## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Sister LQD

Support person present: No

Legal representative present : Denis Moloney, Donnelly and Wall Solicitors

My name at birth was LQD The name given to me on joining the Sisters of Nazareth as a noviciate was Sister LQD I am known as Sister LQD My date of birth is 1933. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

## Life before going into care

- I left school when I was seventeen and a half years old. I worked for about two years. I joined the Sisters of Nazareth as a noviciate and after two years I was given a post, supervised by another.
- 3. My first post was in Brough, Yorkshire, where I helped with babies. I wasn't made for helping with babies, it was too much responsibility. I went from Brough to collecting in Finchley and then to Northern Ireland.
- 4. I was asked to come back to England to train to work with children. I trained with the Home Office. I had placements at a home for disturbed children and children coming into care and in a place where children stayed before they went to the Juvenile Court. We went to court with the children. I was placed at a home for young children

from five years old, up to teenagers and at another just for teenagers. After each placement I did course work, research and attended lectures.

5. I was posted to Nazareth House in Cardonald twice. The first posting was from 1963 to 1966 and the second was in 1976 for eighteen months up to 1978.

### Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow- 1963 to 1966

- 6. My first impression of Nazareth House, Cardonald was that it was very institution like. We were in groups of around thirteen children, within the house. I was the junior sister in the Blue Group. I had children from school age right up to teenagers. The Sister Superior was Scottish but I can't remember her name. Sister LFP was at Nazareth House at that time.
- 7. Nazareth House was a big building with lots of floors. There was a long passageway on the ground floor and a sitting room for each different group. There was a hall which was used for plays, meeting up in to leave for school and Visitor's Day. The bedrooms were on the top floor.
- 8. I was a house mother. I was on my own to a certain extent. I didn't have any staff to help me. The sitting room and bedrooms for our group were very much the group's own. There was no interference from the Sister for any other group. I reported to Sister **CLFL** who was the Sister in charge of the children.
- 9. When I went to Cardonald, the children already knew what my role was, so I followed the routine of what the children usually did. I don't remember having any induction. I felt I had a good relationship with the children in my group. I didn't have any children report concerns about abusive behaviour to me.

10. If there was a new admission to the group, the senior Sister would see to that. For example, when it was time to start school, children from the nursery would move over to the house.

## Routine at Nazareth House, Cardonald

## Mornings/Bedtime

11. In my group, there were boys and girls. The family groups were kept together. I slept with my group in a dormitory, there was a partition between my bed and theirs. I think there were two dormitories, it was more likely the boys were together. I think it depended on their ages. The children each had a little locker. The younger children went to bed earlier than the older ones. I was on call in the night.

## Mealtimes / Food

- 12. Meals were taken on the same floor as the kitchen in a big dining room. Each group was separated in the dining room by a partition. I was with my children in the dining room.
- 13. I can't itemise what the food was. To me, it was maybe better than what the children would get at home. The food was always wholesome. It was definitely porridge in the morning and, two days a week, the children would get a fry-up for breakfast. Dinner was always dinner and pudding was always pudding. I ate with the other Sisters.
- 14. If the children didn't like the food or didn't want to eat what they had, maybe that's the difference between being at home and in care. I don't remember an alternative meal for them. The children were encouraged to eat. They were left sitting. Maybe I lacked understanding then. At home you'd get something wholesome in smaller doses. All the meals were served from a top table.

## Washing / bathing

15. There were two baths in my unit. I think the bigger children saw to themselves. The little ones had a bath at night. I was following the routine the children already had. I don't remember me making an issue of changing the bathwater. At home, when we were young, we used to share the bathwater, so maybe the younger ones did share it. I don't remember.

## Clothing / uniform

16. There was no uniform for the children. They had their day clothes and a school uniform. The children's clothes were their own. There was a laundry where other staff did the washing. At Christmas time, I remember going to a big shop in Glasgow. There was a company involved, the Sisters could buy clothes up to a certain amount of money for the children. It was a joy.

## Leisure Time

- 17. At the weekends, the highlight for the children was going out with the staff or a senior girl. I've forgotten now whether there was a TV at Cardonald in the sixties. If there was a TV, the children would have had access to that. In my unit I had a library with books.
- 18. I can only imagine that toys and games were shared within the group. You never had children coming in with their own possessions.
- 19. A lot of things went on in the hall. Someone came in to teach Scottish dancing another taught Irish dancing. One of my girls had music lessons. The girl went away to London for a week because she excelled at music. I think she eventually did teaching. After a class, the children would come back to the group.
- 20. A couple of boys went out to the Scouts. There was a playground area. If the boys wanted to kick a football around, they could do, I don't think there'd be anything against that.

4

## School

- 21. The staff took the children to the school which was to the left as you went out of Nazareth House. I don't remember going to the school. The senior Sister would have had communication with the school.
- 22. The children did their homework in the sitting room, after they had tea, at 5 pm. I would definitely be with the children when they were doing homework. There was an interest taken in how the children were getting on. Personally, I was very interested in what the children did and how their lessons were going.

## Trips / Holidays

23. We went on a holiday to Girvan or somewhere like that and we went out on day trips. There was the taxi drivers day out. The taxi drivers gave a box of sweets to every child.

## Birthdays and Christmas

24. Christmas was celebrated. Everybody received a present. I would do "Santa" myself, at two or three o'clock in the morning when the children were supposed to be asleep. I don't remember birthdays.

## Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

25. The first or last Sunday of the month was Visitor's Day. A lot of the children had visitors. The visitors met the children in the hall. I would stay in a different part of the house with the children and they would be called down when they had a visitor. Two

sisters would be in the hall and would give the visitors something to eat and a cup of tea. Some visitors would be relations and some would be Vincent de Paul people.

- 26. I don't remember children being encouraged to keep up contact with family members, parents or extended family outside.
- 27. We had visits from the Order. They would go around Nazareth House and have a look about. I suppose we'd have the best on for them. I don't know what the children knew about these people. The children were free to go and speak to the people from the Order, if they had anything to say. The children could speak to them just the same as they could speak to any nun going around the place. The Order did make reports, I didn't have access to the reports. If there was something, the Superior would bring it to my attention.
- 28. We went to meetings with two social workers and other Orders who had children. I went to Dundee University with another sister for an introduction to social work.
- 29. The local authority never came near us, as far as I remember. Social work didn't speak to us about reviews of the children's placements at Nazareth House. This changed in the seventies.

### Healthcare

- 30. Sister Athelston was trained in healthcare and ran the pharmacy. She saw to the children. Sister Athelston was very exact. Once, I got into trouble because I didn't tell her something about a child before she cottoned on to it. A doctor came into Nazareth House once a week. I can't remember his name.
- 31. I don't remember dental care being an issue. If a child complained about their teeth, they would be seen to.

## **Religious Instruction**

32. Religious instruction was undertaken by the school which the child attended. We would implement what the children were taught in school. In Nazareth House in the sixties, prayers were said at night time and before and after meals. The children went to Mass on a Sunday.

## Chores

33. The children had to make their beds in the morning and clear up their dormitory before they went downstairs. They had to leave any place they were in tidy. The children were given pocket money but it didn't depend on them doing chores.

## Discipline

- 34. If I smacked a child, I'd bring in another member of staff. I would say to the staff member, if I was overdoing it, it was their duty to say, that was it. I tried to bring the same staff member in if I had to smack any child. I gave them so many smacks and entered it into a book. I'm not sure if I had the book in the sixties or if it was later. I don't remember the name of the staff member I'd bring in.
- 35. Punishments would be for answering back or having a row, as a mother or father would at times.
- 36. If something was going wrong with one of my children, I gave them something extra to do instead of going out to play. They might help in the kitchen. There was a good familiarity between my group and the kitchen. The children didn't go to the kitchen on their own or take up the Sister's time when she was doing something else.
- 37. There was an older girl, aged thirteen or fourteen years. She had an interest in boyfriends and all the rest of it. I didn't have problems with boyfriends but if her discipline was bad in other areas, she worked on a big floor mat. I showed her how to make it, we did a pattern to follow. I would tell her to go and do the mat. I didn't want the mat to be a punishment but I tried to deviate her to it.

7

- We were very much apart, in our own groups. I wouldn't be in another group to see anyone else discipline children.
   Bed Wetting
- 39. The younger children had bedwetting problems and I would just deal with that as it came. The sheets went down to the laundry. The child might be put in a bath. The children could get up and use the toilet during the night. I don't remember that being an issue.

#### Records

- 40. I kept records for the Order and for the Diocese. I put together my knowledge about what was happening, school and health.
- 41. Sister Athelston dealt with the medical records for the children.
- 42. I don't remember if it was in the sixties or later but we all had a book. If we smacked the children, we put it in the book.

### Leaving Nazareth House, Cardonald

43. I left Nazareth House in 1966. I was posted to Cardiff and then to Southend, where I worked in childcare again. I returned to Nazareth House in Cardonald in 1977 or 1978.

#### Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow- 1977 to 1978

44. I can't remember who the Sister Superior was. Sister **LNU** was one of the sisters there. I went back in a different capacity, I was in charge of my group. I don't think there was any name given to the group. I always had two staff and an evening

staff, as far as I can remember. Through the night I was alone and on call. There were boys and girls in the group, round about the same number and age range as before. We had sibling groups.

- 45. There were big changes. Social workers were more active. The accommodation had been renovated into smaller rooms, with no more than three children to a room. There were showers and baths. I don't remember any issues with bedwetting. Children could go to the toilet at night. There were changes to mealtimes and bedtimes.
- 46. Food was the same quality but was more individual, as regards choices and how much the children ate. If the child didn't want to eat the food, it was different altogether. The children took what they wanted to eat. When the children came in from school, there was a lady who had a drink ready for them, whatever they wanted. She stayed and did the children's evening meal, which they ate as a group.
- 47. The school that the children went to had changed and was to the right as you went out of Nazareth House. I took the children to school every morning and had more communication with the school than I had done in the sixties.
- 48. They would do their homework in the sitting room. A teacher came into Nazareth House to help the children with their homework and would go into the school on my behalf. I would also be there when the children did their homework and I would be interested in their homework.
- 49. There was a TV and a library and the boys could go to Scouts. I don't remember any issues about toys or games. I don't think there were dancing or music lessons in the seventies.
- 50. We went on holidays, possibly to Girvan, as in the sixties. The taxi trips still took place. We went to Oban, out on the Clyde and took the train to give the children experiences.

9

- 51. There was still a pharmacy but Sister Athelston wasn't at Nazareth House. The children were seen to, we were exact about those things. We saw to the things a mother would see to. I think the same doctor was still involved with the children.
- 52. There was a difference in religious instruction, children didn't go to Mass. I think we still said grace at meals and said prayers in the evening.
- 53. The children did chores, the normal things that you would do at home like washing up and keeping their rooms tidy.
- 54. There were a lot of celebrations at Christmas time. We were very conscious of those things. I don't remember what we did for birthdays.
- 55. I remember one child was fostered. I don't remember if they kept in contact with us.

#### Discipline

- 56. If I smacked a child, I still kept a book to record that in but I don't remember having a member of staff present.
- 57. I have been asked whether I saw any children from other groups being disciplined. I did not.

## Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

- 58. The arrangements for visits had all changed. A good lot of children had family visitors, not Vincent de Paul visitors Sometimes boy's fathers would come into Nazareth House drunk and steal little things. The visits were no longer in the hall, instead the visitors would come up to the group. I met all the visitors.
- 59. Social workers were more involved. They were looking after the children more than in the sixties. The social workers would take their children out. One particular social

worker was very good. He wanted to pull up on children's records.. He spent time talking about his cases and bringing me out to discuss his children. There was a girl with special needs and we looked at placements and an appropriate school for her.

- 60. I don't remember any local authority inspections taking place.
- 61. I don't remember any visits from priests.

### Records

- 62. I kept a record of any time I had smacked a child, in a book.
- 63. Social workers were more active and one in particular wanted to improve the records kept about the children.

## Abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald

64. I don't remember witnessing any abuse of children at Nazareth House. No staff or children raised any concerns with me, definitely not. Not in the sixties nor the seventies. I felt I had a good relationship with the children and they could talk to me. I have been asked whether there was any procedure for dealing with concerns, if any had been raised. No, there was not. No allegations have been made to the Inquiry about me.

LBI

65. LBI has given an account of her time at Nazareth House to the Inquiry. I do not know that name. LBI says, "As soon as the nuns got us out of bed, the first thing they did was to check if anyone had wet her bed. If the bed was wet, it would be stripped. Those who wet their beds would be lined up, they would be taken to a big bath and they had to wash their sheets themselves." No

- 66. She goes on, "There was one child, where we was a constant bedwetter who on one occasion was told to go stand in the corridor. At 10:00 pm that night she had to knock the door of a member of staff and ask if she could go to bed. They had completely forgotten about her." No, I never heard of those things happening. I don't think I know her either.
- 67. LBL says, " Sister LFL would use her hand on the children now and again." She refers to Sister LFS I do not know Sister LFS. She goes on to refer to Sister LFH I was never there with Sister LFH
- 68. She goes on to say, "Sister LEP didn't use a stick or a cane but she certainly slapped out a lot. Sisters could be quite demeaning in the way that they spoke to some of the children. They would call them stupid or bold, often at the same time giving them a slap". I was there in Sister LEP time. It was a different group. No, I never heard of that.

## LCS

- 69. LCS has given an account of his time at Nazareth House to the Inquiry. He was in Nazareth House between 1963 and 1965. I don't know that name.
  LCS makes reference to his first days at Nazareth House. He says, *"I said that I didn't like the food and that was the first time I got battered"*. I'm sorry but I don't think that happened. I can't imagine that.
- 70. He says, "You were supposed to lie a certain way in your bed or you would get punished". I never heard of those things. Never.
- 71. LCS says, "My brother wet the bed a couple of times and one morning when the bell rang for us to go to breakfast was standing in the corridor holding the wet sheet up high above his head. Everyone would see it. He

was humiliated and embarrassed." I never heard of that, I don't even know his name.

- 72. He goes on, "if you ever did anything wrong you could expect to get hit. They would make me roll up the sleeve of my shirt and they would slap me with their hand on the back of my arm". I have not heard of those things. We wouldn't hear of them because we were different groups.
- 73. LCS speaks of his first day at Nazareth House and says, "I got a plate of food put down in front of me and I remember saying that I don't like it. The carer hit me across the side of my head on my ear with a big slap, more like a bang. Her name was
- 74. LCS says, "Sister LFP made me roll up one of my sleeves and hit me with her hand on the back of my bare arm. This was a common punishment." I don't know what her punishments were.
- 75. Referring to a child, **Construction** he goes on," Sister **CLFP** came in and slapped **construction** really hard on the side of the face. It left an imprint on her face and she had to stay off school. "I never heard of that.
- 76. He says," One time my dad was coming to take me and my brother, the home for the weekend and I was given a black jacket with orange stripes to wear. It was horrible and I refused to wear it. A circus clown wouldn't have worn that jacket. Sister LFP told my dad that I was sick and couldn't go home and then she battered me. Went home that weekend". Oh dear. No, I never heard of that happening.
- 77. LCS continues, "Once I was playing with crayons in the sitting room and Sister LFP came over and hit me with a metal ruler on the knuckles because I was writing with my left hand. She said it was a sign of the devil. I changed hands just for that day and it didn't happen again. Where she hit me it broke the skin and

*Iater got infected and was septic for about four weeks. I never got any treatment for it.*" I never heard of that. If Sister Athelston was there, she'd spot it. I don't know.

78. **LCS** speaks of a nun, who he didn't know, having died and being in an open coffin in the chapel. He says," *I was told that every time a nun came in and said a prayer and kissed the dead nun, I was to wipe her forehead. That still haunts me today.*" I don't ever remember that. We used to bring them in to say a little prayer.

### LCT

- 79. LCT and LDI are who have given an account of their time at Nazareth House, in the sixties and seventies, to the Inquiry. LCT says, *"Sister* LFL would beat you with a wooden hanger." Oh dear, I regret those things are in there. I've never heard of any sisters using any kind of an instrument. I don't know anything about it anyway.
- 80. LCT goes on, "We had to sleep with our arms crossed over our chests. The nuns would check us in the middle of the night. If the nuns found you sleeping in a different position, you could be woken up and given into trouble." I think it's rubbish.
- 81. She says one time she was lying curled up with her hands between her legs and "Sister LFL woke me up and beat me with her hands for not lying the proper way." No. I've not heard of any of those, any action like that happening.
- 82. **LCT** says another punishment that was used was, *"They made you kneel and stretch your arms out and hold that position for as long as you could." No. I've never heard of a practice like that.*
- 83. **LCT** refers to bedwetting. She say she did not have a problem with bedwetting but she did witness what did happen with the bed-wetters. She says, *"The nuns would grab the child out of the bed and take off the sheets. The child*

would have the sheets wrapped around them and would be made to go and have a cold shower." No, I've never heard of a practice like that.

- 84. She says, "Sister LFL and Sister LHA would use a spoon and force feed you if you refused to eat anything. If you were sick while they were force feeding you, they would scoop up sick with the food and shove it back in your mouth. They did this to me between the ages of five and nine." I've never heard of that.
- 85. LCT continues, "I remember going to see Dr LKQ to get our jag for going to school. I was scared. I was greeting and I lashed out. So three people had to hold me down while Dr LKQ gave me the injection. He was not gentle. He whacked the needle into my backside. I couldn't sit down for a week." God, would a doctor do that?
- 86. She recounts being taken to the dentist and teeth being removed. **LCT** says, "It took six staff members to hold me down. I was scared. My canine teeth were taken out. I had been a biter when I was younger. I believe that they took out my biting teeth on purpose." No, I never heard of that.
- 87. **LCT** says, "I was moved to the Green Group when I was five years old. I was told that I was going to be seeing my older sisters. When I moved to the Green Group, my sisters were not there. I was then told that they had already been fostered out. The nuns that had told me about seeing my sisters already knew they had been fostered out. I thought they were cruel lying to me. I was very upset." No
- 88. She says, "Sister LHA was in charge of the Green Group. No, I don't know her, not even the

child. Are you sure they are my time?

89. LCT continues," One of the nuns died. All the kids were lined up and we had to kiss the dead nun on the head." I know we went down, if there was a nun dead, we said a little prayer but no, they didn't kiss a nun on the head.

refers to Sister

LCT

- 90. She says, "Sister LEL used to beat us with her hands and a wooden hanger when we were in the nursery." Oh God. No.
- 91. LCT says, "I remember an old man used to visit. I think it was He used to get little girls to sit on his knee, I wanted to sit on his knee. I had never sat on anyone's knee before. When I was sitting there he touched me underneath. I knew it was wrong and I got off his knee. That was the first time I had been sexually abused. I remember him well. "No, I don't remember visit. I don't think they ever came over to the children.
- *92.* Sister LJS was at Nazareth House when I was there.

LJS "I used to run away quite a lot. I remember one occasion running away to Maryhill. I slept in derelict buildings. There was blood in between my legs and I thought I had injured myself. I was scared. I went back to the home. I think I was about eleven or twelve. I told Sister LJS that I'd hurt myself, that I was bleeding underneath. I had taken my period. I had not been told about periods and I had no idea what was happening to me. Sister LJS put me in a bath. She took all my clothes off and I was standing nude in front of her. I felt humiliated. She filled the bath with disinfectant and she scrubbed me with a scrubbing brush. It was a brush that was used to scrub the floors. She scrubbed me from head to toe. My skin was red raw. My whole body was sore. She told me that she had to clean my sins away. I don't know what they thought I'd been doing when I was away." I honestly think it's a bit ridiculous. I thought you were saying the nun ran away but it was the girl.

- 93. I have been asked whether the sisters gave any talks to the girls about menstruation.It depended on each sister. I did.
- 94. LCT recounts being taken out with her sister, LDI on a caravan holiday, by a couple, LFO and LFN They weren't quite sure why She says both she and her sister LDI were abused by LFN. She says, *"I told the nuns that I wasn't going back out with the* LFN/LFO *I told them he had abused me. The nuns did not believe me. They called me a liar and a trouble maker. I was told I*

should be thankful that someone had chosen to take me out on holiday. I was told to go down to the chapel and say ten Our Father's and twenty Hail Mary's. I wasn't lying. It hurt me so much. I learned to keep my mouth shut." I don't remember that.

95. I have been asked whether there was any discussion between the Sisters, of children making allegations of that nature. We were always careful. You had to be careful who was taking children out. I feel that they would know who was taking them out. I'm not going to speculate. I don't know anything, I wasn't in that situation.

# LDI

- 96. LDI says, "I remember two priests, Father LSO and Father Hay, used to visit. I was abused by Father LSO Father Hay was a nice priest. I never had any problems with him." I don't even know the names.
- She says, "Between the ages of eight to eleven, it was all abuse. All of the nuns 97. were involved in the abuse. I don't remember any of them being kind. The names of the nuns I remember are Sister LGS Sister LHA LFL Sister Sister LGY Sister LKE Sister LJS and Sister LNV "When I was at LJS LGS and LFL were there. I was never with Sister Nazareth House, LKE
- 98. LDI continues, "I hated meat and was force-fed by the nuns until I was sick, and even although I was sick, they would still carry on trying to make me eat it."
  I never heard. I don't honestly think those things could happen. I'm only saying that from my own feeling about the nuns themselves, I've met the nuns.
- 99. She says, "If I wasn't eating my dinner, they'd pull me out of the chair, sometimes by the hair, sometimes by the arm, and make me stand there in front of everybody until I ate it. Eventually they would sit me back down and force-feed me. If they were going to hit me, they'd pull me back up to my feet again. They'd hit me all over my body, wherever they could get me. Mostly I'd be standing when I got hit. They'd use

whatever they had on them - slippers, coat hangers or belts. I got this nearly every night because I hated the dinners." No, I don't know.

- 100. LDI says, "If you'd wet the bed, a Sister would take the cover off you and make you lie on the wet sheet until it was time to get up. You'd also get shouted at and hit, mostly across the legs, when you were lying in bed. She'd use whatever she had on her, slipper, belt or whatever. Everybody in the group then knew you'd wet the bed. You had to lie on the wet sheet from about half past four until six when you got up for mass. That happened all year round. You had to strip the bed when you got up and take the sheet to the laundry room. Later on when I was older, I had to stand and wash the sheets myself in the sink." No, I don't know anything about it.
- 101. She says," Sometimes you would be made to stand in the corner facing the wall as a punishment for not doing what you were told, like walking on the wrong side of the corridor or putting your elbows on the dinner table. You had to stand still for about an hour. You weren't allowed to move or fidget or you'd get slapped." No.
- 102. LDI says, "A priest called Father LSO used to come into the sitting room once a week, mostly on a Sunday, sit you on his knee and touch you down below. He first started doing this to me when I was about nine or ten. The older I got, I realised that I should stay away from him."
- 103. She continues, **LVT** used to visit the home a couple of times a year. He used to touch me down below as well. "I wouldn't know anything about that either.
- 104. Concerning her sister, LCT LDL LDL says," I don't remember exactly what LCT did, but I remember she was hit for it by a nun with a coat hanger. This was when we were still in the nursery," and, LCT was hit by the nuns, she was quite rebellious, she would stand up to them. She'd get pulled about by the hair, hit with a belt, a stick, a slipper, everything. It happened mostly when she was sticking up for me. She stuck up for me at the dinner table and even when I wet

the bed " LDI says, "most of the abuse took place because I wet the bed." I don't even know those children you're talking about.

- 105. Again concerning her sister, **LCT** she goes on, "Sister **LFL** came over to the table, picked up a knife and hit **LCT** over the head with it. I can remember the sister telling me, "Eat it. Eat it", and me saying, "I can't eat any more". Sister **LFL** was quite stumpy, wore glasses **Sector LFL** I don't know.
- 106. LDI says, LCT used to run away quite a lot. When she was brought back, she'd be hit and then locked in a room. It was just a small room, like a cupboard. There was nothing in it, just bare walls. I don't think it was used for anything else. She'd be in the room for a day, sometimes two days. "No, no. I cannot imagine the Sisters I know doing that. No, I can't.
- 107.
   LDI
   talks of Sister
   LHA
   I know Sister

   LHA
   LDI
   says,"
   LCT
   has always been a fidget. Sister

   LHA
   pulled her about, kicked her
   and stamped on her when she was on the floor.
   LCT
   was screaming." I never

   heard of that.
   LCT
   screaming."
   LCT
   screaming."
- 108. She says,"I saw Sister LGS severely batter a girl called the stairs when we were on holiday at Glengarry Guesthouse. Sister LGS was a bitch. Was in her group. She beat her because and I had gone downstairs and stolen food from the kitchen. The two of us were walking back up the stairs, and Sister LGS was standing at the top waiting on us. She grabbed and started battering into her. She was kicking her, pulling her hair and punching her, and she carried on kicking into her when was on the floor. It lasted a while, about ten to fifteen minutes I'd say. I started screaming and shouting for LKB to come."
- 109. She continues, "LKB came and pulled Sister LGS away. I remember LKB trying to defuse the situation. The two of them were shouting at each other. I

*"That's their punishment. They shouldn't be stealing."* No, I don't remember that. We were very separate. I wouldn't know what punishment went on in another group.

- 110. LDI recounts," LCI pal was also quite rebellious at times, because of everything that was going on in Nazareth House. And LCT were quite close. The two of them would get pulled about and shouted and bawled at, hit with a belt, stick, slippers, and sent to a separate room. The stick was like a big cane." I never saw it. I never saw the sisters with an instrument. If they did they must have been hiding them. I don't know.
- She says that following the caravan holiday with LFN LFO and LCT 111. LKB LFN told what had done to us and then I spoke to LKB LHA LKB and tell her. Sister said that she'd go to Sister LHA then took us into a room and LCT tried to tell her what had happened. Sister LHA told us that these people had gone out of their way to do this for us and we should be more grateful. She told to stop telling lies. I said we weren't telling lies and that he had done "dirty things". That's how I put it. Nothing at all was done about it." No, I have no recollection of that.
- 112. LDI says," I told either Sister LHA or Sister LFL about Father LSO. I remember being told to go and sit down, that I was telling lies. The nun said, "People like that don't do things like this." I always used to tell, but nothing would get done about it." I don't know him either. He wasn't around.

### LCC

*113.* **LCC** has given an account of her time at Nazareth House to the Inquiry. I know that name. She talks of Sister **LFH** who was not at Nazareth House at the same time as me nor do I know a dentist called Mr **LGG** 

- 114. LCC says, "Sister LFP would take us by the arm and nip us." She might have done that. She says Sister LFP came in to replace Sister LFH for her unit. I didn't think she came in to replace Sister LFH
- 115. She says, "The practice of forcing bed wetters to put dirty sheets and pants over their heads took place in all of the groups. The bed wetters were humiliated." No
- 116. LCC goes on to say, "Some of the staff came from the Good Shepherd Home in Bishopton. Those girls could be quite vicious." No, I never heard of that.
- 117. I have been asked whether LCC had visits from any family members. No, she did not, I knew LCC didn't have a family. I have been told that, according to information provided to the Inquiry by Clyde and Co, Solicitors, LCC mother visited several times a year. I am told that LCC doesn't have a recollection of that.
- 118. **LCC** says that when she was about seventeen, Sister **LFL** told her that her twin sister wanted to come and see her. She says, "A letter arrived from my sister but I was told I wouldn't be allowed to see it." I've no recollection of Sister saying anything.

## LBS

- 119. LBS has given an account of her time at Nazareth House in Cardonald to the Inquiry. I don't know the name. She says, "Sister LFP was the one who did the caning. I know Sister LFP was in charge of the Red group. She would cane you now and again." I don't know anything about a cane.
- 120. LBS says when she first arrived, "A few days later I met Sister LFP The first thing Sister LFP did was grab me by the hair and shake my head. She called me a filthy brat. She said I had lice and that she was going to delouse me. She then took a steel comb and dragged it through my hair. The pain

was awful. My head was bleeding. I was screaming. She just called me a dirty brat." I don't know anything about that.

- 121. She continues that she found the food was okay because she was always hungry, she didn't like the lumps in the porridge so she would leave them. She says "The only thing I didn't like was a pudding called sago. It was like frog spawn. I hated it. I would vomit it up. Sister would take great delight in taking what I had vomited and shoving it all back in my mouth, vomit and all. I would vomit again and the whole thing would start all over again." No.
- 122. LBS recounts," Sister LFP used to make us lie on our beds on our backs with our hands crossed over our chests. We had to spell out INRI on our foreheads with our fingers to "Remind us that we murdered Jesus". I got dragged out of bed several times because I was lying on my side. I would get hit by Sister LFP if my hands slipped down to my side. It would be a hit on the head or a slap on the face." No, I don't know about that.
- 123. She continues," When you were in your bed you weren't allowed out of it, even to go to the toilet." No, I don't agree with that.
- 124. LBS goes on, "I only wet the bed once, when I did, Sister LFP made all the children stand around me. She then rubbed the wet sheet and urine in my face and told the other children to laugh at me. I was too scared to wet the bed ever again." No, I don't know any of that.
- 125. LBS says, "I remember when I first saw Sister LFS I thought she was lovely and kind. I immediately took to her but when I introduced myself she said "I know who you are and I'll be keeping my eye on you". After that I had no trust in her. She was over six feet tall. A slap from her would send you flying." Sister LFS wasn't there in my time, I don't even know her.

- 126. She says, "We got a bath once a week. I was usually last. That meant, by the time I got into the water, the water would be freezing and filthy. It would be so bad that when I got out there would be a line of scum. It was horrible." No.
- 127. LBS continues, "One day I was cleaning the shoes for all the kids. I got them all really shiny. Sister LFS kicked them about and told me to start again. I did so and she kicked them about again and told me to start all over again I was exhausted." I don't know anything about it. I was never there with Sister LFS
- 128. She says," Mr LGG was the dentist who would give you gas. He used to touch you down below. One of the girls said he went even further but I don't know anything about that," and, "Dr LKQ was always supposed to have a nun present when examining us girls but he would tell them to go get something. When they left he would play with himself while inserting his finger inside me. This happened whenever he felt he could get away with it. I don't know how often it happened but it happened on several occasions. You couldn't tell the nuns about this as they simply didn't believe us." I never heard any complaints from children. If I did I would follow it up.
- 129. LBS says, "When I got caned it was usually on my back. If I didn't get caned then I'd get hit on the head or over the face. Caning was always done over your clothing." She continues, was another girl there. She and I used to get our heads bashed together. That was the worst pain you could imagine. We'd be forced to wait with our heads bowed down just waiting for Sister LFP to bash them together. When she did it was agony. I could actually see bright lights and stars in my head. Sister LFP was from Plymouth." No.

#### LBR

130. LBR has given an account of her time at Nazareth House in Cardonald at the end of 1966, to the Inquiry. I do not know her. LBR talks of Sister
 LHA and Sister LDX. I do not know either of those Sisters. I don't think they were there during my time.

131. She says," The nuns had thin whips with frayed bits at the end" I never saw them.
LBR then says, "The nuns would hit you on the face, neck and back.
Their favourite place to hit you was the back of the legs. It was so sore you could fall down. The punishments were not recorded." I never saw that. I was never aware of anything of the sort. I was never aware of any of the Sisters having instruments.

#### LDJ

- 132. LDJ has given an account of his time at Nazareth House to the Inquiry. I do not know that name. He says, "I remember being a bed-wetter. I would stay in my bed until the morning if I had wet the bed. It was pure fear. I probably got walloped for it too. I remember being told to wash my sheets even though I couldn't do it. I think it was a case of putting the sheets in the sink and just wetting them a bit. I think there were a few weans wet the bed. Sister would give me a cold bath or she would tell the staff to do it. She was just an evil woman." I never heard anything of that. She was upstairs.
- 133. He says, "There was a member of staff called LKB She was a very strict woman. She was nasty. She never abused or hit me but she turned a blind eye to it."
  I don't believe it.
- 134. LDJ continues, "I remember the first time I got tapioca for my pudding. It looked like frog spawn. I saw it, tasted it and thought what is this? I didn't eat it. I couldn't. I got it for breakfast and tea for the next three or four days, the same bowl until I ate it. The nuns were saying that there were kids starving and that God had put that in front of me. They were always saying things like that."
- 135. He goes on, "I ended up eating it and running to the toilet to spit it out and putting some of it in my pocket. I got nothing else until I ate it. They just kept putting it in the fridge and giving me the same bowl. I felt as if I got it on the Monday and then got my dinner on the Friday. It would happen at other times too. When I went outside some of the kids would bring me an apple or a bit of bread." I don't know anything

about that. Don't get me wrong, when I think of the "frog spawn" and the tapioca, I don't think anybody cared too much for those. What I don't believe, definitely, is that they would let the children go another day, if they didn't eat. That's just my belief.

- 136. LDJ recounts being sent home from school for having a flick comb. He says the school called Sister LJS he remembers her coming into the office and "she leathered me that night for having a flick comb. I don't know if they gave the comb to her. I used to sometimes get the belt at school but it was nothing compared to the beatings in the home"
- 137. He says there was a female staff member with a black, tight, curly perm. He says, "The woman with the tight curly perm battered me because a tenner had gone missing from her room. That evening when I came in from school I got battered. She just came in and started punching and slapping me. She dragged me from my room to her room, screaming and shouting, She was calling me a thief. She then found the tenner down the back of her unit but there was no apology." I don't know that description.
- 138. LDJ continues, "One day Sister LJS was about to hit someone but I stood in the way and wouldn't let her. I'd had enough. She walloped me. I grabbed her by the veil, swung her around and she fell. The veil came off her head." I never heard of that.
- 139. He says," Sister LJS always disciplined me. The staff would report everything to her. She would be the one to punish me. As an adult, looking back, I think she enjoyed being evil and hitting people. She genuinely was an evil woman. She smashed me over the back of the hands with spoons or forks all the time at mealtimes. I can still feel it on my hands now." No, I never. When I was in the dining room, no we didn't have dining rooms, this is in later days. No, I didn't.
- 140. LDJ goes on," Sister LJS used to shout that I was the devils child and go on about devilship and being left handed." I just can't imagine anything like that, no.

- 141. He recounts, that one time in the first unit I had given a girl a wee kiss and it was reported to Sister LJS He says, "She threw me into my room. She didn't hit me then. She came in when it was dark and battered me across the face with something. I think it was a rolled up magazine. She woke me up. I just remember her coming in and battering me about the face. She burst my nose. She was shouting stuff at me about kissing this girl."
- 142. He continues, "There was blood everywhere. I stayed in my bed because I was too scared to move. One of the female staff came in the morning and screamed because my pillow and sheets were covered in blood. Sister **LJS** said it must have burst during the night." I never heard of that.
- 143. LDJ says of Sister LJS "One morning my sister and I were getting ready for school. It had started raining so she told us to get changed out of our shoes and into our wellies. I sat down and I was taking my shoes off slowly, undoing the laces. The fire exit door was kept ajar with a mop stick. She grabbed the mop stick out of the door and started battering me and correspondences the back with it. She just kept belting us across the back. I can't remember what she was shouting at the time. It was probably religious things. I think other kids and staff would have seen that because it was when we were all ready to go to school." No.
- 144. He says of Sister LJS "One of the boys hit a girl so she grabbed him and dragged him into a room. She told me and four or five other boys to batter him. She threatened to hit us if we didn't, she started to hit us, so we had to hit him. She made us do it. She was telling us that he would have to learn not to hit a girl again. I think once we'd hit him a couple of times, that was enough for her. It was an evil and nasty thing to do to a wee boy." No, I never heard.
- 145. LDJ continues to talk of Sister LJS and says, "I had been given a leather belt from one of my uncles. It had a big cowboy buckle. It was a man's belt. She took it off me and started whipping me with it across the back, arms and legs. I don't remember what I had done. I just remember getting dragged into the room. She

*just leathered the living hell out of us. I didn't see the belt again after that.*" I never heard of that.

146. LDJ talks of staff members called LSM and LTS I do not know those people. He talks of a staff member called LVN. I've heard of the name but I don't remember him being at Nazareth House when I was. He talks of a Brother LVG. I have never heard of Brother LVG.

LBH

- 147. LBH has given an account of her time at Nazareth House in 1977 to the Inquiry. I do not know that name. I am told she was in Sister LNU group. I wouldn't know the children in Sister LNU group. LBH talks of Sister LHZ I knew a Sister LHZ but she was never with children in Scotland, England or Ireland.
- 148. She says, "The nuns would check in the morning to see if you had wet the bed. If you had wet the bed, they would make you stand in the middle of the dorm. They would make you hold your sheets up so that everyone could see that you had wet the bed. They would tell you that you were "dirty" or "pishy". It was humiliating. If you had wet the bed, you would not get to go for breakfast." Children would never be refused food or their meals. I've never heard or seen anything happen like that.
- 149. LBH says, "I was used to being starved but the food at Nazareth House was the worst of the worst. Sometimes you just couldn't eat it so the nuns would force feed you. They used brute strength. They would grab you and force the food down your throat. I saw my brother, crying and being sick in the dining room. " No, I never heard. Talking about food, the children that came into us were maybe people that were not used to the wholesome food. There was every opportunity given, to have the best food you could have. This was true for the children. They were maybe not used to the food. To them, maybe it was horrible, the poor things.

- 150. She goes on, "We would be disciplined if we attempted to answer back, were insolent, or even if we looked at the nuns in a way that they didn't like. They would constantly call us "spawn of the devil", "harlots" or "Jezebels". I had never heard words like that before. There was constant verbal, physical and emotional abuse. We were physically knocked off our feet by the nuns pretty regularly. I am surprised that there weren't more significant injuries or that a wean wasn't killed. I saw the nuns physically beating the other children and my siblings regularly." I'm sorry but I never heard. I've never heard of "harlot" or come across those words. I have never heard of Sisters using those words in any context.
- 151. LBH says, "We had to wear sandshoes in the home. The nuns would use the sandshoes to beat us. I remember wetting the bed and being set upon by one of the nuns with a sandshoe," and, "The nuns would also use their keys and beads and a crucifix that hung from their belts to hit us." I don't know anything about it.
- 152. She says, "Sister
   LGD
   Sister
   LGC
   and Sister
   LHZ
   were the worst."

   They were not around when I was at Nazareth House.
   LBH
   talks of

   LJE
   I don't

   remember
   LJE
- 153. She says," In confession I told LHS about the physical and emotional abuse at Nazareth House. It was the "Our Lady's of something Church." I can't remember what the something was. The LHS told the nuns at Nazareth House what I had said. I got battered when I got back to the home. The nuns told me to keep my mouth shut. They called me "dirty", "a wee slut" and said that no one would believe me and everyone would believe them." I don't know anything about that.
- 154. LBH continues, "The next time that I went to confession LHS "had a go". I had drawn a picture of the chapel for him and I had taken it with me to show him. I sat in a cubicle with the grille between LHS and me. I told him that I had the picture. After confession, he came out of his side of the cubicle and came into mine. I gave him the picture. I don't know how but he ended up standing behind me.

He was looking at the picture and I could feel him right up close behind me. Then I could feel him put his hands down my pants. He had a "castle-cone" down his trousers. I could feel that he was rubbing himself against me. I remember I felt something hot, wet and sticky." I never heard. When you talk about a grille, I've never seen a grille.

155. She goes on, "When I left the confession box to go back to the convent I was bleeding down below. I had to go to the doctors about it. I was about eight or nine years old, LHS was in his forties or fifties.

That was the first time it happened. I can't remember if it happened again after that." I don't know anything about that. It doesn't ring a bell.

#### LBC

- 156. LBC has given an account of her time at Nazareth House from 1971 to 1979, to the Inquiry. She says, "I was a terrible eater and it was the meat they served up that I found particularly disgusting. It was like grey grizzle. If I didn't eat it at whatever meal they served it up then it would be put back in front of me at tea, then supper and again at breakfast. I just couldn't swallow it and there were times that I would chew it for hours. Sometimes I was forced to swallow it by Sister LKR holding my nose and mouth and I would be forced fed five or six pieces of the meat this way." I don't know that Sister.
- 157. She says," There was also a pants inspection every so often when my pants were put into a basket at bedtime. I got quite a few smacks for my pants being marked or soiled." No. Never.
- 158. LBC goes on," You would get punished for something as simple as laughing. I got beat most mornings because my sister, would have wet the bed. We would get smacked with the hand a lot on the head or put over their knees and hit on the backside. You were permanently scared and lived with fear. You just knew

29

that you were going to get a beating no matter how good you were." No, I don't know.

#### Nazareth House, Lasswade, Bonnyrigg - 1980 to 1984

- 159. In 1980, I was not working with children, I was in a post in Swansea. When you are to move post, you get word through the Superior, will Sister so-and-so go to such and such a place, on such and such a day. I moved to Nazareth House in Lasswade and stayed there until 1984. I was a House Mother. I think Sister Aloysius was the Sister Superior in charge.
- 160. Nazareth House was a house in Bonnyrigg, on its own away from the convent. I looked after about fourteen children. Some children came and went and others were in there all of the time. When a new child arrived, I suppose I did an assessment on them and the staff were there. The children were two years old up to maybe eighteen years old. There were siblings in the group.
- 161. I had very good staff. They were mature. They all came from outside. The staff have all been in contact with me, one way or another. One of the staff members was LTK
  LTK
  I can't remember the others. I've been asked whether I had any training or an induction at Lasswade. I just arrived, I'll say that.

### Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade, Bonnyrigg

162. The children would get up for school, no later than 8 am. Depending on their age, they would make their own beds. The boys were not really expected to make their beds. The children would come down for breakfast when they were ready.

- 163. Meals were all taken in the house. It was up to the staff to get the meals ready. The food was the kind of food that the children were more used to. For breakfast, some mornings, there was a variety of cooked sausages and rashers of bacon. There was always porridge. If any child wanted it, they could take it.
- 164. Some children had their own room. There was a physically and mentally disabled girl who had her own room and a boy who had his own room. The other children were two or three to a room. The small children were in the same room. My room was next to the boys room.
- 165. Bedwetting wasn't an issue. I think the disabled girl was the only one who wet the bed. If she wet the bed, she was taken out by staff and bathed. Children could use the toilet at night.
- 166. There were baths and showers. A child could bath every night if they wanted. There were no restrictions. The staff would make sure no child was not washing.
- 167. There was a TV and books. There would have been games and toys. The children very much had their own things. There were lockers by the children's bed for their own things. Other cupboards were shared. I can't remember if boys went out to Scouts from Lasswade but the children were very free. They had their own interests to follow, whatever those interests would have been.
- 168. The children wore their own clothes. The senior girls went out and bought their own clothes. The younger children would go with a member of staff.
- 169. We went out on trips and I was one of the sisters who drove the mini-bus. We went on holiday to St Andrews and there was an activity camp that we'd go to sometimes.
- 170. The younger children went to the local Primary School and there was a school bus to take the older children to Secondary School. I went to the schools to see if the children were keeping up and to find out what we could do to help. When the children came in from school, they would have a drink and go straight to the Activity

Room to do their homework. They could relax after that. It was very well organised. The staff would help with homework and I would be there too.

- 171. If a child needed a doctor or a dentist, we could call on the local GP, nurse or dentist as required.
- 172. We had all denominations in Nazareth House at Bonnyrigg. On a Sunday, Catholics would go to church and the others were maybe encouraged but it was up to themselves. We still said grace at meals. There was a distinction in almost everything between the little ones and the older children. We might have said evening prayers with the little ones. I can't remember if we said evening prayers with everyone.
- 173. Mostly bigger children helped with the chores. They would help with washing up. If something was wrong and I wanted them to know I wasn't pleased with them, I would have them wash and maybe dry the dishes.
- 174. Christmas was celebrated and the children received presents. The children had pocket money.
- 175. Bonnyrigg was a different place altogether in terms of visitors. There was a family of five children who would go home, not every weekend, but some one weekend and the others another. There would be a couple of weekends where the children wouldn't go home but the mother would visit them at Bonnyrigg. Visits took place in the house. Visitors had meals with the children. There were good relationships between the families and the home.
- 176. The Order does visitations every three years but I have no particular memory of any visitations nor of inspections. We had records of case reviews. Social workers were very good. There was one social worker who wasn't very good and I got onto him. He was the social worker for another child with special needs. Other visitors to the house might be children's friends or past staff.

- 177. The children always came to Nazareth House with their little problems, which they had plenty of. The children eventually talked about their own homes, their parents not getting on and their problems. They told me a good bit. If anything happened at school, the teachers or the children would tell me.
- 178. Two children were adopted when I was at Lasswade. I wasn't there for long after the adoption so I don't know if the children kept in contact with the Sisters. I think the social worker was afraid that there was a bit of attachment and wasn't too keen that contact was maintained. I feel the children were very happy in there.

### Discipline

179. If I had to smack a child, it was very seldom, I did use the same member of staff to come with me. I would ask **LTK** to come with me. We had a little place where we used to go. The staff did discipline the children. They didn't have to tell me, as long as I'd know. There was a trust there.

### Reviews of arrangements for Disabled Children

180. I do not remember anyone coming and saying that individual children needed anything. You sorted those things yourself and the children came and told you. You had to have your own eyes open, just like family.

### Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade, Bonnyrigg

181. I did not witness abuse of children at Bonnyrigg. I have been asked whether any children reported concerns to me about their treatment at Bonnyrigg. They spoke to me about their own homes and their parents and their problems. I do not think any child went to hospital when I was there. 182. LCB has given an account of her time at Nazareth House, Bonnyrigg to the Inquiry. The name rings a bell. I don't think she was there when I was. She talks of Sister LTX . Sister LTX was not at Bonnyrigg in my time. I took her place there.

### Records

- 183. I would keep an account of any punishment given in a punishment book
- 184. I kept a daily diary. We were very much into keeping records of case reviews and writing reports.

#### **Previous Statements in other Legal Processes**

185. I have given a statement to Mr Moloney, solicitor and a written account of my time caring for children in Scotland to the Mother General of the Order. I have not given any other statements.

### Involvement in other Legal Processes

- 186. An allegation was made against me around 2007 by the brother of **and another** who was resident at Bonnyrigg. I think her name was **a second another**. I can't remember the boy's name. They were adopted. The boy said that his sister wet the bed and he saw myself, **and another member of staff**, take his sister out in a sheet and put her in cold water.
- 187. It was ridiculous really. A lot of attention was given to **second** and I suppose at times he felt in the shadow. They wrote saying to forget it because there were two other staff with me. We would never put the children in cold water. She was really loved this little one.

### Records

- 188. By the seventies, records were talked about. I kept a regular record of school, health and what was happening.
- 189. If I smacked a child, I had a punishment book and I kept a record in that.

## **Other information**

- 190. We were very separate in our units. If I started peeping in to other units, to see what they were doing, I would consider myself to be interfering. I had enough to do myself.
- 191. I'd like to think there was an interest taken in the children. I don't want anyone to think the children weren't loved and an interest taken in them.
- 192. Some of the allegations, I just can't think that would have taken place. I'm not taking from the idea that the children were slapped but I never saw an instrument. I never heard any of the nuns talk about an instrument that they were beating the children with. I think they are motivated by something else, another person, I don't know. However that's the allegations and they are there. They have to be dealt with according to what is judged rightly. That's all I can say, the Lord knows and that's it.
- 193. 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			LQD		
Dated	<u> </u>	.2.0.1.8		 	