

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HQE

Support person present: No

1. My name is HQE. My surname as a child was HQE. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Paisley hospital. My mother is and her surname was before she married. My father was. Mum is now eighty-six, but dad died a few years ago.
3. I had five sisters and two brothers, however two have died. was the oldest and was about three years older than me. She died just a year ago. Then there is, who is two years older than me and then, who is about a year older than me. After me is, who is a year younger and is known as. Then there was a gap of a couple of years until came along, who is three years younger than me. took his own life a few years ago. After there is, who is a year younger than him and then there is, who is another year younger. Mum actually gave birth to another five boys, including' twin, but she lost them all.
4. I grew up in Bridgeton and we were poor. Dad was a great person, but he was an alcoholic and drink was his downfall. Mum had a horrible life, but that's just the way it was. Whenever dad managed to get a job he never held onto it for long. When I was about four or five, I remember dad was off the drink and got a job looking after the park in Bridgeton. There was a restaurant in the park and he used to take us there and

we'd get a wee bit of rice and a wee bit of jam. That was good, however as fast as dad got the job, he was back on the drink and so he wasn't there long.

5. When he was drinking dad was very violent to mum and he was in and out of the jail all the time. He broke her jaw one time and I saw her face all ripped afterwards. She had to go to hospital and we were left in the house on our own till she got back. Things were different then.
6. Dad wasn't violent to us kids and he was a good father when he was sober, but when he came home after drinking he would wake us up and get us all to stand in a line and sing 'The chapel bells are ringing'. He also used to make us box each other. He'd choose two of us and the others would have stand around and watch.
7. We were always dressed like tramps. We had nothing. We got flung out of house after house and each one was always dirty. We were always at the health clinic in Bridgeton getting painted in yellow stuff because we always had scabies. One place we stayed was a single ender and there were ten of us crammed in it. The cooker was in the hall and the toilet was outside.
8. We went to the Sacred Heart School and we were always getting bullied and chased by the other kids there. We would be told that we were diseased and that we lived in a smelly house. School was hard and I used to struggle, but instead of teaching me, I was always getting a skelp off the nuns. After the Sacred Heart I went to Bellarmine Secondary School, although I wasn't there long.
9. There was never enough food. Mum used to go up to the school with a tin and bring food down because dad would be in the jail or away to his brother's in England. We also used to rake middens for scraps. I remember a time I found a bit of wedding cake and took it home to share. It was lovely.
10. The social work were involved with us for all the time I can remember, although I don't remember seeing a social worker in our house a lot. I'm not sure what the social

workers were called when I was young, but when I was older it was a woman called Mrs Shannon and she was from Bellarmine Secondary School.

11. Even from a young age, we were sent on residential holidays to different homes around the country to give my mother a wee break. I would go with a couple of my brothers and sisters and when I got back, some of the others would go. I didn't enjoy going because everywhere we went it was rules for everything, but I just accepted it. There was never any care shown in any of the homes, all the staff at all the different places were just there to do their jobs and that was it.
12. Eventually my sister [REDACTED] and I were put into St Euphrasia's convent in Bishopton because a teacher at Bellarmine Secondary School battered her. I think I was just coming up for fourteen when this teacher really laid into her and ripped her face. Nowadays what she did would be considered a serious crime, but then it was just life. I can't remember the teacher's name, although I think it was something like Miss [REDACTED] and I'm not sure what she taught. She actually got moved out of the school as a result and apparently she had some sort of breakdown.
13. [REDACTED] and I hadn't been going to school because we were getting bullied and called names and so, after this happened, we were put to a children's panel and they told us we were getting sent away. I don't remember getting put to a children's panel at any other time and I don't remember getting to say much that time we did. All I do remember about what the panel said was that we would be picked up the next day by social work and taken to a home. We weren't told how long we would be there or where we were going.

Residential respite care

14. Whenever we went to any of the homes for respite care, my mother would take us to a place at Bridgeton and we would be given a bag of clothes. I remember getting lovely coats, however when we got back my dad would sell them.

15. I remember going to a home in Rothesay where if you'd wet the bed you would get a slap and be made to stand all night in the hall. Another home we went to was in Essex, but I can't remember what it was called, or where it was. Perhaps it was called Hillpark, or something like that. I don't know why we were sent so far away, nobody explained.
16. I'm not sure where this would have happened, but at one of the places I stayed I had to go out on the water in a canoe. I was terrified, but I had to go. When I was out on the water the instructor turned the canoe over so I was under the water for a short time and then they turned the canoe the right way up again. I was so scared and was choking on the water, but nobody helped me. I've never been on the water since.
17. I think I would have been about five or six at the time I went to Essex along with my older sister [REDACTED] and older brother [REDACTED]. I remember mum took us to get clothes as she always did and the next day we were standing at Central Station along with a good few other boys and girls. Then I remember going on a long train journey and being down there for about three months.
18. The home in Essex was a big house with a separate building for the girls on the left and another for boys on the other side. I'm not sure how many girls and boys there would have been altogether. When we arrived [REDACTED] and I were shown into the girls' building, where there was a room for four girls to sleep that had bunk beds in it. We had to pick a bed and I picked one of the bottom ones.
19. The couple that [REDACTED] were called Auntie ^{HRP} [REDACTED] and Uncle ^{HRO} [REDACTED] and they had a son and also a daughter called [REDACTED]. Their kids could do what they wanted because it was [REDACTED] and we had to do whatever they said. It was their kids' way or no way.
20. I don't remember getting any schooling there, but I do remember some American adults came and we had barbecues outside. We were also allowed to go on horses that people kept in fields near the home.

21. A lot of the kids wet their bed there and I did too. If I did, I got a big slap on the side of my head from Auntie ^{HRP} [REDACTED]. One time she did it, she hit me so hard that my head hit off the side of the bed and I was crying all night. I was still crying with the pain the next day. I couldn't stop and I saw that there was blood on my pillow.
22. Auntie ^{HRP} [REDACTED] kept me in bed for a couple of days afterwards because I still wasn't well and she gave me a bit of food while I was there. Then she took me into the main house and dressed me up in nice clothes and took me to the village doctor, who gave me some medicine.
23. Uncle ^{HRO} [REDACTED] always used to hit the boys with a slipper. Once we were playing downstairs and I saw he had my brother [REDACTED] over his knee and was hitting him several times. I couldn't do anything so I just ran away.
24. I never told my mother or anyone else what had been happening in Essex when I got back. Mum had so much going on anyway, that I couldn't have spoken to her. It was hard for her.

Saint Euphrasia's, Bishopton

25. The convent at Saint Euphrasia's was a really big old building, with a bit at the back where older nuns stayed. Inside, the building was split into houses, all named after different saints. There was Goretti House, St Claire's House, St Margaret's and a few others. There was also a gym hall with a stage, a big dining hall, a chapel and several workshop rooms, where girls did various jobs.
26. When you went into Goretti House there was a hall, a big living room with lots of couches, a kitchen and a toilet. If you went through another couple of doors you came to St Claire's and if you went upstairs you came to the dormitories.
27. The dormitories were big rooms with curtains around each of the beds, like in a hospital ward. I think there were eight beds in the dormitory I was in and all there was in each

space was a bed and a wee table at the side. There were no downies, all the beds had sheets and jaggy covers on them and were washed in the laundry.

28. Sister **HOJ** was the nun who was **SNR**, but I can't remember the names of any of the other nuns. One of the sisters in Goretti House was a Newcastle football supporter, but I can't remember her name. She came from Newcastle and she used to talk about football all the time.
29. All the nuns stayed in the convent, but there were also staff who came in from outside. Two of the staff in Goretti House were Mrs McRoberts and Miss Stanley, who were both ladies from Bishopton. They were both nice and had both been there for years. The staff used to help out the nuns during the day.
30. I would say there were probably about one hundred girls in total in St Euphrasia's and about twelve in each house. There were girls from all over the country in Goretti House and I became quite friendly with a couple of them. One was a girl called **██████████**, whose parents took me home for the weekend once and I also became friendly with a girl called **██████████**, who was from Fort William. There was another girl from Inverness, called **██████████**, and another from England.

Routine at Saint Euphrasia's

First day

31. It must have been 1975, when I was fourteen, that **██████████** and I were sent to Saint Euphrasia's by the children's panel.
32. We went home after the panel and the next day Mrs Shannon came in her own car to take us to the convent. I don't think we took anything with us, although we never had anything to take other than the clothes we were wearing.
33. I remember being in the car with Mrs Shannon and **██████████** and thinking we were just going to yet another respite home. I also remember walking into St Euphrasia's and

seeing all the nuns. They were all wearing big hats and long black robes with white down the middle and all were carrying rosary beads.

34. Mrs Shannon came in for a short time and then [REDACTED] and I were left with one of the nuns, who I think was Sister ^{HOJ} [REDACTED]. She got somebody else to take us up to our dormitories and I thought [REDACTED] and I would be going into the same room, but we were told they didn't put sisters together. I was put in Goretti House and [REDACTED] was put in St Claire's.
35. As soon as we arrived I was taken into a wee room and given a comb and a toothbrush and toothpaste. We had to carry that comb with us all the time in our sock and I was told that if I lost it I would have to buy another. I don't know how I could have bought another one though because I never had any money.

Mornings and bedtime

36. Nobody was allowed to speak in the dormitory and one of the sisters or one of the staff used to sit right outside the door of the dormitory all night to check that we didn't. If you needed the toilet you would get up and she would be sitting there. If somebody did speak you'd be in trouble.
37. In the morning the nun would shout us to get up and we'd have to tidy up and make our beds. I don't remember what time it would have been, but it was early. We'd have to wash our faces at the sinks in the bathroom, one at a time and we'd have to make sure our hair was nicely brushed.
38. We were inspected every morning by whichever member of staff was on. We stood outside the door of our dormitory and they would check to make sure we had washed properly and our hair was neat. If you hadn't done it properly you were shouted at and told to get it done again.
39. After the morning inspection, we'd get breakfast in our own houses and then we had to walk along the corridors to the gym hall and stand in lines in each of our houses for

assembly. We weren't allowed to talk and the staff would stand with us while the nuns stood up on the stage. Sister ^{HOJ} would be there and she would tell us what might be happening that day and we'd all say prayers.

40. Once assembly was over we'd go to one of the workshop rooms where we'd be given something to do and then we'd have a break and we could go outside. All we'd do outside was walk round in a circle. We were allowed to talk, as long as we didn't overdo it. Sometimes we were allowed to sit, but then a nun or one of the staff would tell us to get up again and starting walking in a circle.
41. We had our dinner at either 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm in the dining hall with all the girls from all the houses and then we'd be given work to do in the afternoon, which was usually cleaning. I'm not sure what time we ate in the evening, but we had that meal back in Goretti House.
42. After the evening meal there was always more cleaning to be done before we were allowed to sit down. We then had some supper and we were always in bed early, but I don't know what time that would have been.
43. I remember being asked if I smoked when I arrived and I can't remember whether I did before, but I said I did anyway. Every evening after that we used to be given one cigarette each, which we all sat and smoked before we went to bed. The cigarettes were kept in a wee office just at the door into Goretti House and every night everyone, even the younger girls of eleven years old, were given a cigarette. We each had a packet that they must have put our names on and the sister would give us one from it before locking them away again. I don't remember any girl not smoking.

Bedwetting

44. I was still wetting the bed while I was at St Euphrasia's. Sometimes I tried to hide it, if I could. Other times I couldn't and I'd have to get in the bath and wash myself. It would depend what staff were on, but some of them would call me names and say I

was disgusting. I'm not sure which staff behaved like that, but it wasn't Mrs McRoberts or Miss Stanley.

Washing/bathing

45. The toilet was to the right outside our dormitory, but you couldn't just have a shower or a bath whenever you wanted. You had to wait for your turn and you were told when you could have one. I don't remember getting a lot of baths, it was more washes at the sink that we had. When we did have a bath the door was closed and we had privacy, but the door was never allowed to be locked.
46. They'd given us a toothbrush and toothpaste when we arrived, but once the toothpaste ran out you had to have money to buy more. Boxes were kept in a room upstairs, but I never had money to buy any. Some girls did have money, I don't know if their parents had given them some, but my mother never did.

Mealtimes/Food

47. I think there were four tables in Goretti House and five or six girls would sit at each. We always had the same seat and we all knew where we had to sit. At dinnertime all the girls from all the houses ate in the dining hall and we all sat at tables for each house, but we ate the evening meal back in Goretti House.
48. The food was alright and I was quite grateful for whatever I was given. I think we had cereal and toast for breakfast, but there was never a choice of food for any meal. We all had to stand in a queue to get it and then take it back to our tables. Sometimes one of the staff in Goretti House cooked the evening meal, but I can't really remember what we got. At night time somebody would maybe make a bit of toast and we'd get a cup of tea.
49. Once there was fish and I'd never seen fish before so I took it along with some potatoes. As soon as I tasted the fish I knew I didn't like it so I left it. I thought it would be okay but I was told by one of the nuns that I had to eat it. I told the nun I didn't like

it so I left it and went away. At the evening meal though, back in Goretti House, it was served up to me again. Someone had taken the fish from the main dining hall so that it could be served up to me again in Goretti House.

50. I still refused to eat it and it was served up to me again for breakfast and at dinner the next day. Later on that night I was taken back to the dining hall and it was served up to me again. It was just me and the nun in the dining hall and she told me I had to eat it. I realised there was no way out of it, so I took some along with a sip of water and then ran to the toilet because I was vomiting. The nun told me that was enough and I have never touched fish since.

Leisure time

51. We never did much, if anything, outside Goretti House. It wasn't as if I could go and see my sister [REDACTED], or anything like that. I don't remember anything being organised for us in Goretti House either, although maybe different houses might have done things.
52. There was a TV in the living room, but that was only on at certain times. I remember 'Top of the Pops' used to be on, but nobody was ever allowed to just put the telly on when they wanted. I think there were books about, but I couldn't read, so they were no use to me.
53. A lot of girls went home at the weekend so sometimes there were only two or three of us left. You wouldn't really see the nun at the weekend, instead we were looked after by Mrs McRoberts. Mrs McRoberts used to take us walking a lot and we went down to the village and through the fields.
54. There was a woman from America at the convent who was supposed to be a P.E. teacher. We would all stand in the gym hall while she taught us how to breathe and we'd have to do exercises and put our arms up in the air and things like that.

Clothing/uniform

55. We wore a uniform all the time and all the houses wore different colours. In Goretti House it was a green skirt and jumper.
56. I had no other clothes, but Miss Stanley used to bring me things. She brought me a couple of pairs of trousers, which were old, but I was grateful for them and I wore them all the time. I also made myself a grandfather shirt and a pair of trousers in sewing class. One wee girl called [REDACTED] actually got a kimono made for her.
57. Some girls were taken out shopping and when I asked them about it they told me they got a clothing grant. I never got anything like that so I asked the nun in the office. She always used to tell me I didn't have enough money, so I never got to go for new clothes.
58. The only time I was taken out shopping was just before I was sixteen when I was taken to a big store in the town by one of the staff. She told me I was to get a coat and I ended up getting a long coat, a pair of shoes and a dress. I wasn't happy at all because I wanted to go to another shop and get different things.

Healthcare

59. I don't remember seeing a dentist, but I think a doctor from outside came in once a fortnight or so. I think that was just for a check-up, I don't remember seeing a doctor when I was ill.
60. I was late with my periods and never started them until I had left St Euphrasia's, but some of the other girls did have theirs. They were given sanitary towels, but I don't think they got enough. I remember other girls saying they would have to make do with what they had.

Religious instruction

61. I don't think all the girls at St Euphrasia's were Catholic, but everyone had to go to chapel and everyone had to say the prayers.
62. I hated going to chapel. I was brought up a Catholic and we used to go when we were young, but we went a lot in St Euphrasia's. We also had to go to confession with the priest, who stayed in the convent, and there were prayers all the time. The nun in Goretti House would say prayers in the morning, then we'd go down the stairs for breakfast and there would be more.

Trips and holidays

63. I know that some of the other houses used to organise different trips for their girls, but there was nothing like that in Goretti. We were never taken swimming, or to the cinema, or anywhere. I used to wish I was in my sister [REDACTED]'s house because I thought St Claire's was much better. I know that they got taken out and that [REDACTED] got stuff bought for her.
64. Mrs McRoberts, one of the staff, used to take me and another couple of girls to her son's grave at the weekend sometimes to lay flowers. Eventually they got a minibus and a few of us were taken to Glasgow Airport to see the planes. We just went and wandered around for an hour or so before going back to the convent.
65. In the summer the convent shut for six weeks and some girls would go back to their parents, although [REDACTED] and I never did. Instead, as well as some other girls, we were sent elsewhere to stay. Before Saint Euphrasia's shut we all had to stand in the assembly hall and one of the nuns would read out where you were going. We'd all be standing waiting to hear and the nun would read out something like "[REDACTED] is going to Wales. HQE [REDACTED] is going to Saltcoats". [REDACTED] and I were always sent to different places.

66. I remember being in Saltcoats, but I don't remember doing much there. All I can remember is that we stayed in a wee place where there were more nuns.

Work

67. I had no schooling at Saint Euphrasia's even though I'd been sent there for skipping school. I couldn't read or write and yet I got nothing. I don't think anybody would have got much of an education though because instead, every day, we all had to work. I'm not sure how many hours a day we spent, but we were working and cleaning seven days a week.
68. A lot of the time I worked downstairs in one of the workshop rooms where a crowd of us used to sort out hundreds of coloured pins. When I think back on it, I think they must have got work in and we were doing it for somewhere else. All the pins would be put on a table and each had a ball on the end that was white or red that we had to sort out and put in boxes. We might do that for two or three days each week.
69. I've since spoken to my sister [REDACTED] and she said she used to get paid for doing this, but I never did. I don't remember getting any money at any time. At other times, like at Christmas if it was coming up, we'd have to make things. We'd be given stuff and told what to do by one of the nuns.
70. The girls were the cleaners for the convent, we cleaned everywhere. Every Thursday night the living room in Goretti House had to be cleaned. We moved all the furniture to one side of the room, cleaned, dusted and polished everywhere and then moved everything to the other side and did the same there before moving everything back. Some of the furniture was heavy, there were sofas and big sideboards and there was a rug in the middle that took four of us to lift.
71. After we'd cleaned, one of the Sisters would come in and inspect everywhere. It was only if she thought everything was alright that we were allowed to put the telly on.

72. Sometimes I worked in the laundry, where there were ringers that I had to feed the bedsheets through. I also had to get the milk for the cereal at breakfast sometimes. One of the girls who had been there for a while would be picked and I had to do it quite a lot, even though I hated doing it. You had to walk along these dark corridors to the kitchen with one of the nuns and carry a big jug of milk back. The nun would be unlocking and locking doors as you went and if you spilt any of the milk on the way back you would be in big trouble.
73. After dinner we also had to do the dishes and they always had to be done in a certain way. The dishes had to be dried with a certain dishtowel and a different cloth had to be used for the pots. There were quite a lot of dishes and pots to be dried and if you forgot to use the correct cloth there was big trouble. You'd think you had murdered somebody the way the nun would react, grabbing you and shouting in your face.
74. One of the staff had a baby while I was there and brought it into work and I was told I had to look after it. I had to push the baby about in its pram and feed it with the food she gave me for it. I had to do that for quite a while.

Birthdays and Christmas

75. I can't remember whether birthdays were celebrated or not and I don't remember anything much happening at Christmas either. Some girls did get to go home at Christmas, but a lot stayed. We would all sit at the table and be given a present, which was usually a bar of soap and a packet of cigarettes. We never got to keep the cigarettes though, we had to give them to the sister to dish out over the next week. I don't remember getting a special meal, or anything like that.
76. I do remember a wee disco in the assembly hall once when boys from another home were brought over, but I'm not sure if that was at Christmas or when it was. I think the boys were from somewhere called St John's Boys' Home. We sat on one side of the hall with the nuns and the staff and the boys all sat on the other side. Some girls were up dancing all the time, but I wasn't. I was a 'plain Jane', so I just sat and watched.

We were all given a gift of some sort, although I can't remember what, and we got fruit as well.

Personal possessions

77. I never had any belongings of my own. Even when I left all I had was a carrier bag with some clothes in it, including the pair of trousers Mrs Stanley had given me and a couple of pairs of pants.

Visitors

78. My mum came to see [REDACTED] and I one time, but other than then I never had visitors. We saw her in a wee room that just had a couple of chairs and a desk in it and spoke to her for a bit.
79. Once the girl from England asked me to go down to the visiting room with her to see her sister and the sister's boyfriend. The nuns had to be asked, but they did allow me to go down and sit with her.

Review of care

80. I think Mrs Shannon my social worker came to see [REDACTED] and me once in all the time we were at St Euphrasia's. We were never at another children's panel after the one when we were sent to the convent.
81. We saw Mrs Shannon in the same wee room we'd seen our mum in, but I don't remember what she spoke to us about. There were no nuns about, it was just us, but she wasn't there long. Before she came, [REDACTED] said she was going to ask if Mrs Shannon would take us home, but I told her not to. You had to watch what you asked for and I knew we'd end up getting in trouble with the nuns if it was repeated to them.

External Inspections

82. I don't remember anyone coming to inspect the place while I was there. Nobody mentioned it and I never saw or spoke to anyone.

Family contact

83. My mother didn't want us home at first, but after a time she decided she would have [REDACTED] and I home for a weekend and we were given the bus fare by the nuns. Another time we were taken in the minibus and dropped off at Anderston bus station and then we had to get the bus to where my mum was staying at the time.
84. My mum didn't have a phone, so I couldn't have called her, but I don't remember any other girl phoning home either.

Sibling Contact

85. I wasn't allowed to talk to [REDACTED] at any time. We were always kept separate and girls in different houses weren't even allowed to mix with each other.

Running away

86. I ran away quite a lot. I don't know how often, just that I did so as much as I could. I didn't know where I was going, but I just had to get away. I knew where the motorway was and I managed to make it there once, even though I never had any shoes or socks on. I knew how to get home from the motorway, so I walked all the way to Govan with nothing on my feet. I got to my mother's and she called the police and I was taken back to Saint Euphrasia's that night.
87. I ran away with another girl a different time and she took us to Anderston bus station because again we had nothing on our feet and she knew we could get old shoes there.

88. Nobody ever asked me why I ran away, but you always got punished when you got back. Any time the police caught me they never spoke to me, they just took me back and handed me over to the sister.
89. Once I was taken up the stairs and had to polish the floor of the big long corridor as a punishment for running away. Usually there would be a few girls doing that, but that time it was just me. I had to go down on my knees and rub grease all the way along the floor before I got the big bumper to rub it in and then shine it up with a pad. After I'd done it, one of the sisters came along and wiped her finger along the floor. I don't know which sister it was and she never said much, but she made me do it again.

Abuse at Saint Euphrasia's

90. It depended what nun or what member of staff was on duty overnight, but if you were caught speaking you'd be in big trouble. They might come in and grab you and tell you to be quiet.
91. I used to scratch my face, pull my hair and shake my leg all the time and if I did that I would get a slap on the head or on the knee from one of the nuns or the staff. I couldn't help it and I still do it, but still they would hit me on the back of the head, all the time.
92. I remember cleaning the dormitory once and seeing a dirty sanitary towel on the floor. One of the other girls had kicked it under my bed and the nun told me to pick it up. I told her it wasn't mine, but the nun started shouting and bawling at me. I can't remember which nun it was and I told her it wasn't mine, but she told me to pick it up and then she grabbed my hand and made me pick it up and took me into the toilet to get rid of it.
93. She told me she was going to report it and so I had to go downstairs in front of Sister HOJ. I can't remember what punishment I got, but I was furious. They knew it wasn't mine, because I wasn't getting my periods and yet I was still made to pick it up and was punished when I refused.

94. When our mother came to visit, [REDACTED] asked her for a pair of sandals. Mum had said that she was going to take us home on the Friday and we were looking forward to it, but when Friday came we were shown into Sister HOJ [REDACTED]'s office and she asked us if we had asked for shoes. When [REDACTED] told her she had, Sister HOJ [REDACTED] slapped her really hard across the face and grabbed me by the arm after I tried to protect [REDACTED] and we never got home.
95. A regular punishment was being locked in the wee visiting room in your pyjamas if you didn't do as you were told. That happened to lots of girls regularly and it happened to me a few times. You'd spend hours in that room, sometimes you'd be in all night and they never brought any food or gave you a blanket or anything. Someone would come and check on you every so often, but that was all.
96. Goretti House was a bit rowdy and there were a few troubled girls in there. One was a girl called [REDACTED], who was from Calton. I got on all right with her, but she was a bully. She was quite verbal with other girls and everybody was scared of her.
97. If [REDACTED] was playing up the staff would grab her and take her away. Once in the dormitory the nun was trying to get [REDACTED] to do something and [REDACTED] was being verbal back to her. The next thing the nun grabbed hold of her so [REDACTED] pushed the nun and the police were called. I think [REDACTED] was locked up afterwards down the stair in the visiting room.
98. One time I saw my sister [REDACTED] getting bullied by another girl at dinner time and none of the staff were doing anything so I grabbed the girl. After I did I was grabbed by one of the staff, I don't know who, and put in the room. I only had my pyjamas on and nothing on my feet, but I decided to run away and I climbed out the window. I walked along the back streets of Bishopton and took a jacket off a washing line to keep warm. Eventually I was caught though and taken back.
99. Over a few weekends one of the staff, although I can't remember who it was, took me to Quarrier's Homes in a car. There was nobody else, just me and this woman. I remember seeing all the big houses with lots of children. We stopped outside one of

the houses and I saw there were babies sitting outside in the grass. I'd never seen so many children all sitting about.

100. Every time I was taken inside the house, which was always the same one, but I can't get by that door to find out what happened inside. My memory just won't let me and I don't know if I've blocked something out.

Reporting of abuse at Saint Euphrasia's

101. I told my mother how I was being treated at St Euphrasia's, but she never said anything much. I'm not saying it was right, but things like that just happened in those days.

Leaving Saint Euphrasia's

102. Every girl left St Euphrasia's when they were sixteen, so I knew I would be leaving then too. Someone in the convent had sorted out something with Castlemilk Community Centre before I was due to leave and I had to go there for work experience. I went up there five days a week and was sent out to old folks' homes, delivering food to them.
103. My dad was out of the jail by then so I went to stay with him in Cambuslang. Mum had a boyfriend so I couldn't go there. Dad was still drinking though, so eventually he got the jail again and he lost the house and I had nowhere to stay.
104. I went to my mother's to see if I could do a washing, but her boyfriend was there and he wouldn't let me. Instead I went to a guy's house who I knew was divorced and stayed on his own. He was called [REDACTED] and was nearly twenty years older than me, but I'd known him over the years so he let me in and I ended up staying with him.

Life after being in care

105. I fell pregnant to [REDACTED] when I was seventeen and we eventually got married. We had seven children by the time I was twenty-seven. We only got married because I would

have been homeless otherwise. I didn't have any feelings for [REDACTED], I didn't love him, but I suppose I was lucky that I had found somewhere to live.

106. At the same time, I had my own house and I liked cleaning. Cleaning and painting was all I knew. I never had any pals and I never went out because I had the children and because [REDACTED] was a drinker. He would go to his work and then go to the pub and come home about 10 pm. He didn't like me having any pals, but I could accept that, it was just when he got drunk and started flinging things about that it was difficult.
107. I enjoyed having my children and teaching them how to look after themselves, teaching them how to clean, iron and cook. That was what I had done in St Euphrasia's and I taught my children what I had been taught, however when I look back I know it was wrong that I did that.
108. I got a family allowance for my kids, but it wasn't a lot and, because [REDACTED] was a drinker, I used to do some cleaning for my sisters for some extra money. I also used to look after other kids for people I knew. Together with my own kids I might be looking after ten kids, but I earned a wee bit of extra money doing both jobs and I managed to give my kids a proper Christmas.
109. [REDACTED] ended up with motor neurone disease and I nursed him myself until he died a few years ago. My children are now grown up and have children of their own and I'm now in a new relationship with my partner [REDACTED].

Impact

110. A lot of things have come back to me although sometimes your brain keeps things from you. I remember going to Quarriers Homes, but I can't figure out why I was in that house, or what might have happened. More recently I've learned to slow down a bit and sit for a few minutes, but then I find myself thinking about my childhood.
111. I can remember the pain of being hit on the side of the head by Auntie [REDACTED] in Essex. I've always had trouble with my ears and now I have to wear hearing aids in both ears.

I don't know if that might have partly been caused by her slapping me. It might not have been, but I certainly don't think it would have helped.

112. I don't swim and I'm still afraid of water after the instructor capsized the canoe at one of the respite homes I was in.
113. I don't trust people, but I don't know why that is. I've never had any friends and I can't get close to people. I shut the door if anyone tries to get near me. I keep myself to myself as I did in Goretti House.
114. The worst mistake of my life was getting into a relationship with [REDACTED]. I had nowhere to go when I left Saint Euphrasia's, no support and no advice and I didn't know any better.
115. I know that I have OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) and I think I have passed that on to some of my children. That comes from me having to clean all the time in Saint Euphrasia's and some of my children are the same. The only time I was happy was when I was cleaning and they always have to be cleaning as well, all the time. It's a horrible way to live and it was wrong that I passed that onto my kids. I wish I'd learned earlier that cleaning wasn't as important as the nuns and staff at the convent made it out to be.
116. I was never given an education. I'm not a speller and I'm not a writer, although I am alright now. My partner [REDACTED] helps me and I manage to get by, but I think that if I had learned to read and write as a child I could have done better with my life.
117. The only things I've ever bought new for myself are my underwear, everything else I buy in charity shops. [REDACTED] has often told me to buy things, but I never want to. I don't know if it's maybe because I feel as if I don't deserve it. I wouldn't feel comfortable treating myself.

118. I hated my mother for years and wouldn't speak to her. I never understood what had been happening when I was a child that meant I ended up in a home. It's only in the last couple of years that we've been back in contact.
119. My brother [REDACTED] killed himself a few years ago, when he was thirty-three. He had been in quite a lot of homes growing up and had ended up in a children's home somewhere that was run by monks. He used to tell me the bad things that had happened to him and he couldn't cope with it all. He spoke about the physical abuse and the sexual abuse and I know that he had a really hard time.

Treatment/support

120. When my children were wee I used to see my doctor quite a lot. He was a very nice man and I used to speak to him about the problems I was having, but I've never been to see a counsellor. I saw a couple of people about my mental health around that time, but I'm not sure who they were or what we talked about and I can't remember if I got prescribed any medication.

Records

121. My sister [REDACTED] applied for her records and I think I'm mentioned in them, but I've never applied for them. I think she got hers from the Mitchell Library Archives where they were held under our family name. I believe there are also records held by the nuns from the convent, but I've never seen them either.
122. I remember photos being taken when I was in Saint Euphrasia's, but I don't know what happened to them. I certainly don't have any.

Redress

123. [REDACTED] gave me the number for the redress scheme and I contacted them, but I was told I would need some sort of letter. I feel it doesn't really matter and I don't know if I'll

take my claim any further. I'm not sure, but I think it might have been through that scheme that I found out about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.

Lessons to be learned

124. Every kid is an individual and all have different problems and need more reassurance when they are in care. They need time to sit together and to talk to each other. They need to learn how to have feelings and they need comforted and encouraged that they have a future. I used to lie in my bed in Saint Euphrasia's and wonder how I would meet a man and how I would find somewhere to live.
125. It was all rules in the places I was, there was never any reassurance and nothing was ever explained to me about life. I think a lot of people would be willing to try and help teach kids that life doesn't have to mean running away and getting a house and a pram. They need to be told that love will come to them and that they can have security.
126. Kids in care have got to be looked after properly. They need to feel secure, because there are too many people going about who might want to do them harm. They are more vulnerable, especially when they're in their teenage years, and the right people need to be looking after them who can recognise what they need.
127. That support should continue after they leave for a couple of years, or however long is needed. I had nothing from anyone. I knew nothing about getting a bank account or managing money and paying bills. Kids in care need help even more than kids who are still with their parents.

Other information

128. I saw Auntie ^{HRP} and Uncle ^{HRO} from the home in Essex a few years ago. I'm not sure what was, but it was asking anyone who had stayed there to get in touch if they wanted to.

129. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed... 

Dated... 2, 2 23