

-Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Sister [REDACTED] LKI

Support person present: No

Others present: Denis Moloney, Solicitor, Donnelly & Wall Solicitors

1. My name is Sister [REDACTED] LKI I was previously known as Sister [REDACTED] LKI which was the name given to me at my profession. I later returned to using my baptismal name, [REDACTED] LKI I was born in 1950. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

The Sisters of Nazareth

2. I joined the Order, the Sisters of Nazareth, in 1969. I joined their formation programme which was for six years. I began in Finchley in London and then I moved to Hendon for two years. I then moved to Hammersmith and that was for three years.
3. After Hammersmith, I went to Nazareth House in Oxford. There was one group of children there that a Sister was looking after so I helped out. While I was in Oxford, I did an in-service course for residential childcare. This was in 1974/75. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of my certificate. When I finished the course I was sent to Nazareth House in Lasswade. I was there for four years. I was then sent to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock for two years. After Kilmarnock, I went to Nottingham for two years. I ended my residential child care work there as I went to America for twenty years and I went into education.
4. I came back to Britain, and I was in Ditton, Cheshire for nine months and then I went to Cheltenham for eight years. After that, I went to Northampton for four years and

from there I went to [REDACTED] I was in [REDACTED] for eighteen months and then I took my sabbatical that I am currently on.

5. All the work when I returned home to Britain was congregational work.

Nazareth House, Lasswade 1975/1976

6. There was a vacancy at Lasswade and I took that vacancy. This was my first post as a responsible person. I was not interviewed for the role. I was sent to be the responsible person for a group of children.
7. There were five groups of children. Three groups were in the main house and then I think we had two smaller groups over in the cottages. The Sisters were all very much responsible their own group. I think I had 25 children in my own group, I don't quite remember.
8. My group was in the main house. The two other groups were on either side of me. Quite a few of the children in my group were long term. I do remember getting two families in the four years that I was there. The children were all happy. There was a lot of space for them to run around in the grounds. They just seemed to be like a happy family.
9. I think Sister [REDACTED] LKC was the Sister Superior during the time I was there. The sister who was in charge of the group on one side of me was Sister Gerard of the passion. I think she has another name now. On the other side of me, Sister Mary of the Assumption was in charge of the other group. There was also a Sister Dominic but I think she left and then Sister Joan took her place while I was there. Sister [REDACTED] LTX was there. She was in charge of a group in one of the cottages.
10. I had a housekeeper, a cleaner and two to three care staff to help with the children. They were live-in staff. One would help with the children in the morning and two would help in the evening. The staff would be accountable to me.
11. The Sister Superior would come over and visit the groups. If it was someone's birthday she would definitely come over and she would bring a little gift for whoever's birthday

it was. Her visits were informal. She would come over morning or evening. All the children knew her.

12. My main responsibilities were to make sure the children were cared for. I would also manage the staff. I would do a rota for them and make sure they were on duty and that the children were being looked after. I would make sure the children would go to school and do their homework when they came in in the evening. I was also responsible for keeping a daily record book for everything that went on during the day and that was something I wrote every day.
13. I was responsible for the children if they were sick and I would make sure they were taken care of. Now and then, I would write a report if they were going to a hearing or if the social work needed a report. I generally looked after the welfare of the children.
14. Every unit was contained. Upstairs was the sleeping area and bathroom area. Downstairs was the dining room and the big lounge where the television was. There was also a cloakroom with lockers in it. Each child had their own locker.
15. There was a bedroom area where the children slept and the staff had a room as well. My room was at one end and the staff would sleep at the other end.
16. I had a mixed group, boys and girls. I seemed to have all the teenagers. I had children from about age eleven up. I think I had maybe one child who was eight and I had one boy who went out to work. We also had a large family come into our group and the youngest was three. I think that was the youngest child I ever had. The rest were all juniors.
17. The children would have come in as infants, about the age of three or four. They were about eleven or twelve when I arrived. I had family units in my group, we kept families together. I only had two new families that came in while I was there. The rest had been there a long time before I came. Some of the children had older siblings that had left and gone to other homes or left and gone to work. There were two or three families that had the tail-end of the family still there in the home, the older children had gone.

18. When a new family was coming in. The Superior would let me know that there was a family coming and to get the place ready. I would have the place ready when the social worker arrived with the children. I think we would have a general meeting about what their needs were. The same thing would happen if a child was leaving or being discharged. The social worker would get in touch with me and then we would organise the children's things for them to be discharged. The Superior would then get to know as well because she was the one that had the sign-in book and documentation for entries and discharges. I didn't have anything to do with that.
19. I can't remember if I received any advance paperwork in relation to new children. I have a feeling that I would get it on the day they arrived. I can't remember getting any information beforehand because the first time I would get to know about any new arrivals was when the Mother Superior would mention it that morning. If there was any paperwork to do with children arriving then that would be left with me. I think the main work of the Superior was the admittance and discharge of the children.
20. I used to keep the paperwork in relation to each child within my room. I kept a file for each individual child. I kept all the paperwork the social worker gave me within these files. I also took a note of the new arrivals in my daily record book. When I left Lasswade, I left the all the files for the sister who was replacing me. She would pick that up and continue with it. When Lasswade closed as a children's home, all that information would have been sent to Hammersmith because that is where we hold all our records. Anybody wanting to make enquiries are asked to go to Hammersmith or phone Hammersmith about information.
21. When the children arrived, you would play it by ear as to how to deal with them. Some of the children were traumatised when they came in. Some of them were quite happy to be there but nothing would be enforced on them. I let them grow into the place, I let them settle in their own way. Sometimes you would have to go off with one of them and sit down and chat to them to comfort them. You did whatever was needed at the time.

Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade

Mornings and bedtime

22. The children got up in the morning about 7am followed by breakfast then they were off to school at about 8.45am. They would get themselves up and the ones that could make their beds would make their own beds. They would brush their teeth and they would wash. Some children would need a shower. Mostly the children would shower at night. We had staggered showers at night so in the morning they would just wash their faces. They would brush their teeth and get ready for school. They would then have breakfast and then the staff would walk them to school.
23. There were bedrooms and two or three children would share a bedroom. At night time, bathing would start about 7pm with the young children and bedtime was staggered after that. All the children were usually in bed by 10pm.
24. During the night, I would be on duty and it was my responsibility to get up but if I needed assistance from a staff member I could call on them.
25. The children did not need permission to get up in the middle of the night. There would be night-lights on so they could get up and go to the bathroom if they needed.

Bathing

26. I have mentioned showering however thinking back now I can't remember if we did have showers. Maybe it was a bath we had. Bathing in the evenings would be staggered. The smaller ones would go off with a member of staff and the older ones would see to themselves. It would be fresh water for each child in their bath but we did have younger ones that would share a bath with their siblings. The older ones were responsible for their own baths and would never get into somebody else's bath water.

27. As the children got older, the teenagers would bathe by themselves, they just went to bathe whenever they wanted as long as they were in bed by 10 pm. I would say that the middle group, the juniors, they would go to the bath but they were supervised. There was always a member of staff around. She wouldn't necessarily be standing there bathing them but she would be around, if there were any problems.

Bedwetting

28. I did have one girl who wet the bed. Looking after her at night usually fell to me. Sometimes one of the staff would see to her. I used to get up about 11pm and if you got her up to go to the toilet then she was safe during the night. There were occasions, usually at the weekends when she would stay up longer and therefore wouldn't be called for the toilet at 11.00PM so the next morning she was sometimes wet. She was the first one up in the morning. We would check her out first and if she was wet, she would have a bath herself. We would strip the bed. She was about twelve years old I think. She was the only bed-wetter. She wouldn't do it every day.

Mealtimes / Food

29. In the mornings there was hot porridge for breakfast in the winter. I think there was boiled eggs and I think they also had toast. There was also scrambled egg.
30. The food was quite good, it was very nutritious. We had a good sister in the kitchen and she did all the cooking. We all ate the food, it was the same menu for everybody sisters and children.
31. We would know if there was something that a child really did not like to eat. We had a little kitchenette and we would make something that the child would eat. It could be a fried egg or whatever fitted in with that particular child. There were various foods that they didn't like but when you actually got to know the children then you got to know the kind of food they didn't like so you wouldn't put that on their plate it. There was always food in the cupboard that you could pull out if you needed to make a meal up for them.

Clothing / uniform

32. Whilst in the home, the children did not wear a uniform, they wore their own clothes. When the children were admitted to the home, they would bring a case full of clothes. I remember we would go out twice a year to get new clothes. There was also a donation of clothes available. The clothes were left on table and you could take whatever you needed. If the clothes weren't used they would be taken away. But they always seemed to be clothes available.
33. The girls would share clothes. Sometimes they would like someone else's shirt and ask to wear it, but they all had their own clothes and they all had their own places to keep them.
34. There were domestic staff that would spend a day or two doing the laundry. They would come in the morning and then after the children went to school, they would do the children's laundry.
35. Something that does not stick out in my mind is the children polishing their own shoes. I suppose they would do it them themselves, or maybe a staff member would notice that they needed done and she would do them. However, it's not something I remember.

School

36. All the children of primary school age went to the same primary school. All the older children went to the same secondary school. I think the older children had to go by bus to school. A member of staff would walk the younger ones to primary school. I remember the school being very nurturing for our children. The headmaster in the primary school was concerned about the children. If he saw any of them being bullied he would step in. He would phone to say if someone had had a bad day or if someone had been in a fight. He would also phone if one of the children did very well. He was very nurturing and seemed to have a special affinity for our children. We never had any problems with the school because of that.

37. I went to a couple of parent's evenings and I met the teachers. It was part of my job.

Trips and holidays

38. We had a holiday every year for three weeks. We would go to Dunbar in East Lothian. Dunbar is a seaside place just beyond Berwick and we were all accommodated in an old army barracks place. We slept on camper beds and in sleeping bags. It was a great time so we all looked forward to that. I don't remember any other trips other than that.

Leisure

39. During the week, the children would come in from school and the first thing they would do was their homework. They would then go out to play and then they would have supper. During the long summer evenings, they would be out playing again after supper. They all had their favourite programmes on the television so they would come in at some point and watch a television programme. There were also a lot of board games and books. They also had music. Some of the children liked to play by themselves.
40. There was a bookcase full of books. When clothes were donated some books would be brought in as well. The children invariably got a book for Christmas which they would keep in their own bedroom. Some of them liked reading. The bookshelves had books if the children wanted to read.
41. The toys and games were solely for our unit. There was a toy box for the younger ones.
42. I can't remember any of the children going out to do organised activities like scouts or brownies. There was plenty of space outside in the grounds for kicking balls etc.,. When I was there, there were no trees around the back, it was all a big field. There was a golf course on the other side of the fence and sometimes the balls would come over into the garden and the children would pick them up and sell them back. The

children were very smart and they were happy. They enjoyed the grounds and they were able to run around. They would get to meet the children from the other groups when playing outside.

43. I have no recollection of them going to a swimming pool, I don't think there was one around there. I remember taking the children to a park in Dalkeith, it was like a climbing park. We went there a couple of times. We did not go to the cinema.
44. The older ones got pocket money so they would go out and spend their money and meet up with a friend. The younger ones would go out with a member of staff to spend their pocket money. The older ones would either watch television or do homework. When the younger ones went off to bed at 9 o'clock, the older ones had the television to themselves. It just seemed to work. At the weekends, some of the older ones had family members coming to visit so they would go out with them.

Birthdays and Christmas

45. Christmas and birthdays were lovely times. They were well anticipated by everybody. For birthdays, we had a cake and there would be a little treat like ice cream and jelly. There were also little gifts.
46. At Christmas, we would have gifts for the children and they would have new clothes. It was a relaxing time so it was a fun time to be together. I can't remember any of the children going home for Christmas on a home visit. Christmas was spent in the Nazareth House and we just tried to make it as fun as possible for them.

Visits / Inspections

47. There were no set days for visitors. In fact, the only visitors I remember were for the two families that came in when I was there. They were all planned organised visits. I would know in advance that family visitors were coming. This did not happen very often. When a family member did come to visit, they would visit all of the siblings at the same time. If it was a Friday, they would go outside and walk outside with the

children. Once the parents took them out, there was no supervision from any of the staff.

48. In relation to extended family visits, I remember there was an aunt that used to visit and a granny.
49. The social worker for the children did not come and visit. The social worker would come when children were being admitted and they might make one other visit. After that, we really didn't see social workers that often. They would then be present when a child was being discharged.
50. I can't remember any priests coming to visit the children.
51. I can't recall any visits from the local authority during the four years I was at Lasswade. I'm not saying that we didn't have one but I can't remember anybody coming and looking at files or asking questions. .
52. I think we had visitations every year from the Order. I can't really remember any of those either. Maybe they were just a walk through and walk out. There wasn't any follow up for me to look at and say this is what they saw and this is what we needed to change.
53. I was never requested to write up a report in relation to any of the childrens' placements. The only time I remember a request was when I was in America and I got a letter from social worker asking me if I would sign a release form so that one of the children that I looked after could have her reports. I can't remember writing reports but I must have written them. The child must have been old enough to have her reports given to her and I had to sign a release for her to have them.
54. I was never invited and I didn't attend any care reviews in relation to the children.

Healthcare

55. Each sister was responsible for the health of the children in her group. I was in Lasswade for four years and I can't remember a doctor coming in but I am sure I must have had a sick child in those four years. I can't even remember taking a child to the dentist. We didn't have any children that needed specialised visits to see a specialist. If the children were sick, we took care of them. I have no recollection of taking a child to hospital.

56. I remember doing an annual health check with the children. All those details would be kept in their file. We had a sheet with all the information on it and I remember filling it in. I can't remember if this was a regular thing or if we did it every now and then. I would keep the information in the children's individual files.

57. There were no deaths during my time in the home.

Religious instruction

58. Most of the religious instruction came from school in relation to the children. They were in a Catholic school. There was a chapel in the home so there was a priest and the sisters would go to mass. The children would go to mass on Sundays and we would pray before meals and pray after meals. We also tried to show them that they had to care for each other and support each other.

59. The younger children would go to mass. I remember a boy who came in, he was about fourteen or fifteen. As soon as he came in, he said he was from the Orange Lodge so I knew exactly what the story was and when mass came, he didn't go and that was accepted. He stayed behind in the unit.

Chores

60. In the evening, after the children had supper, they cleared the table, swept the floor and helped dry the dishes. If they were playing in the large sitting room and they had all the toys out, they needed to pick the toys up and put them away. Their drawers in their rooms needed to be kept neat and tidy. They were also responsible for keeping their clothes folded and put away in the drawers. They also had to leave the bathrooms tidy for the next person to go in. They had to do those kinds of things.

61. They never had to polish any floors or help out with the laundry.

Discipline

62. How the children were disciplined depended on the circumstances. Sometimes it just needed a sit down talk. If it was a bit more serious, they would miss their favourite programme on the television. Another discipline would be that they would receive their pocket money at the end of the week but they wouldn't be allowed to go out and spend it. That's mostly how I would deal with it.
63. There were no written rules of conduct. The kind of things that would merit a punishment were things like not coming straight back from school, fighting or telling lies. Basically that would be it.
64. There was no corporal punishment. That would not have been allowed. You would have been in big trouble from our Visitators if they knew about it or from Mother Superior.
65. There was not a discipline book but I would write things in my daily record book if there was something of that nature or if there was a problem or a disagreement. Those are the kinds of things I would write in my daily record book. If something happened that was a bit more serious, I might write it in the reports in their files. I can't think of an example because there never was anything that serious.

Discharge procedure

66. I could be wrong, as I may be thinking of another house, but when the children were going to be discharged, they would start going home for weekends and then there would be a date set for them to return to their home. There would be preparation in the Nazareth House getting their clothes ready and toys sorted out, things like that. All their personal belongings would be packed. I would be given a time that the social worker would be picking them up. It was as simple as that.

67. I didn't have a child that was discharged to start their adult life. I did have a sixteen year old boy who worked in a hotel. He was part of a family of three. They were only in Nazareth House because I think the family had been evicted from their home so they were only there a short time. I think the boy actually worked with his mother in the hotel. When that family were discharged, they went back home because they had a home to go to. He was not discharged out on his own.
68. I didn't have any children who were discharged out to another home.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade

69. I do not remember any behaviour that I considered to be abusive within the Nazareth House, Lasswade. I never heard about abusive behaviour. I did not receive any report from any child about the way they were being treated. If the children had any concerns they would have come to me. If I wasn't available, I had two good staff members who were very nurturing with the children, they may have gone to them. One of them was called [REDACTED] LJZ and I don't know who the other one was. The children may have gone to a teacher, not that I had any experience of that. If the child had any rapport with their social worker that might have been somebody else they could have got in touch with.
70. The children were allowed to contact their social worker. If they wanted to phone the social worker, particularly the older children, I would have given them the phone number. We had a phone in the unit so they could have done that themselves. There was not a list of contacts next to the phone, they would have had to ask me for the phone number.
71. If anyone had a complaint, the procedure would be, if it was a criminal act, you would phone the police or the social worker. You would also let the Superior know, that would have been the normal procedure.

Allegations of Abuse, Nazareth House, Lasswade

[REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED]

72. The name [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] sounds familiar to me. I was in Nazareth House, Lasswade from 1975 to 1979. I have been told that [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] was there from 1967 until about 1976. [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] has given a statement to the Inquiry and has mentioned a Sister [REDACTED] LKI [REDACTED] This was the name I was known as at the time.
73. [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] has said in her statement "*I think about [REDACTED] LKI [REDACTED] She was only about eighteen. I was in high school when she came. She was okay with me. She was there when I left.*" She must have known me but I have no recollection of her. This is the only reference she makes to me in her statement and I do seem to recognise her name.
74. I have been asked if I knew a Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] There was not a Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] during my time at Lasswade. I have previously mentioned Sister Gerard of the Passion, Sister Mary of the Assumption and Sister Joan or Sister Dominic. They both took over from one another. There was also Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] so there were five sisters and they were there at the time that I was there. If [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] makes reference in her statement to a Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] then that must have been before my time there.
75. [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] says "*there was a bath before bed on alternative nights and the whole group got a bath. We all lined up, girls and boys in a queue. It was one in and one out, the bath water didn't get changed. It was scorching hot if you were first in and filthy and freezing if you were last. It was a mad dash to get in the queue.*" This was not a practise I used with the children.
76. [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED] says "*you were classed as responsible when you got to about the age of ten and that meant that you were given responsibility for one of the younger children. You needed to make sure they got their bath and washed their hair so you were looking after not just yourself but responsible for younger ones as well.*" The only way that would work for me is, if there was an older child who had a sibling and wanted to help out but they would not take on the responsibility.

77. [B] LBF goes on to mention that *"a nun or staff member used to come into the dorm at night to make sure that we were asleep and in our own bed. Two of the girls in my dorm were sisters who were used to sleeping together. One would climb into the others bed after lights out and she would get slapped and put into her own bed if she was caught."* I had no issues with siblings wanting to share a bed.
78. [B] LBF says *"there were a few in my group who wet the bed. You were basically encouraged to humiliate them. They had to stand up at breakfast time in front of everyone and say that they had wet the bed. They would get put into freezing cold baths as well. I did not witness people getting put in the bath but I heard them screaming."* This is not something I've heard of with the children.
79. [B] LBF said *"the food was variable. Sometimes it was okay, other times not so good. You had to be quiet at meal times. We weren't allowed to talk at all."* That does not connect with my experience. We had indoor voices and we had outdoor voices and if you were at a table you had an indoor voice. If you were outside you use your outdoor voice..
80. She says *"you weren't allowed to leave your food. You had to finish what was on your plate even if you were full or didn't like it."* She goes on to mention something about being force-fed but that never happened in my group. I have never heard about any of this.
81. [B] LBF makes a reference to me and says *"by the time Sister [B] LKI came to the home, I was a bit older and was allowed to go out socialising. She let me go to the disco in Loanhead on a Friday night with the older girls."* We had our own disco on a Friday night to give stimulation to the older children. There were disco lights and there would be music. It was supervised by the staff but I don't remember letting any of the children attend an outside disco.
82. [B] LBF says in relation to chores *"we had to polish the floor of the big long corridor until it gleamed. It was a weekly chore. You put the polish on by hand and buffed it off with rags on our feet until it was shiny. It took ages. We also had to brush and mop*

the floors in the kitchen and dining room.” We had carpets on the passage floor and we had lino in the dining room. There was no polishing.

83. She says *“I did my own washing and ironing when Sister [LKI] came. I liked to do it because it made me feel grown up.”* I can't remember if we had an ironing board and an iron. That might have been something that I would encourage the older girls to do, to iron their clothes. But I can't remember having an iron and ironing board but that doesn't say there wasn't one.
84. [LBF] says *“birthdays weren't celebrated. I knew it was my birthday but I didn't get a card or anything else. Christmas was celebrated. We got gifts, sometimes new and sometimes second hand. If you got anything nice from your family, it was taken off you. I got a watch from my dad one time and it was taken away. They said I didn't need it.”* No, I had very nurturing staff and they would always give cards and a little gift to every child.
85. She says *“Sister [LKI] arranged with the Mother Superior for me to go and stay with my gran and auntie [REDACTED] at the weekends. I think I was eleven when that started. I used to go on the bus from Bonnyrigg to Edinburgh on a Saturday morning and the bus back on a Sunday. My auntie [REDACTED] used to meet me at the bus station. We would walk down Leith Walk. My friend [REDACTED] used to spend the weekend at home with her dad so I went back on the bus on Sundays with her.”* I can't remember that, I wish I could put a face to her. I only remember one child ever going out and she used to go out maybe every other weekend. Thinking about it now, she was actually going to be fostered by this family. She was the bed-wetter I referred to earlier. The only thing I remember about the visits was that she came back from one visit and said she was distressed and she did not want to go back there. I asked her why and she said because they argued. I said that all families argue and it kind of hit me that we were providing a situation where they had never seen an argument. She found it hard to take when she went to visit that particular family but I left in the middle of all that so I don't know how that ended.
86. [LBF] says *“I had a brother and a sister that were in the same home as me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] They were taken to the other side of Nazareth House on the first day they*

arrived and I never saw them again until they were five and came to live in group 2. They were just whisked away the first day." She arrived before I was there. That certainly wasn't the practice when I was there.

87. She says "my sister [REDACTED] wasn't put in a bedroom with me when she came to the group. She went to a room with three other girls. I was never given responsibility for her. She was looked after by other girls. Given that she was my sister, I thought I would have been asked to help look after her." I can't make any comment on that. My practice was to try and keep siblings together.
88. [REDACTED] LBF says "I had a brother called [REDACTED] I saw him every day until he left Nazareth House because we were in the same group. We were only separated at night for sleeping purposes. [REDACTED] had gone by the time [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to our group. I don't know whether he was fostered or adopted, I didn't know he was leaving, nobody told me. One day he was there, the next day he was gone." That would be something that wouldn't have happened in my time. If someone was leaving, it would be discussed with the family group. I think the social worker would have made sure that everybody was on the same page.
89. [REDACTED] LBF mentions abuse from a Sister [REDACTED] LFX As I have previously said, I can't remember a Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] LBF says "I was hit by Sister [REDACTED] LFX most days. She slapped me on the face the first day she arrived and I would get hit every two or three days. We would go to the swimming pool in Bonnyrigg on a Sunday. I was late back one day which annoyed Sister [REDACTED] LFX She called me into the dining room. All the chairs were tilted up on the tables. She asked me why I was late and I said that I hadn't rushed up the road. She slapped me and I fell to the floor and she then started kicking me in the face and stomach. She was shouting at me telling me to stand up." I never heard anything like that.
90. She goes on to say "during that incident, I fell against a record player and it scratched the record that was playing. Sister [REDACTED] LFX started hitting me with a wooden chair, banging me on the back and over my head and on my legs. Eventually the chair broke and she started hitting me with the leg of the chair. I think she must have exhausted

herself with all the hitting and kicking. She then stopped and told me to get up and get out." I left in 1983 to go to America so I've not heard about these accusations.

91. [LBF] says *"in general, they didn't need a reason to hit you, it was like you just did something bad and then got punished for it. They hit you just because they could and just because you would happen to be there. I was also hit by a staff member called [LGA] from group 3."* I don't remember numbers of groups at all and I don't remember a girl called [LGA] I never heard anything like that.
92. She says *"I was force-fed on a couple of occasions, once with spaghetti. I was adamant that I wasn't taking it and tried to keep my mouth shut while Sister [LFX] banged the spoon against my mouth. I had bruising all around my mouth and my gums were really sore afterwards. If I was sick while being force-fed, the vomit was forced into my mouth as well."* All I can say to that is, not in my time with the children.
93. The name [LFY] means nothing to me. She wasn't a member of my staff. I don't remember a [LFY] We had our own groups. We weren't allowed to go into other groups so we never really got to know other staff members. You would see people around but you wouldn't know who they were. I would meet the other Sisters at the end of the day. [LBF] mentions that [LFY] *beat me with a wooden spoon and I was scarred."* I haven't heard anything about this at all.
94. [LBF] says *"I had a friend in the home who was sent away to live in a place called St Euphrasia's in Glasgow. She wrote to me and I received a slap from a nun when I opened [redacted] letter."* I have never heard of St Euphrasia's. I can't remember if there was any restriction on friends keeping in contact after they had moved on. For birthdays and Christmas, communication was encouraged.
95. She says *"cold baths and getting humiliated were the typical things for bed-wetters. I remember a nun rubbing a child's face in her bed because she had wet it, she was roaring and shouting at her."* I was responsible for my bed-wetter. I got her up at 11pm and then checked her in the morning to make sure that if she was wet then she would be the first up and she could have the necessary bath.

96. [LBF] says *"it seemed to be that they stopped hitting you once you got to a certain age. I don't know how Sister [LKI] was with the other kids but I was a bit older when she came so I was okay."* I don't have any comment on that.

97. She says *"Mr Madden came and told me that I was going to be spending the weekend with my mum. The next thing I knew I was signed out of Nazareth House and was staying with my mum permanently and I was fourteen. I hardly knew my mother yet I got sent to stay with her and her new partner Mr [REDACTED] Sister [LKI] was the nun in group 2 at the time. She didn't mention anything about it to me. I didn't have a say in the matter."* I wish I could put a face to the name, the name rings a bell. I can't remember her being discharged in my time.

[LCB]

98. I don't recognise the name [LCB] I have been told that she was in Nazareth House Lasswade from 1967 to 1979. I was there part of that time.

99. [LCB] says *"I was in one of the outer cottages. There was about five nuns looking after about one hundred children. The only ones that I can remember are Sister [LKI] at the big side, Sister [LHT] and Sister [LTX] I only remember Sister [LTX] and Sister Joan. Sister [LHT] wasn't there at my time."*

100. She says *"I remember an occasion when a few of the younger boys wet the bed and got cold showers. I remember going to bed and all of them who done it were lined up in the corridor waiting to get a cold shower. This was during the night. It was Sister [LTX] who put them in the shower."* I never discussed with Sister [LTX] about how she would deal with her children. I only ever lived in the big house, so the only time we met was in the evening. We certainly did not discuss the children in the evening when we were together.

101. [LCB] mentions a boy in her unit called [REDACTED] She says *"he was only two or three years old and nearly drowned in the sea. Sister [LTX] went in the sea in her habit and pulled him out by his hair and saved him. He was not taken to the*

hospital.” In Dunbar we not only had the barracks to stay in we also had the county hospital. That was right on the seafront but I don’t remember who stayed there. The barracks didn’t hold everybody so we also had this little cottage/hospital. I never heard about any incident with a boy in the sea.

102. *She goes on to say that “those who were in the home the longest got the most abuse. Those who’s mum and dad visited did not get it so bad. They were disciplined but not so harshly.” That is not a distinction I recognise.*
103. *LCB says “the family name and the family name got it bad. We were long termers. When my dad came to visit, Sister LTX spoke to him first. If she told him we were naughty we would get it from him too. When Sister LTX was brushing my hair, I don’t know whether I moved or fidgeted or something but it would have been a pull of the hair and then a punch to the head. The abuse was daily. Not so much to myself but there was always one of the kids getting it, punching, kicking, pulling hair. At that time and I had long hair. She threw brushes at kid’s heads for laughing. She was really good at aiming her brush. It was hard at times, the physical assaults of the kids. She would punch with the top of her fingers in a fist.” If Sisters did talk about these things, I never heard it and it could have been because I was a junior Sister and they didn’t want me involved or hearing anything like that. I have to say, hand on my heart, I never heard of these instances.*
104. *LCB says “one time Sister LTX made LXB drink salt water until she was sick because she had accused LXB of taking some benylin or some sort of medicine. That was when we were on holiday in Dunbar.” It was quite possible that Sister LTX was using the old hospital building in Dunbar to stay with her group.*
105. *She says “one time who was We were in the living room. shouted because she needed the toilet. Sister LTX and a member of staff were out in the hall talking. They weren’t paying attention so she wet herself. Sister LTX picked her up by her arm and smacked her bare legs.” I was there four years and I think I only ever went over to the cottages once and that was to give a message to Sister LTX from the Superior. I couldn’t*

tell you what the cottages looked like so wasn't privy to anything that was going on over there.

106. **LCB** says *"kids got accused of lighting candles and trying to burn the unit. I can't remember the wee boys name but he got leathered for that. I don't think he was even old enough to strike a match."* She also goes on to say *"Sister **LTX** would sometimes send you to Coventry which meant that nobody was allowed to talk to you or play with you. Family, friends, no-one, even at the dining room table. The longest it lasted was three or four days. It was horrible being sent to Coventry. We could go to school but after that you weren't allowed out the grounds so you could only speak to friends at school. It was the only time I liked going to school. My sister used to whisper to me in bed. You had to apologise to have it stopped. I didn't mean it when I apologised, I didn't know what I had done half the time."* This is not ringing any bells with me at all.
107. She says *"there was a time **LXB** was in the bathroom trying to help **[REDACTED]** the **[REDACTED]** to walk and fell and hurt herself. Sister **LTX** asked everyone to go in and hit **LXB** but we didn't. She also punched **LXB** in the face because the school had said that she didn't have a tie on. She ended up with a bruise on her face. I think it was Mr Mooney, he called the convent to say that **LXB** had told him a nun had done it so she got punished again."* All I can say to that is not in my time. I don't even recognise the name Mr Mooney.
108. **LCB** says *"There was always kids getting slapped about somewhere. It was just one of those daily things, you got used to seeing it. Someone got hit every day from when I was seven until I left, somebody always got it. The most humiliating thing was that I was told to strip naked in the laundry room and Sister **LTX** smacked my bare bottom. I was completely naked and had to lie over a chair while she hit me with a slipper. She said that I had been to someone's birthday party without permission. One of the girls walked in because they were in the laundry working, I can't remember who it was. The hitting went on and on, I was grabbing the chair with my legs so hard I had bruises trying to grip on to it. One time she accused me of breaking a set of rosary beads. I hadn't done it but she punched me in the mouth and punched so my head was hitting a wall. I had to say the devil made me do it even though I hadn't*

broken them. On one occasion, Sister [LTX] put a wooden splint on a wee boy's arm to stop him sucking his thumb." No, I'm sorry, I haven't heard any of this.

109. In relation to any subsequent investigation regarding abuse at Lasswade, I remember getting a letter in the 1980's or 90's. I was in America at the time and I think I got a letter from my Superior General to say that a solicitor was writing to me regarding names. I think there were three names listed and they wanted to know if I knew anything about these people and did I know where they worked. I did not recognise any of the names. I think [REDACTED] was one of the names on that list but I can't remember any of the others. I was to let a Solicitor know if I knew these names. However, I didn't know any of them. I informed [REDACTED] from the Inquiry about this in a telephone call prior to meeting with the Inquiry Team in Manchester.
110. In relation to Sister [LTX], the only time I would see her interacting with the children was when she was walking them over from the cottage, to the main building. Or if she was walking around the garden when she invariably had the handicapped child with her. They were all very friendly. They were holding her hand and hanging onto her clothes. That is why I find all these allegations hard to believe. I got no impression that there was anything wrong going on between her and her children. They were always well looked after. They had lovely ribbons in their hair, so she spent time looking after them so I find that all painful to say the least. [REDACTED]
111. [REDACTED]
112. While I was in Lasswade, one of the children came to me and said that she didn't want to go to the cottage anymore. She played with some friends from the cottage. When I

asked her why, she said she wanted to play and watch television. We had three cottages in the ground. Sr. [REDACTED] lived in one, Sr. Joan lived in the other, and [REDACTED] Lived in the other.

113. I have never given a statement to the police or aided with any investigation in relation to abuse allegation.
114. My recollection of my time at Lasswade has been affected by the fact that I moved to America and was there twenty years. I left to go to America in 1983 and that was my last residential child care placement. I was in a new ministry in a new culture so I think this experience may have affected some of my accuracy or memory of that time.
115. I can't understand the allegations that are being made. It is very hard to sit and listen to it. I just haven't any recollection of hearing anybody say anything. That of course could be down to the fact that I was away for twenty years. I do accept that the allegations as described to me do amount to being abusive and I would have reported it if I had been aware of it.

Records from Nazareth House, Lasswade

116. When I was at Lasswade, I kept a daily record book. I also had a file for each individual child. When I left, the records stayed there. They were kept in my bedroom so the next person that came, would have accommodated the bedroom so she would have had all that information. I did not have a "transfer meeting" with my successor. That was not one of our policies. You moved on and they moved in. I think the next person would have found everything she needed in the daily record book. I believe that all those records would have found their way down to the Hammersmith offices.

Nazareth House, Kilmarnock

117. I left Lasswade in 1979 and went to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. I was to replace Sister [REDACTED] LGO [REDACTED] We actually had a handover. I went over to meet with her. She showed me how the accounts worked and then she introduced me to the children. She showed

me the office so there was a bit of a handover. I think I just went for the day, I did not stay over.

118. There was only one small group so the experience in Kilmarnock was completely different to Lasswade. There was about twelve of children. They were long-term and they seemed happy. They would get new clothes more often. We had a sunshine mini bus so we were able to drive the children out on different days. They all went to the local school. The routine was very much the same as Lasswade. They got up, had breakfast and went to school. It was just a happy little home.
119. The Sister Superior was Sister Columbian. We also had Sister Gabrini there as well looking after the elderly residents. They were on the first and second floor, we had a whole floor upstairs. The doctor would visit them but he would pop his head in and ask how we were doing. He was that kind of doctor. I can't remember ever calling him in for anybody who was sick. I don't remember taking anybody personally to the dentist. We had staff there who may have taken them.
120. It was a mixed unit of mostly girls. There were one or two boys who I think were part of a family. I think the youngest was about eight and the oldest about fifteen.
121. There was only myself looking after the children and one Sister with the older residents. Any other Sisters were kind of elderly and did various things around the house and the church. None of the other Sisters had anything to do with the children. We were completely separate. I had about three or four staff to help me. The staff did not live in, I think there were two girls and two elderly women who had been there a long time.
122. During my time there, no new children were admitted. I was there for two years. I think they were closing the place down so the children were being phased out. I was involved with the discharge of the children.
123. I had an office in Kilmarnock. I kept a day diary and I had a filing cabinet that was locked. It held all their reports.

Food

124. I think sister Columbier had been a caterer and then became the superior of Kilmarnock house, so I would imagine that she made sure that the food was nutritious.
125. The food would come up from the main kitchen. The girls used to do things for themselves. They might make an omelette or might make toast. There were little snacks that they could make in the little kitchen themselves. We would have our main meals from the kitchen but I do remember people being in the small kitchenette doing things like making beans on toast or scrambled egg. If the older girls came in late from school they would normally do their own meal.
126. I don't recall any children having any difficulty with the food. The kitchenette was their space and they used it when they wanted. If they felt like making a cake then they would go into the kitchen to do that, provided everything was in there that they needed. It was their home so when I went there it was easy for me to feel at home because they were there a long time and they had a nice atmosphere. It was very different to Lasswade.

Sleeping arrangements

127. The children had shared rooms. I think we maybe had one or two girls in single rooms because they were older. Most of the rooms were small and had maybe two or three beds. I slept on the same floor as the children.
128. The children would all be in bed by 10pm during the week. At weekends they maybe stayed up later, maybe till 11pm. The older ones stayed up later than the younger ones.
129. I had no bed-wetters in Kilmarnock. There were night lights and the children could get up and go to the toilet.

Bathing

130. The younger ones would supervised during bath time. The older ones seemed to know their own routine and would take care of themselves. I can't say if they bathed every night.

Clothing

131. They had their own wardrobes and they wore their own clothes. We had our own laundry in Kilmarnock. If the girls were going out they could wash and iron their own clothes.

Leisure

132. The children in Kilmarnock seemed to be very active in school so sometimes they would stay after school. I'm not sure whether this was for sports. There was a book club I think that one of them was involved in. I can't remember if any of them were in the scouts or the girl guides. When I look back at Kilmarnock, all I remember are movie nights and everybody there having a snack and watching a movie. The children seemed to be well established.
133. I don't think there was an area to play in the grounds of Kilmarnock but I think there was a park opposite. However, that might have been another house, I can't remember. We had the mini-bus so at weekends we took them out to different places.
134. There were toys for the children to play with. There were book shelves with books. I remember taking them in the mini-bus to the swimming pool but I don't think we ever went to the cinema.

Trips

135. We had vacations every year. I remember driving the mini-bus to Edinburgh. The house in Lasswade had closed but there was empty units, so we stayed there for two weeks. I only remember this holiday while in Kilmarnock.

Schooling

136. All the children either went to the same primary or same secondary school depending on age. They were all well liked at school. They had been in the school since they were small so they were quite settled. I remember them taking out books and doing their homework. The older girls seemed to be more academic. We didn't have any problems with their homework or school.
137. The children were not taught budgeting as such but when we went shopping I remember them asking if they could get this and that. I can remember them doing some baking. They did baking in school. They learned how to cook, wash and keep their clothes clean and tidy.

Religious instruction

138. The children went to a Catholic school, so the school was the main educator for Catholic education. We had our own chapel so the children did go to church and we prayed before meals and after meals.
139. In relation to attending mass, the children all wanted to attend mass. We never had anybody saying they didn't want to go to church. They all knew that church was on a Sunday and they went to church.

Chores

140. We had very good domestic staff. The children would be responsible for their wardrobes and their drawers. The clothes would come back from the laundry, we had our own laundry. Sometimes they would wash their own clothes and iron them but we did have staff that would do that too.

Discipline and punishment

141. If there was something wrong or we needed a discussion then we would sit down and talk about it. I think that is all it took because these children didn't seem to have any

problems. If something further was needed as a discipline then it would be no movie night or something like that.

142. There was no corporal punishment. I saw nothing there that caused me concern. The children did not report anything to me that had upset them in relation to the children or staff. They might have come to me to say that they had had a fight with somebody in school but nothing more serious than that. I feel they felt comfortable telling me things. Sometimes at night we would be sitting watching a movie and there would be conversations going on about this and about that. They loved to sit and share their thoughts.
143. If the child had a serious complaint, you would get in touch with the police and the social worker would be informed. The superior would also be told. That would have been the procedure but I didn't have an incident like that at all.
144. As for keeping a record of discipline, in each child's file, there was a sheet where you could report this. I used this form of recording things more than I did when I was in Lasswade. I used the daily diary book for everyday things like visits to the school or a teacher conference or visitors to the house. Anything pertaining to the children I used to put into the files. I had a filing cabinet and it was locked in the office. I felt more comfortable recording information and putting it in each child's file.

Christmas and birthdays

145. It was a small house and everybody went kind of overboard for birthdays and Christmas. Christmas was full of presents and the girls went out and shopped and bought new clothes. It was just a normal happy home really.
146. For their birthday, they would have a cake and they would have a little party.

Visits

147. The children did not have any visitors as such. These children were long term children. I can't remember any of them having a visit from family. There were no social work

visits either. Although social services knew that we were eventually closing, towards the last six months, social workers were coming in and planning the next step for some of the families. I can't remember if some of them were transferred to another home or whether they actually went back to family, I can't remember. I have a feeling that some of them maybe went to another home.

148. I can't remember any inspections or visits from the local authority or from the Order.

Discharge procedure

149. I can't remember if I had any reports to write in relation to the children being discharged or moving on. I am sure I did because I probably would have helped in their next step and in meeting their needs. I know that I sat down with social workers and we had a chat about their needs and where they should be going. I think the older girls were involved in this procedure. Those that were fifteen or sixteen would have carried out that conversation with the social worker.
150. I can't remember sitting down with the social worker and the children discussing where they were going. I think I must have sat in on discussions because I would prepare them for that next step so I would imagine I would need to be on the same page.
151. I think the amount of notice I would get about a child leaving would depend on how quickly they could set up the next step. When the next step was ready, then the children moved and I don't remember there being just one or two children left, it all happened so quickly. I think I stayed on for a couple of weeks or a month emptying out bits and pieces. I think there was a plan for the elderly residents to take over that part of the house.

Records

152. I know that paperwork in relation to the children would have been given to the social worker. I think I was given requirements. Things like, this is what we need, and this is what we need to know and what would be done. So when the social worker would come and discharge the children, all that paperwork would be ready to be given to the social worker. I don't know whether that paperwork would go with the child or whether

that would go to a social work department or whether it would go to the next house. I am not aware of what happened after that.

153. Our own admission and discharge book is ours so we would have known who they were, the parents, where they came from, and birthdays etc. All that information would have been written in the Admission and Discharge book and that would have been sent to Hammersmith. Any personal files would have been given to the social worker.
154. I can't remember mailing anything out in relation to records. I think I handed them to a social worker. The discharge book would have been sent on to Hammersmith when the house closed. The Superior would have done that.

Other information

155. 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.

LKI

Signed...

Dated... *March 5th 2018*