wasn't in Cardonald during my time there. I knew her well before she died but I never made a connection between her and Cardonald. I have lived with her but not whilst she was caring for any children.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]

84. I have been informed that [REDACTED] was a resident at Cardonald between 1965 and 1977. I've never heard of that name. She would have been there for part of my time but wouldn't have been in the nursery. I don't think I had her in my group.
85. I have been told that [REDACTED] alleges that if she stepped out of line Sister [REDACTED] would beat her with a wooden hanger. I have been told that she alleges that nuns would check the children during the night to see whether their arms were crossed and if they weren't they would get into trouble. I have been told she said that one time she was woken up and her hands were found to be between her legs. I have been told that she alleges that she was beaten for that. I never heard of anything like that.
86. I have been told that [REDACTED] alleges that Sister [REDACTED] would take her out and make her stand behind the piano in the dining room. I have been told she alleges she was made to watch the other children getting breakfast and wouldn't get any. That type of thing is appalling. I can't imagine that happening. I have never witnessed anything like that with anybody.
87. I have been told that [REDACTED] has alleged that Sister [REDACTED] would use a spoon to force feed her when she refused to eat anything. I have been told that she alleges that if she was sick whilst being force fed Sister [REDACTED] would scoop up the sick with the food and shove it into her mouth. I never heard of anything like that.

88. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] has said that someone came to visit her who she didn't know. I have been told that she said that the man was big and that she recalled holding onto his leg. I have been told that she alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED] dragged her away from the man and that the man might have been her dad. I don't have any recollection of that. That's dreadful.

Specific allegations of abuse against Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] at Cardonald

Time spent working with Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED]

89. I remember Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] from my time working in Cardonald.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED]

90. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] alleged that Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] would use a spoon to force feed her when she refused to eat anything. I have been told that she alleges that if she was sick whilst being force fed Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] would scoop up the sick with the food and shove it into her mouth. If it is the Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] I knew then she couldn't have done that because she would have been sick herself. I know that for a fact.

91. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] has said that Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] would hold her against the wall and hit her with her [REDACTED]. That's definitely not the Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] I know. [REDACTED]

92. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] would call her the "devil's child" because she wrote left handed. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] alleges that she was beaten up all the time by Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED]. I never heard anything like that.

93. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] would jab a metal nit comb into her hair. I never heard anything like that. We absolutely had children who came in with nits but we just treated them accordingly.

Specific allegations of abuse against Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] at Cardonald

Time spent working with Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED]

94. I do remember Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED]. She was at Cardonald but that wasn't during my time there. I think that was after my time. She went out to America after Cardonald. She's dead now. She died young. I couldn't imagine her doing anything. I couldn't imagine her laying her hand on anybody.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED]

95. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] says that when she was having her first period she approached Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED]. I have been told that she alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] put her in a bath and scrubbed her head to toe. I have been told that she alleges that her skin was scrubbed red raw. I have been told that she alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] said that she had to clean her sins away. The Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] I knew would definitely not do anything like that.

Specific allegations of abuse against a staff member called [REDACTED] LJW [REDACTED] at Cardonald

Allegations by [REDACTED] LMP [REDACTED]

96. I have been told that [REDACTED] LMP [REDACTED] was a child at Cardonald between 1963 and 1971. I have never heard of a child called [REDACTED] LMP [REDACTED] during my time at

Cardonald. She alleges that she was walloped and knocked right off her feet by a care worker called [LJW] I never heard of anything like that.

Specific allegations of abuse against unnamed Sisters or staff at Cardonald

Allegations by [LCT]

97. I have been told that [LCT] alleges that when children were discovered to have wet the bed they were made to take the wet sheets off, would have the sheets wrapped around them and would then be made to have a cold shower. She alleges that she saw that happening on a few occasions. I've heard an awful lot of allegations about things like that. I've never witnessed that. I have been in an awful lot of houses and I couldn't lay my hands on anybody that would do anything like that.
98. I have been told that [LCT] alleges that there was a nun who had died and everybody had to go to the funeral and kiss her. An awful lot of people have made that allegation. I've never ever experienced anything like that. I do remember in another house, not in Cardonald, that a nun died and a couple of children wanted to go down and see her. Those were older children. They went down. I didn't go down with them. I don't know what they did down there.

Allegations by [LMP]

99. I have been told that [LMP] alleges that she would get a good hiding from the nuns if she wet the bed. She alleges that the nuns would hit her on her bare backside with a belt, a black plimsoll or their hands. If things like that happened other people in the house would have heard about it. Those things just didn't go on.
100. I have been told that [LMP] alleges that when children wet the beds they were made to stand in corners. She also alleges that children were made to stand in the corridor with their arms outstretched holding the sheets after wetting their beds. I

think these people have read other people's statements and have come up with these things. That's not something I witnessed.

101. [REDACTED] LMP [REDACTED] alleges that she would get a good hiding if she wet the bed or wet herself at school or at church. She alleges that she would be flung up the stairs and be put to bed early without food. I've never witnessed anything like that ever.
102. [REDACTED] LMP [REDACTED] says that one time her sister was waiting in line to go to the bathroom, was desperate to go to the toilet and ended up doing it in the bath. I have been told that she alleges that her sister was battered for doing that. I never heard of anything like that.

Specific allegations of abuse against individuals who visited or took children out during time at Cardonald

Unnamed old man who used to visit the home

103. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] says that there was [REDACTED] LVT [REDACTED] who visited who she thinks was [REDACTED]. She says that he used to get the girls to sit on his knee. She alleges that she sat on his knee once, he touched her underneath and that was the first time she was sexually abused. I have no recollection of any elderly men [REDACTED] there coming in. I couldn't imagine that happening.

[REDACTED] LFO [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] LFN [REDACTED]

104. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] says that she was taken out on holiday by [REDACTED] LFO [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] LFN [REDACTED] and that she was sexually abused by [REDACTED] LFN [REDACTED]. She says she told the nuns that she wasn't going back to them and that the nuns didn't believe her. She alleges that she was called a liar and a troublemaker. I never heard of anything like that.

Specific allegations of abuse against medical professionals whilst under the care of the staff at Cardonald

LKQ

105. I have been asked whether I recall [REDACTED] LKQ [REDACTED] LKQ is very much a Glasgow name but I don't recall that being the name of the [REDACTED] I knew. It could have been.
106. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] alleges that when she was given a jag by [REDACTED] LKQ [REDACTED] she was scared, lashed out and was held down by three people before being given the injection. She alleges that [REDACTED] LKQ [REDACTED] was not gentle with the needle in her backside and that she couldn't sit down for a week. That wouldn't have been right if that happened.

Unnamed dentist

107. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCT [REDACTED] alleges that when she was taken to the dentist six staff members held her down and her canine teeth were removed. She alleges that her teeth had been removed by mistake. She says that she had been a biter when she was younger and alleges that her biting teeth had been taken out on purpose. I haven't heard anything like that. That's nothing that I saw. It's hard to take because my experience was that all the doctors and dentists were sympathetic towards all the children in the house.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

108. If I was concerned in any way I would need to go to speak to the Superior. We would take things from there. We might then need to involve social services. I would imagine that my relationship with the children was such that if they had any concerns they would raise them with me.

Leaving Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow for Nazareth House, Lasswade, Edinburgh

109. It came out of the blue that I was told I would be moving to Lasswade. I remember saying when I found out that I was going to be moved “but there are older children there? I have never worked with older children.” I was told “you’ll be fine.” I think I was given a week’s notice before I was moved.

Nazareth House, Lasswade, Edinburgh

First impressions

110. I moved across in 1974. I stayed there until 1978. The home was known as Lasswade when I arrived there. I know that it is not really known as Lasswade anymore. They were either thinking about changing the name to Bonnyrigg or had changed its name to Bonnyrigg by the time I left.
111. There was no induction. I didn’t get any rundown of any additional duties I may have had when I started. You were thrown in at the deep end. It was ok though. I sort of just took it. The day I arrived I arrived before the children got home from school. I went into the sitting room and waited for the children. I was absolutely amazed when the children came in. They all came into the sitting room and said “hello” to me. I found the children very friendly and talkative. The children told me ‘this, that and the other’ about themselves. I then had tea with the children.
112. I was on the ground floor of the main house. I stayed there with the children. I had access to the garden at the rear from the sitting room. Beyond that there was a big field. There was another house in Lassawde called Holycot. That was separate from the main house.

The children at Lasswade

113. There were 110 children altogether at Lasswade. It was mixed sex. The children were split up into five groups. Two of the groups were in a Holycot. The other three groups were in the main house. The groups didn't have names. They were all referred to as "Sister 'so and so's group." My group was in the main house.
114. My group was referred to as "Sister Gerard's group." I must have had twenty or more children in my group. I worked with older children in Lasswade. All the children were school age up to fifteen or sixteen. It was family groups.

My role at Lasswade

115. My role was a house mother. We didn't have a day off or anything like that. We went out for our holidays and our annual retreat. That was it. Because of that I was always pretty much there. You just didn't think of anything else when you were there.
116. To my knowledge I was satisfied with the care I provided the children. There wasn't an awful lot more that I could do. I was there for them twenty four seven. I wanted to be like my mother at home. She was always there. I was always there for my children. I think, because of that, the children were always able to relate to me. I personally think that the children and I had a good time together. I really do.
117. The morning after I arrived at Lasswade I was walking along the passage and the Superior met me. We started talking. During the conversation she said "and of course you can drive." I told her that I couldn't but that I would like to. I was then told that they would help me learn and that another sister by the name of Sister [REDACTED] LFZ who is now known as Sister [REDACTED] LFZ would be the driver for the house in the interim.

118. I had to get my licence before Sister [LFZ] left. It was quite a lot of pressure but I did pass my test. After that I drove the minibus at Lasswade. I took all the children to school or wherever they needed to go. I was the driver for Lasswade.

Sisters at Lasswade

119. Sister Mary Francis was the Sister Superior. She was in charge of Lasswade when I moved across. She was good. She was easy. Other Sisters I remember at Lasswade during my time there are Sister [LFZ], Sister [LTX] and Sister Joan of Arc.

Staff in my group

120. I had my own staff to my group. I remember one staff member called Caroline Kennedy. I had a couple of other members of staff. I can't remember their names. I can't remember how many members of staff I had but I had enough. I didn't have just one member of staff working with me. None of the staff lived in the house. They all came in from the outside.
121. Later on during my time in Lasswade I employed, for the sake of the children, a lady called Mrs [FAJ]. She came in at three o'clock every day to cook the children's tea.
122. The management structure was the same as Cardonald. I reported to the Sister Superior and my staff reported to me. There were no other lines of management. We hadn't gone down that route at that time.
123. There was a local parish priest but we didn't see him very much. The chaplain or the curate used to come out and give mass every morning.

Routine and life at Nazareth House, Lasswade, Edinburgh

Admission

124. Social workers would be in touch before any new child arrived with us. They'd ring me up beforehand to see whether I had a bed. The child would then be brought in by the social worker. Documentation would be provided about where the child had come from, what the child's procedures were at home, if the child would have anybody coming in to see them and how long they would be staying.

125. It was the same sort of thing as we did we did in Cardonald when children first came in. We would chat to the child or play with them. I never really had any bother with new children coming in. For a lot of the children coming in it was a novelty being clean and having clean clothes.

126. I remember on one occasion, at nine o'clock on a Friday night, a social worker rang me up. He said "I know you'll do this for me Sister." I said "If I can help I will." He said "I have three children and I'm desperate. I have no beds for them. Please Sister, don't refuse me." I thought "my God." I then remembered that I had three children going home for the weekend and their beds would be free. I said to the social worker that I could take the children as long as he promised me that he would be there first thing on Monday morning to collect them. He said "I promise you. I won't let you down." He then brought the children in. He said "Sister, I have taken these children in from a bed of maggots." In the end I had to fight with the social worker to collect the children the following Monday. I had to do that because I had no place to put them. I would have liked to have been able to keep them but I just couldn't do the impossible. The children would have been quite happy to stay but that's just the way it was back then. Fortunately or unfortunately we very rarely had vacancies.

Daily routine

127. In the morning you always made sure you called the older children in time because they would have to go out earlier to their school. I suppose everybody would be on the move by half seven in the morning. Because there weren't really many little ones, all the children were able to get up, wash and dress themselves. There would always be someone down at breakfast once they were up. I would be there with a member of staff. There was always someone present in the dining room. I didn't have a dining room person. After breakfast the children went straight to school. The primary school children walked to school. I don't remember sending a staff member down to the school with them. I can't remember whether I took the older ones to school or whether they got the bus. I'm not sure whether they had school dinners at school. The children might have come back but I can't remember.
128. At the end of the school day the children came back. They always got a drink or something when they came in. They would then go upstairs and change into their day clothes. I don't remember the children doing their homework until after they finished their tea. Some of them did their homework in their room and others did their homework in the living room.

Sleeping arrangements

129. It was mostly individual rooms at Lasswade. I don't remember any children sharing bedrooms. They all had their own wardrobes and places to put their things.

Washing and bathing

130. There were baths and showers. If we had young ones the staff bathed them. The older ones didn't go up together. I remember children more or less having showers every night. Baths and showers weren't part of a routine. The children went when they wanted to go. There was always myself or a member of staff around on the passages upstairs to make sure that the children came in and out of the bathroom. It was just to see that they were alright.

Food

131. I can't remember whether we had a Sister in the kitchen but we did have good staff there. They were very good. It was mostly cereals or porridge for breakfast. The porridge was sent across from the kitchen. It was always salt instead of sugar in the porridge. It was Scotland after all. Whatever was sent over with the other meals contained two vegetables. Nearly everybody ate the potatoes. There wasn't in those days a choice of meat.
132. If children didn't want to eat their food then there was nothing like us saying "I'm sorry but you must eat that." I don't ever remember having a problem with the children not eating.
133. Later on during my time at Lasswade Mrs FAJ would cook the children their tea. It was amazing the difference she made after she started. The children would fly in and ask her what she was cooking that day. It was a great joy for them seeing somebody there cooking their tea. I don't know whether some of the girls helped her out. I do remember children making pancakes with her and those sort of things.

Clothes

134. Other than their school uniforms the children didn't have any uniforms. The children all had their own clothes. They never ever had to share clothes. The Superior was very good if we needed anything for the children. If the styles changed and a teenager wanted new clothes they would ask me. The children were very good. They knew the money wasn't always flowing. I would then ask the Sister Superior. She would then say "no" or "tell them to call into 'so and so shop'". I would then say to the teenager what shop to go down to. There was an account at the shops we went to so no money was handed across to the children when they went. They didn't mind not having the money as long they got what they wanted. I never allowed them to go without if they felt they wanted something.

135. I did all of the washing and ironing of their personal clothes whilst the children were out at school. The sheets and things like that were always sent to the laundry.

Chores

136. The children might have helped out with the washing up or laying of the tables. They might have polished their own shoes if they wanted to do that. It was all done on a normal basis. I don't ever remember saying to the children "go polish your shoes." There was certainly nothing for the children to do before they went to school.
137. On Saturdays we didn't have a cleaner come in. I would let the children have tea and toast for breakfast in their rooms on Saturdays. I would say to them "take your time but I would like you to make your bed and make your room tidy before you come down some time before twelve." I never had a problem getting the children to tidy their rooms on Saturdays. There wasn't anything regular other than that.
138. None of the children had any paid work or Saturday jobs. I don't think any of the children were old enough. I don't remember giving any of the children any money for helping out or anything like that.

Leisure time

139. There were TVs and radios. There were plenty of books. I think one or two of the children used to take themselves down to the library in the village. I don't remember scouts or the guides. I don't remember the children asking me whether they could go to the scouts or the guides. If they had, the village wasn't far away and I would have had no problem with them going.
140. The older children weren't supervised when they went out. They were free to go out and see friends or bring friends back to play. There were no restrictions. There wasn't an awful lot for them to do in Bonnyrigg. I don't remember the children being out at discos and things like that. If there were children out, there was maybe only three or four of them out at a time.

141. If there was any correspondence that came in it would have been given to the children. I do remember children sending cards to friends.

Home visits

142. I only had three children in one family who went home at weekends. They were called [REDACTED] Their father ran a pub. They went home on a Friday and came back to Lasswade after school on a Monday evening. I think I heard [REDACTED] died very young in later life.

Holidays

143. We always had a three week holiday in the summer. We went to a barracks in Dunbar. The whole of Lasswade went. There were about 110 children. You should have seen the bus we took the children in to Dunbar. We took absolutely everything with us. Nobody minded though because we had a great time.
144. Only once do I remember having a bit of bad weather. We always had good weather. The children had a lot of time to go in the sea or go for walks. The children got plenty of fresh air. If we had a bit of money we gave it to the children to go to the shows. We had a great time on holiday. It was hard work and we didn't have a lot of money but we did our best.

Trips

145. I did take the children swimming. I think I took them maybe once a week. I took them up Arthur's Seat. We spent many a day up there. I remember on one occasion my veil blew off at the top. The children found that very funny. They were delighted. I remember that every summer we always went to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

146. We used to have a big fair at the end of May. Busloads of people used to come in. There was a Sister from Stirling that used to bring people in to the fair. It was a great day. The Superior used to knit Arran cardigans. She had a stall. She would make £500 on the stall for funds.

Birthdays and Christmas

147. The children always got a present, a card and a cake for their birthdays. If there were two birthdays in a week we might only have one cake. Birthdays were always recognised though. You would never forget their birthdays.
148. Christmases were very good. There were quite a few parties. Some of the local charity clubs were very good to us. We used to go to the pantomime every Christmas in Dalkeith. We used to go shopping in town every Christmas. We did that at Easter as well. The children shopped in C&A. We had a cheque that we went down with. There was a 'teenagers section' in C&A. I'd just say to them "go down and sort yourself out for Christmas."

Bed-wetting

149. There was never any punishment if the children wet their beds. If there was anyone who did do that I would just talk to them. We'd go over things together. I would say to them "this is not the way" or whatever. All the children had free access to a toilet through the night. There were plenty of toilets about.
150. When I first started at Lasswade I remember one of the staff members coming up to me and saying "there is something wrong here, we had eleven wet beds this morning." I said "that's extraordinary, how did that happen?" I brought all the children out and asked them what was wrong. I told them that I didn't think we needed that. I then said "if you don't mind, I am going to call you just before I go to bed myself to go to the toilet." That was the only time I ever had eleven wet beds.

151. There were some children who had wet beds every day for quite a while. I don't remember any of my children continuing to wet their bed by the time I left Lasswade. I do remember one girl called [REDACTED]. Her older sister was called [REDACTED] and her older brother was called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] used to go home every weekend. [REDACTED] was very difficult to get out of bed-wetting. I don't remember her siblings wetting the bed though.

Schooling

152. The older children went to senior school in Dalkeith. I think it was called St David's. The younger children went to the primary school in Bonnyrigg. I can't remember the name of the school.
153. I didn't actually have much contact with the schools. Both the schools knew where the children had come from and knew I was there. I don't ever remember being called in to either of the schools. I don't ever remember the schools calling me up where there was trouble with the children. I remember sending word to the schools if any of the children were off sick though.
154. I don't remember ever going to a parents evening. I remember going to them when I was down in England but I don't remember that up in Scotland.

Healthcare

155. I think there might have been a nurse who came into the children's school. There was a doctor available if necessary. It was the GP from the [REDACTED] practice. Her name was [REDACTED] LKQ/LVV [REDACTED] LKQ/LVV came to see everybody including the Sisters. I don't remember having to take any of the children to the doctors. I may have done.

156. The children were registered with the local dentist. If they needed anything done we would take them.
157. If there were any children who had been involved in accidents it would have been me who took them to the hospital in the minibus. I would do that if it was necessary. I think that was the reason why they were so anxious that I should be able to drive when I started at Lasswade. It was eight miles to the hospital and six miles to the town so they needed someone who was able to drive if there was an emergency.
158. I do remember one particular child in my group who needed to see a psychologist. He was called [REDACTED]. He had behavioural problems. He was affected. We had chickens in the grounds. If the boy could get hold of one of the chickens he would wring its neck. He would sometimes go after the cat. The boy was a problem to himself. He would never cause problems in the house or harm anybody else but it was something we wanted treatment for. I took him to the hospital for treatment. His social worker got involved.
159. There were never any deaths during my time in Lasswade.

Religious instruction

160. The children got most of their religious instruction at school. We had prayers at the home. We said grace before and after meals. We would celebrate Christmas and feast days. There were a lot of feast days. The children very much learnt when the feast days were because they got extra goodies on those days.
161. The children could attend mass every Sunday. It wasn't mandatory. You wouldn't have been able to get them all to go if you tried. I remember asking the children whether they wanted to give up anything for Lent or come to mass. I would say to them that I would get them up in the morning if they wanted to go. It was amazing that some of them wanted to do that in the mornings.

Visitors

162. Some of the children did have visitors. There were quite a few visitors at the weekend. Anybody who had someone who could visit had them visit. I don't remember too many of the children in my group going out with visitors.
163. I do remember one family of four children in my group. The mother used to come to visit periodically. She came for an afternoon on Saturdays. I don't think she took them out. I don't think she would have been able to manage them all if she had. She might have taken the children out into the garden.
164. On a Friday quite a few members from St Vincent de Paul used to come in and play football with the boys or come into the house and interact with the children for an hour or so. The children used to enjoy that. I doubt whether there were any checks done along the lines of what we would do today against those people.
165. If it was needed social workers would come in to visit the children. If a social worker wanted to see somebody they could come in. I don't remember social workers coming in all that often. They came in when we needed them. I don't remember social workers regularly visiting children.
166. All the older children knew their social workers. I don't remember this happening but if they wanted to arrange to speak with their social worker they would have needed to speak to me first. I would have had no problem with that. I don't think they had a phone number that they could use to call up their social workers themselves.

Records and record keeping

167. There was a similar set up to Cardonald in terms of documentation and records. There was a logbook. There was a visitors book kept. We also noted any visitors in the logbook.

168. There wasn't anything like a discipline book. I might document, if there was something I was concerned about, in the logbook. I didn't have a separate book though.
169. There was always documentation that came in with the children from social work. We had a file for each child. Some of the children had more of a file than others. We would document things like any treatment they had or any visits from social workers. There was more administration in terms of drafting reports about the children for social workers or for children's panels than Cardonald. That was a bit more work.
170. I carried on the records that I inherited at Lasswade. When a book or diary was kept it was kept on file. To my knowledge all the books and diaries were filed. They could be in the archives in Hammersmith.

Inspections

171. We had visitations from the Order in the same way as we had in Cardonald. We got feedback from the visitations in much the same way. We acted in the same way in response if required.
172. I don't have it in my head that we had inspections from anyone from the local authority. I think that was something that happened later on in England. We didn't have a lot that was formal or unannounced in terms of inspections back in those days.

Review of care

173. If there were any reviews or anything like that social work would come to us. We wouldn't go out to their offices. I don't remember children being invited into reviews with us when we had them. I don't remember accompanying children to the

children's hearings. I do remember doing that later on in England but I don't remember doing that at Lasswade.

Families

174. By the time I went to Lasswade we were trying to keep families together. I didn't have a lot of children who had family to remain in contact with outside of the group. Some of the other groups had that. Where there were children who had families outside of Lasswade they could have their family come in and take them out. I don't remember having a lot of that in my group though. I don't remember a lot of parents coming in at all.

Discharge from Lasswade

175. I don't remember there being too many children who were discharged during my time at Lasswade.
176. I only had one boy placed for fostering. He was a coloured child called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He was fourteen. We didn't have anything concerning his background or where he had come from. He didn't have any other family members in the group. That's why we decided to see if he could be fostered. I think the family who eventually fostered him got to know him through the fairs we used to have at the end of May. He went to a family in Stirling for visits for a while. In the end the family decided that they wanted to foster him permanently. The boy wanted to be fostered by them. It was all officially arranged. I believe the family applied to social services to give him a permanent home. I believe everything went well for him. That all happened just before I left Lasswade.

Discipline and punishment

177. I think I was lucky because I had what I would call “practically normal children.” I had a good group. The children I had never ‘gave out’ to me. If I had a problem I would just sit them down and talk to them. We’d have a good conversation together. I would just say “that’s enough” or something like that. The children would know if I was cross and not happy with them.
178. There was no punishment as such. I would never send the children to their bedrooms or deprive them of television. There was never ever any form of corporal punishment. I just dealt with things at the time and that was it. There weren’t any written or unwritten codes of conduct. There were no rules or regulations as such for the children.
179. The staff didn’t have any authority to discipline the children. If they were having any problems they would come to me. The staff never clipped the children’s’ ears or anything like that.
180. I remember one little boy who had special needs who would fight. You always had to watch him. He would fight with other children in the shower or in the bath if he could. That would happen now and again. All I can remember doing with this little boy was talking to him.

Abuse in Nazareth House, Lasswade, Edinburgh

181. I never saw or heard of any behaviour that could be thought of as abuse. Nobody ever came up to me to say they were worried about anything. For the four years I was in Lasswade I never ever heard of anything happening.

Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED]

182. I remember Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] being in Lasswade at the same time as me. She was in a different house to me. She was in Holycot. That house wasn't connected to the main building where my group was. I didn't have much interaction with Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] and her group. I remember she had a [REDACTED] little girl called [REDACTED]. If ever anyone loved that girl then Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] did.

183. The only contact I had with Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] and her group was when we went on holiday to Dunbar. On one occasion my group and her group stayed in the same cottage at the barracks we went to. I worked with Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] there. I had no problems with her.

184. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I was appalled at the allegations they were making. I wondered how that could have happened. I lived for four years with her and I didn't hear of anything happening.

Allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED]

185. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED] was at Lasswade between 1967 and 1979. The only [REDACTED] I remember was the one who wet the bed, went home for weekends and had siblings called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I don't remember any of that family ever having the surname [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED].

186. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] family name [REDACTED] alleges that younger boys were made to have cold showers by Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] when they wet their beds. She says that she recalls the boys being lined up in the corridor for cold showers in the night. I don't remember seeing or hearing of anything like that. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] certainly didn't do that whilst we are on holiday together.

187. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] recalls a young boy called [REDACTED] who was two or three years old. She recalls [REDACTED] nearly drowning whilst on holiday and she has said that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] went into the sea in her habit, pulled the boy out by his hair and saved the boy. She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] did not take the boy to hospital. I don't remember that incident.
188. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] alleges that when Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] brushed her hair she would pull her hair and sometimes punch her head. She says that she doesn't know whether that was because she moved or fidgeted or something and that it was almost a daily occurrence that one of the children was either punched, kicked or had their hair pulled by Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED]. She alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would throw hairbrushes at children for laughing. She also alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would punch the children using the top of her fingers in her fist. I didn't hear anything like this. I just couldn't imagine Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] doing these things. I definitely didn't witness anything like these things.
189. I have been told that [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] made her sister, [REDACTED] drink saltwater until she was sick whilst they were on holiday in Dunbar and that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] did this because she had accused her sister of taking some Benylin or some sort of medicine. I never heard or saw anything like that happening. I couldn't imagine the children keeping quiet on holiday if these things happened. If Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] did anything like that I didn't witness it.
190. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] has said that one time she was in the living room with [REDACTED]. She says [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. She says that [REDACTED] shouted because she needed the toilet and that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] and a member of staff were in the hall talking and that [REDACTED] then wet herself. She alleges that when Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] discovered that [REDACTED] had wet herself she picked [REDACTED] up by her arm and smacked her on her bare legs. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would never lay her hand on [REDACTED]. I don't know what she did to the others but she loved that child to bits. We always said that she might have forgotten the others but she just loved that kid. She got everything that any mother might give a child.

191. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] alleges that a wee boy got leathered by Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] for lighting candles and trying to burn the unit down and that the wee boy was not even old enough to light a match. I never heard of that incident.
192. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] alleges that Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] would sometimes send children "to Coventry" which meant nobody was allowed to talk or play with them. She alleges that this included family and friends and even applied to the dinner table. She also alleges that the longest time she was "sent to Coventry" was between three and four days and that she was allowed to go to school but could not leave the grounds. She alleges that she had to whisper to her sister in bed when she was "sent to Coventry" and that she had to apologise to have it stopped and wouldn't know what she had done half the time when she was apologising. I never heard of any children being "sent to Coventry." You would be asking for more problems if you did that.
193. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] says that her sister [REDACTED] had been in the bathroom trying to help [REDACTED] walk and she alleges that when [REDACTED] fell Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] asked everyone to go in and hit [REDACTED] but none of the children did. I don't remember anything like that.
194. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] alleges Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] punched her sister [REDACTED] in the face because her school had reported that she hadn't had a tie on and that [REDACTED] ended up with a bruise on her face. She says that when a teacher called Mr Mooney asked how she got the bruise on her face her sister told her that a nun had done it and that after Mr Mooney called the convent to say that [REDACTED] had told him that a nun had hit her [REDACTED] was punished again. I remember Mr Mooney but I don't remember this incident.
195. [REDACTED] LCB [REDACTED] alleges that kids were always being slapped somewhere and that it was a daily thing and that she alleges that somebody got hit every day from when she was seven until when she left. There was an older Sister who was

next door to Sister [LTX] group. She is dead. I am sure that if any of these things went on she would have done something about it.

196. [LCB] alleges that Sister [LTX] made her strip completely naked in the laundry room and smacked her bare bottom, that she was completely naked and was made to lie over a chair whilst Sister [LTX] hit her with a slipper. She alleges that Sister [LTX] told her that she was being punished because she had been to somebody's birthday party without permission. She alleges that an older girl walked into the laundry room because she was working there and that the hitting went on and on and that she was grabbing onto the chair with her legs so hard that she had bruises from trying to grip to it. All that could never have gone on without somebody knowing. I honestly don't believe that could have happened.
197. [LCB] has alleged that one time Sister [LTX] accused her of breaking a set of rosary beads and she hadn't done it and that Sister [LTX] punched her in the mouth and punched her in the head so hard her head hit the wall. She alleges that Sister [LTX] made her say the devil made her do it even though she hadn't broken the rosary beads. I never heard of that.
198. [LCB] alleges that on one occasion Sister [LTX] put a wooden splint on a wee boy's right arm to stop him sucking his thumb. I never saw or witnessed anything like that.
199. [LCB] alleges that Sister [LTX] once accused a girl called [redacted] of stealing sweeties out Easter eggs and she rammed a curly wurly chocolate bar down [redacted] throat in front of everybody in the dining room. [redacted]

Final thoughts on Sister [LTX] in light of allegations

200. I knew Sister [LTX]. To me the things she is alleged to have done are just not normal things. I don't know whether children were beaten. It certainly didn't happen in my time, I never ever heard of it. I shared a room with Sister [LTX] when we were on holiday in Dunbar. If she had problems with her children she would have come out with something.
201. I would have to say that, even though I wasn't near Sister [LTX] group, you would've heard of these things happening if they had. These sort of things wouldn't have been kept quiet. If there was anything happening in the group next door or the group down the passage you would hear about it. Somebody would have 'grassed on them' if it had happened. Sister Joan of Arc was the Sister next door to Sister [LTX] group. She would never have sat back if she had heard or seen anything.

Reporting of abuse

202. I think that there would have been no problem for the children in approaching me if they had any problems. I don't remember any of the children coming up to me and saying that they were hit, they were told off or anything like that. If those things happened then the children never told me.

Prior statements

203. At one point I had a letter from someone. I was down south somewhere. I don't know who sent me the letter. I remember it was from somewhere in Scotland though. It was yellow paper and it was definitely an official letter. I received the letter when all the allegations against the Sisters of Nazareth started to come out. It was a long time ago. [REDACTED] A lot of Sisters got letters like that at that time.

204. There was some sort of form that I had to fill in that came with the letter. I was asked to name a family or two who were in my house during my time. I was asked whether anything unforeseen happened to them and whether they had visitors. I replied to the letter with the form. I remember saying how times had changed by the time I had reached Scotland. I set out the things that we did with the children like taking them on holidays. I remember saying that, back then, we had had a little bit more money and access to the outside.

Closing thoughts

205. I have heard a lot of the types of allegations that have been made against the Sisters of Nazareth. The allegations are always the same types of things. Things like the bed-wetting and putting sheets around children's heads or making them have cold showers. Kissing the dead nuns is another one. It's as if people have heard this or that and are just writing them down in a different way.

206. I couldn't imagine in my wildest dreams things like the beatings or the stuffing of chocolate down children's throats having happening. I can accept that some Sisters were disciplinarians or got cross but I never ever saw or heard of people doing these things. No child ever came up to me and told me that 'so and so' got a beating last night. That never happened. If I had witnessed or heard of anything I don't think I would have, at that time, kept it to myself.

207. 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..... 

Dated..... 22-3-2018