

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of;

Christopher Gerard DALY

Support person present: Yes

My name is Christopher Gerard Daly. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1964. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

1. [REDACTED]
2. My father's name was [REDACTED]. He was born in 1928. My mother's name was [REDACTED]. Her maiden name was [REDACTED], and she was born in 1932. They were married in 1952. Both have now passed away.
3. In 1964 when my mum was expecting me, my family moved home from a slum in [REDACTED] in Glasgow, during the slum clearances. The place was ridden with rats and it was not habitable. They moved to a brand new council home in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Drumchapel. It was a new-build.
4. It was clear that things were not great at that time. The gas and electric were not connected because there was an issue in [REDACTED]. The meter had been tampered with and there was no money in the meter. As such there was no gas or electric in the new home. There was social work involvement when I was first born and when the social workers came they saw my parents cooking on a coal fire. There was a problem with how they were preparing my milk. So within three months I was placed into foster care with a woman in Strathaven.

Foster Care – Mrs [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Strathaven

5. When I was three months old I was placed in foster care with a woman called Mrs [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], Strathaven. I was with her for months [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
6. I'm not sure how the arrangement came about as there is a form that says it was voluntary and my mum would sign this for the various care placements, but there is also a form that states the child was removed. I was going to this woman on and off until I was one year old. I have seen the social work records that detail this. In the records there are letters between this woman and my mum regarding how I was doing and if my mum was ready to take me back.
7. I was a difficult child, I cried a lot. My mum said when this happened she handed me to my dad; this was during the periods that they did have me.
8. My mum and dad both had mental health issues. There was some psychotic thing with my father, and my mother suffered from deep depression. My father was a long-term patient at Woodilee mental hospital and at times my mum went for treatment for her depression.
9. From the age of about 4 or 5 years old I was put into residential children's homes. This included short periods of respite in residential schools, which were different from children's homes. I don't remember the names of these places but I remember harsh treatment with carbolic soap and a scrubbing brush. I remember my mum sending me comics and postal orders.
10. One of these residential places was called Castle Craig in Peebleshire. We called it Craigy House. It's now a rehabilitation centre for alcohol and drug abusers.

11. There was also a thing called kinship care provided by my mother's side of the family when her sister [REDACTED]. My granny looked after me sometimes, [REDACTED]. When I was four or five I remember her drunken husband trying to get in the house and her telling him he couldn't because "the child's here and you're in that state".
12. The places I have clear memory of are Gryffe Children's Home in Bridge of Weir, where I stayed from 1972 until 1974 and Nazareth House from 1974 until 1978.

Dunclutha Children's Home, Dunoon

13. When I was between 6 and 8 years old I was in Dunclutha Children's Home. I was with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
14. I have only very vague memories of being there. The only memory I do have is of [REDACTED] getting kicked by a staff member and it was like a fight. He told me about the experiences he had with the staff hitting him. He said it was because he was protecting [REDACTED] as the staff were bullying and humiliating him as he was wetting the bed. If you were a bed-wetter they were physical with you.
15. [REDACTED] is two years older than me and there's a year between [REDACTED] and I. [REDACTED] told me that Gryffe and Dunclutha were far worse than Nazareth House. I don't remember much about Dunclutha but [REDACTED] said it was quite violent.

Life back at home

16. In 1972 my father was released from hospital for the weekend, but he did not go back. He went crazy. The downstairs neighbour had reported him to the social work. He tried to saw my mum's leg off because my mum had been unfaithful and

██████████. He then barricaded us in the flat in Glasgow. My mum managed to get out with ██████████ but ██████████ and I were trapped in the house with my dad. He smashed mirrors and glass and wrecked the place. At one point ██████████ trapped my dad's finger in the door and my dad was bleeding.

17. So by this time the police and the press were outside. Then my dad got me and ██████████ to hold up a sign at the window saying, 'Dummy Police'. He was referring to the people that had come to take him back to the mental hospital. The police, a doctor and mental health people managed to get into the flat and I remember my dad being put to the floor and they injected him and took him away. I remembered being held back.

Gryffe Children's Home, Bridge of Weir

18. That was the point where ██████████ taken into care again. This was just constant. They should have realised that when ██████████ taken back home, everything broke down. Therefore, they should have looked at a long-term care placement ██████████.
19. I was between 8 and 10 years old when I was in Gryffe. I was there with ██████████ and ██████████. Gryffe was a huge estate in Bridge of Weir. It was an all-boys place and was a government-run institution.

Routine at Gryffe Children's Home

20. There wasn't really a routine as much. We were given chores such as doing the dishes, I remember drying them, but because ██████████ not at school ██████████ routine was different.
21. All the staff were men apart from a female matron. I think she could have been the wife of the home superintendent. We did not have many dealings with her.

22. We just wore our own clothes, there was no uniform, although we were given shorts, sweaters and tank tops to wear.
23. In Gryffe we slept in dormitories. I don't remember much about them apart from all the ages were mixed.

Food

24. There was breakfast, lunch and tea. Breakfast was really salty porridge. The main meal was in the middle of the day. In the evening we got buns with jam or cream in the middle and hot chocolate. We were never forced-fed. We all ate together. We were often hungry so we would break into the pantry and steal food.
25. We stole potatoes, made a fire and wrapped the potatoes in tin foil, heated them on the fire and then ate them.

School

26. ██████'t enrolled in any school. This was to do with the fact that ██████ in and out of care and they decided not to enrol ██████ in a school. I think that was the norm then. ██████ left to play about the estate.
27. There was some organised activity. I remember an Easter egg hunt but no sports. We had no access to books and I don't remember a TV or us having access to toys.

Holidays / Excursions

28. We went on a summer holiday, a transfer to Castle Craig in Peebles for a couple of weeks.
29. We couldn't leave the grounds, you'd get into serious trouble. ██████ used to sneak down and steal from the local shops.

Religion

30. Religion did not play a part there; I don't even remember going to church.

Visits / Inspections

31. I don't remember ever getting visits from family or social work. There were no inspections.

Birthdays and Christmas

32. I don't recall Christmas or birthdays there.

Abuse at Gryffe Children's Home

33. There was humiliation by the other boys there. They would take our trousers down and tell us to rub ourselves on the grass. I was fearful of them. I don't think that the staff were aware of this. There was a particular family there, the [REDACTED] family. They were nasty and pretty much ran the place.
34. The staff were cruel too. The humiliation from them was constant. They would beat, punch and kick me. [REDACTED] and I decided to run away because of this. We ran away and got lost so went to the police, who were nice to us. One of the staff from Gryffe came to pick us up. The police said to him that it was a shame for us and he replied: "Yes it's a shame for the wee bastards, isn't it".
35. We were taken back to Gryffe and we went through this thing that was humiliating. We were put naked in the same shower with 3 male staff standing watching us. The head then came in, I don't remember his name, he was an older guy with glasses.

He said that they didn't allow boys in the same shower. There was something just not right about it.

36. If we did anything wrong like run away or steal food, [REDACTED] and I were punched and kicked by the staff. We stole food because we were hungry. I don't remember any of the staff names. These beatings were not as often as in Nazareth House. There weren't any specific staff that I remember that were violent, it was just the one that picked us up from the police station. I think that he may have been [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] SNR. He was the only specific one that I remember. He was the worst towards me. But it still wasn't as bad as the bullying by other boys. I never saw any other boys getting punched and kicked by staff.
37. There was a nice staff member there though. His name was [REDACTED] 'MWN' or [REDACTED] 'MWN' or something like that. He would bring in orange juice and things like that for us.
38. If you wet the bed you were humiliated. It didn't affect me. When [REDACTED] and other boys wet the bed the staff would wrap the wet bed sheet around them in front of the other boys, it was humiliating. This happened to [REDACTED] regularly. He was the youngest. He was just heartbroken being away from [REDACTED] mum.

Leaving Gryffe Children's Home

39. [REDACTED] in Gryffe for a good 6 to 8 months. I don't remember the first time [REDACTED] left.
40. The second time [REDACTED] went into Gryffe was in 1974. [REDACTED] only in for a weekend this time. Things had broken down at home.
41. [REDACTED] made a protest in the social work department in Drumchapel because they were going to put [REDACTED] back into Gryffe because there was nowhere else for [REDACTED] to go. [REDACTED] escaped from the social work building down the drainpipe and ran away.

42. [REDACTED] and I were left. They decided to take [REDACTED] to Gryffe and they told [REDACTED] it was just for the weekend. They then found [REDACTED] and brought him to Gryffe [REDACTED] [REDACTED] only there for the weekend.
43. [REDACTED] then went to Nazareth House directly from Gryffe. This was after the short weekend and the fact that [REDACTED] had protested about staying there.

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

44. [REDACTED] going to Nazareth House in Aberdeen. I had never heard of Nazareth House, far less Aberdeen. [REDACTED] happy as [REDACTED] not going to be in Gryffe anymore. This was in 1974 and I was 10 years old.
45. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. There was a woman who had been a home-help to my mum for many years. Her name was [REDACTED]. She took [REDACTED] to Aberdeen on the train. I remember [REDACTED] excited about the journey. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
46. On the train Mrs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were speaking to a couple who were retired. [REDACTED] kept in touch with them and I remember that they took [REDACTED] on day trips from Nazareth House to Peterhead.

First Day

47. We arrived at Nazareth House. It was run by the Order of Sisters of Nazareth or the Poor Sisters of Nazareth. I just remember this grey, granite building. Outside there were these huge religious statues. We went in the main entrance where along with Mrs [REDACTED] we met two nuns in habits in a reception area that had a big oak table in it. The nuns gave us cups of tea.

48. Sister LDX then came in. She looked severe. The other nuns had been friendly. They told us that this was the nun that would be looking after us, she was about 30 or 32 years old. Mrs then left and left with Sister LDX LDX.
49. As you stand outside the main entrance of the building and look up, our group was at the very top of the building, above the elderly care bit. They took all our own clothes from us. Some of them were quite new as had just been given them. We were given old clothes, rough jeans and 'penny black' plimsolls that were similar to the other kids'. I remember Sister LDX wanted us all bathed and she washed our hair with delousing shampoo in the bath area. There was a huge line of sinks and I remember we were all lined up for this.
50. We were then taken through to the dorms. They were cubical type dorms with four kids to a dorm. There was a long internal window in each dorm so that the nuns could see in if they were walking past. We were put in different dorms from each other. I shared a dorm with and .

Groups

51. Although were in different dorms we were all in the same group under the care of Sister LDX .
52. Each group was mixed and consisted of about 15 boys and girls. The oldest was about 16 years old. There were families in our group such as , and and , and . Each group at the home was in a separate part of the building. There were about eight dorms in our group. These were single sex. Sister LDX slept in her own room in the same area.
53. LKO was SNR of Nazareth House in Aberdeen. I rarely had dealings with her. She was in another part of the building. We didn't see her much.

54. I don't know how many kids were in Nazareth House in total but it would be about seventy. There were about four or five groups the same sizes as ours. In our group I think the youngest kids were about four or five. Sister LDX [REDACTED] didn't like younger kids, particularly if there were issues as to whether they could use the toilet. The oldest was [REDACTED] who was about eighteen or nineteen years old. He had his own room on the floor along from our dorms. Sister LKH [REDACTED] took [REDACTED], who were younger than us.

Moving group

55. We were initially on the top floor, which I refer to as the old group, for about a year then we moved to the new group. Our new group area was in the refurbished laundry area. This was away from the other nuns in the building.
56. We moved to the new bit because the area we were in previously was so old and I don't think it was worth renovating, so they renovated the old, dilapidated laundry. They gutted that out and it was only our group that moved in. It was a long building, on its own away from the main building.
57. In the new group we were divided up into our new dorms. In my dorm there were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and two other boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The nun had a room in between the boys and the girl's dorms.
58. Things changed when we moved there because Sister LDX [REDACTED] did not have the scrutiny of the other nuns that were about the place.
59. In the new group I started to take what I know now as panic attacks, but then I called them dizzy turns. I also started to be physically sick at meal times. Sister LDX [REDACTED] would punish me for this by putting me in isolation in the laundry area of the new unit or she would take me up to the old bit of the building and leave me in rooms there.

60. Sister LDX [REDACTED] also had young female helpers that worked with her. They lived on site. I don't remember all their names. One was called Bernadette Ferry, there was an English girl called Julie and one called Linda but they were never cruel to us. There was also a domestic that helped with cooking and serving.

Routine at Nazareth House

Mornings and bedtime

61. In the morning about 7.00 am Sister LDX [REDACTED] would come in and put the lights on and get us up. We had to be up at that time as we had to get the bus to school. We would have a wash and brush our teeth.
62. We got bathed twice a week, on a Sunday and once during the week.

Food

63. We ate together in our group. Generally the food was brought over from the main kitchen. The nuns never ate with us. I remember the food being inedible and tasteless. You would choke on the stringy meat. There were drawers in the dining table and people started stuffing the food in the drawers. When Sister LDX [REDACTED] found out she went mental and all of us got it. We were slapped about. The drawers were removed after that. We had to eat the food and if we refused, Sister LDX [REDACTED] would hit you about the head.
64. The main meal would be in the middle of the day unless you were at school. Tea was at about 6.00pm. For tea we would get fish fingers and beans or spaghetti on toast. We went to bed about 9.30pm and we could stay up to 11.00pm at the weekends.

Leisure time

65. During the evening, before we went to bed, we would be just watching TV. We had board games, books and toys as well. Sister ^{LDX} [REDACTED] wasn't there and if she caught us watching something on TV that she thought was inappropriate she would go mental. She had a chair that she liked to sit in whilst watching TV. If someone was sitting on it when she came in she would sit on the person and laugh. She was really 'boney'.
66. There were no real organised activities in the home. There was a football pitch in the grounds and we played football.
67. We did have chores to do such as setting and clearing the table, but that was it.

School

68. We went to St. Peter's Primary School. It was a good school although by then I was having these panic attacks and sometimes had to run out of the class. We were made to feel different at the school by the kids. This was because we were in Nazareth House and were from Glasgow. They would sing songs at us. The teachers were fine.
69. There were no Catholic secondary schools so we went to Linksfield Academy in Aberdeen. We had a school uniform at both schools so we fitted in that way. Most of us were in remedial classes. The teachers could only do their best as our schooling had been so disrupted.

Holidays

70. The Catholic Church owned a property in Girvan where we would go on holiday. We did have day trips. We would go to the zoo, the beach or the park.

71. They would take us to the shows or something like that. Sister LDX would be fun there, although there was an occasion when she put a whole spoonful of marmite in's mouth because he was inquisitive as to how it tasted and he was sick with that.
72. got to go and stay with my mum in Glasgow. This was about once a year and dependent on her health.

Birthdays and Christmas

73. For your birthday you would get a card and a present. At Christmas people would donate things so we got toys, books, clothes and selection boxes. There was a Christmas dinner and there were decorations and a real big Christmas tree.

Visits/Inspections

74. Chris Hargreaves and Karen Clark from the social work would visit about twice a year.
75. My mum visited about three times and she told me later that the nuns were always really nice to her. My mum would just see in the home. would also come and visit.
76. A couple called Joe and Claire from Ireland started to work on and off at the home. They were friends with the nuns. I got close to them. He was a joiner and I helped him at the weekends and got paid for it, but we lost touch.
77. There was another person called Colin McKenzie. He was ex-army. He used to take us out to play pitch and putt and took us swimming.
78. also got taken out by the couple that I mentioned that we met on the train going to Nazareth House. went to their house a couple of times in Peterhead. I think

█ stayed overnight. They were nice. They visited █ in the home, but it was short-lived.

Healthcare

79. Healthcare was provided. We would be taken to the doctors' if we were unwell or we would just be put to bed.
80. Sister LDX █ marched me round to the doctors' at one point because of my sickness and dizzy turns. She was aware that something wasn't right. I have since accessed my medical records and I can see that the doctor gave me an opiate drug to try and settle my stomach and relax me. The doctor's opinion was that I was homesick. On reflection I think that I was having panic attacks due to Sister LDX █'s brutal behaviour and the isolation punishments that she administered.

Religion

81. Nazareth House was very religious. There were religious statues, symbols and icons everywhere. There were stigmata statues of Jesus with blood coming from his hands. There was a big chapel there too.
82. The religious side involved us constantly being told of our worthlessness. We were told this by Sister LDX █ and the other nuns. We were told we were in the home because no-one wanted us. We were told we should be going to confession about this.
83. If you were an altar boy, you would serve mass in the morning, even during the week. This would be about 6.30am. Benediction was the Latin mass that you served on a Saturday and on Sunday there were another two. I served in the altar for some of these. There was a rota. If you weren't serving you would only sit on the ones at the weekend. I preferred being on the altar as I didn't feel panicky.

84. Outwith these times I had to pray in the morning and at night. We had to say grace before and after meals.

Abuse at Nazareth House

85. I remember the night-time routine. It was another nun that would come around and shine a torch in the dorms. Then she would come in and check for bed-wetters. If she discovered someone had wet the bed she would just pull them out of bed and give them one. The nuns didn't worry about disturbing the other kids. They would get them to strip their bed in the middle of the night. The nuns were in a rage about it. If in the morning they discovered that someone had wet the bed the nuns just totally lost the plot.
86. For example, Sister ^{LDX} would put the wet sheet on the kid's head and they were made to walk about with it. They were then made to wash their bed sheets in the laundry area and we would all see this. It was humiliation for them. There were washing machines but they had to hand wash the sheets. Other kids picked up on this and called them names. The other kids were only doing this because they were seeing this behaviour from the nuns.
87. We were in the old group for about a year. Sister ^{LDX} was severe but I don't remember her punching or kicking me in the old bit. If you were bad you were isolated to darkened rooms. If she heard you swearing or something she would put you in a dark room and leave you there for hours. She didn't lock you in, but you were too frightened to leave. She told you not to move or put on a light. You did as you were told, but I don't remember any physical stuff in the old part.
88. Once or twice she used a small mortuary room which was used to store the dead bodies of the elderly residents if they died over the weekend . It was big enough for two coffins. She locked me in there once or twice. You would be put in there if you were arguing with other kids, if you wouldn't eat your dinner or if you were physically sick. I was often sick with the food in there and that was the punishment.

I was locked in that room when there were two closed coffins in it . I didn't know if there were dead bodies in them or not. I felt frightened and alone. Sister ^{LDX} had the key.

89. I was left in isolation in the mortuary for up to an hour, but my other isolations were longer. [REDACTED] was isolated for a week all because he never ate his jelly. He was put in the room and fed jelly all week. [REDACTED] thinks that he deserved this because of his behaviour.
90. The isolation punishment happened to others including [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is now 50 and is still frightened of the dark. He keeps the light on.
91. We had to go to mass and benediction and then I found that the noise used to get exacerbated in my head and I would get dizzy and I had to run out of the chapel. I was having a panic attack. I was punished for this by being placed in isolation for hours, sometimes even a whole day. When Sister ^{LDX} put me in isolation I started hallucinating and panicking.
92. When Sister ^{LDX} went into a rage she would punch and kick. It would happen when I was physically sick. One morning I was sick after breakfast in the toilet. She went crazy she grabbed me and pulled me about and put me outside in the freezing cold and just left me there. I was just wearing my shirt, tie, socks and underpants. I was looking over at Union Grove at the tenement buildings and I was wondering if I should run over and tell someone what she was doing to me.
93. Another occasion was before bedtime when Sister ^{LDX} came in to put the lights out in the dorm. You were meant to be kneeling at the side of your bed saying your prayers in your pyjamas. She came in and we were all chucking pillows at each other and were in various stages of undress. I just had underpants on. She started shouting "This is not a nudist colony" and she grabbed me. She was screaming with rage. She took us all out into the corridor and then one by one took us out into the snow. This was at night-time. There was heavy snow on the ground.

I just had my pants on and nothing else. I was left outside in the snow for 45 minutes. I was freezing. It still sticks in my mind.

94. That was the way Sister LDX reacted. It wasn't just me it was the others too. was in a room and had his hands over his ears and was making a noise. She had been shouting, ". He never saw her coming in, she then got him and slapped him to the floor. She would do things like that. Instead of just saying "Stop it" she just went into a rage about it. These things happened in front of other members of staff.
95. The other staff knew what she was like. They knew that she was being cruel. One of them was FAJ. Her surname now is FAJ. She was working in the home as a domestic or a carer.
96. It just got worse in the new group. Sister LDX had control. There were no other nuns around and she would punch and kick us for silly trivial things. It was constant when we moved to the new group.
97. Most of the time Sister LDX was what I would call a psychotic bitch. I would witness her cruelty to the other kids as well. I remember once just had enough and he kicked her between the legs and pulled her veil off because she was punching and kicking him. This was at the end of a period when she had put him in an isolation room for a week. I saw him doing this after she hit him. He got put back in the isolation room.
98. Sister LDX was particularly nasty with the girls. My friend called her a psychotic bitch too.
99. Sister LDX was sometimes good fun though. Like on Halloween she came in with a sheet covering her and a bucket on her head.
100. My treatment in Nazareth House made me unwell. I didn't have the panic attacks, dizziness and sickness before I went to stay there.

Leaving Nazareth House

101. When I was living in Nazareth House I had a book called the "Topper Annual". In the middle of it I kept a secret diary. I wrote in it, "I am running away today, I have had enough of this nun and this place". I was absolutely miserable with my anxiety. I went down to the kitchen area and saw money left out. Some of the other kids did paper rounds and this was their earnings. I grabbed all the money and ran away. I caught a train and never went back. This was in the winter of 1978.
102. I got a train that I thought was going to Glasgow but I ended up in Edinburgh. I approached a member of staff in Edinburgh and told him I had no ticket and had ran away from Aberdeen. I had some money on me and he took me to buy a ticket to Glasgow. I got the train and went to my mum's. She was shocked. Two days later there was a meeting with Karen Clark, who was my social worker then. It was agreed that I would be assessed at home for a few days.
103. Karen took me back to Nazareth House to get my clothes. I told her about the abuse in the home and that was the reason why I left. When I looked years later at her reports, she made no mention of what I told her. When I left [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] remained at Nazareth House for about two years.

Gilshochill Assessment Centre, Maryhill, Glasgow

104. I spent the next year back at home before going into residential care again. My anxiety, dizziness and sickness continued. Then I started to take migraines. I started to play truant from school and would get angry and smash stuff up in the house. I had an argument with my mum and pushed her to the extent that she couldn't breathe for a minute.

105. As a result I was put in an assessment centre called Gilshochill in Maryhill. A children's panel hearing was held for this move. This was the first time I had ever been to a children's hearing or anything like that.
106. At Gilshochill, [KTN] was the senior house parent and Liz Jack was in charge of the whole centre.
107. At the hearing [KTN] spoke for me. Susan Kennedy was my social worker then and she thought I was violent, aggressive and that I should be locked up. [KTN] spoke for me, as he disagreed with her view. The hearing made an order for me to stay there, and I was in there for about a year until I was 16.
108. I was put into the assessment unit first and then I was moved into the boys' hostel. It was called independent living. We would help with cooking and cleaning and things like that. I shared a room with another boy.
109. I have good memories of this placement. Some of the relationships I formed with the boys and staff lasted for years. A lot of the staff in there really helped us. We went holidays, camping and we went away fishing. There were always activities. I can't say a bad word about any of the staff in there. It was a whole new world for me. These people did care. The staff never hit us. They managed some difficult kids really well.

Life after being in care

110. I left Gilshochill as soon as I was 16 and returned home. I became agoraphobic and was still having panic attacks and migraines. I was freaking out with it all. I was in a panic about everything. I fell out with my mum and dad and my mum threw me out and I went to stay with my mum's sister. She got me a job working as a photographic printer.

111. Then after that I went to work in a camera shop in Glasgow. I worked there till I was about 21. From that age I stayed on my own in Glasgow. I had worked my way through my agoraphobia at that time. Although it did come back later in life.

Reporting of abuse

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

112. When I read one of the social work reports later in life I saw that [REDACTED] actually reported Sister ^{LDX}[REDACTED] at Nazareth House for aggression and they thought of moving [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reported it to my social worker, Chris Hargreaves. His report said that [REDACTED] reported her aggression and abuse. I remember speaking to Chris at the time.

113. I have to refer to the documents I have obtained. A document dated 23 August 1977 written by Chris Hargreaves at the department of social work, Drumchapel team, states: "The boy's present placement in Aberdeen, in Nazareth House is far from satisfactory. The distance involved makes contact far from easy. [REDACTED] don't see nearly enough of [REDACTED] mother, nor come home frequently enough. The chief disadvantage with moving [REDACTED] would be that [REDACTED] have settled in Aberdeen both at the home and at school, however the writer has heard some grumblings from [REDACTED], both about the home and Sister ^{LDX}[REDACTED] who is in charge of [REDACTED]. In addition the writer feels that Sister ^{LDX}[REDACTED] could have done more to allow [REDACTED] to spend longer at home this summer. There would also be difficulty finding [REDACTED] a catholic home and possibly Smyllum Park, Lanark would be worth contacting".

114. In a later report Chris Hargreaves said that, "There continues to be complaints from [REDACTED] about Sister ^{LDX}[REDACTED]'s aggression". He uses that term in a later report that I have read.

115. Another thing that happened was in relation to Father Tom Gibbons. He had a role overseeing the running of Catholic children's homes. He was connected to the Archdiocese in Glasgow. He came to Aberdeen quite often and he came to Girvan when we were there. I found him to be a funny guy. He was quite flirty with the girls. We liked him but his job was to make sure that we were being looked after properly by the nuns. He didn't do his job properly. I never told him about the treatment we were being subjected to. We couldn't speak to him as the nuns were always there. We never had the opportunity.
116. Years later I told my mum about the abuse. She said that the nuns were good to her when she visited. [REDACTED] and I discussed it all through the years. I did tell psychiatrists about it in 1992 and 1993 when I was at the height of my drinking.
117. I reported the abuse to the police around 1998 and 1999. This was after I went to Cameron Fyfe, solicitor. I went to him as there had been reports in the newspapers about abuse at children's homes. The reason for this was that the solicitor was putting in a Criminal Injuries Compensation Board claim and he could not process this until we gave a statement to the police and got a crime reference number on the claim. I was eventually awarded £2500 compensation. This was higher than other payments made as I had the documentary evidence of psychiatric injury.
118. I contacted the police and made a statement to the children and family team based in Cambuslang. I don't remember the officers' names. The police never came back to tell me what happened to my complaint. I did highlight this to a person from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) at a meeting, but have heard nothing since.
119. I subsequently wrote to COPFS. They said that after the Sister Alphonso trial in 1997 they decided not to take the case any further. I had given my statement before that trial. I wrote a complaint letter to the Herald newspaper about the matter. My view was that Sister Alphonso had been admonished, but it didn't take away the guilty verdict. That was my view on it.

120. I also raised it with other nuns from the Order at Tom Shaw's consultation event in Edinburgh. I never shared the full detail of what happened to me.

121. I also went to the National Confidential Forum and I shared with them the full detail of what happened to me. I was supported by a key worker from the In Care Survivor Support Service.

Impact

122. My early life experiences in care had an effect on me. It was about lack of stability and life chances with the disrupted education that I had. By the age of 18 I was drinking heavily. I had a serious alcohol problem and I realised that I was an alcoholic by the time I was 21. This happened because in effect I was self-medicating. The alcohol took away my anxiety and blocked out the memories and that was why I was drinking heavily. From the age of 21 until about 30 I was still drinking heavily and the agoraphobia came back. My first psychiatric residential hospital stays were all to do with de-toxing, to deal with my anxiety and depression.

123. For the last 10 years I have not had a drink. This has been achieved through alcohol aversion therapy. I still have anxiety, depression and really dark moods. I relate that back to what happened to me. I can trace back my anxiety to the panic attacks that I started having in Nazareth House. I did not have these before then.

124. The last severe panic attack I had was over 10 years ago, although I do take a lot of medication to control this. I take Prozac for depression, Propranolol for migraines and anxiety and Metrazol for nerve pain. I am also on other medication for diabetes and migraines. My nerve pain was diagnosed about 3 months ago.

125. When I was studying social care at Glasgow, I realised that I had symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. This was fully diagnosed in 2007, when I was in Leverndale Psychiatric Hospital. I was in hospital for about four months. It was diagnosed by Dr Cummings, the psychiatrist who said it related to childhood

trauma. Some of my symptoms are palpitations, flash-backs, nightmares, not sleeping, sleep-walking, shouting and swearing in my sleep.

126. This has all impacted on my own relationships including the breakdown of my marriage. I'm now divorced. I have two boys, [REDACTED], aged 24, from a previous relationship and [REDACTED], aged 16 from my marriage.
127. I think about what happened to me a lot. The problem is when I don't want to think about it, I dream of things. I dream about nuns, and have weird dreams about my times in Nazareth House.
128. Before Leverndale, I had been in a number of other hospitals including Woodilee Hospital, and the psychiatric units of the Southern General Hospital and Stobhill Hospital. These admissions were on a voluntary basis apart from in 1993 when I was sectioned for four months in Woodilee.
129. Outwith the hospital stays, I have seen a lot of psychologists and psychiatrists. I have also seen support workers from the Glasgow Association for Mental Health. Every time I went outside I thought that I was going to die. That's how mentally ill I was at that time.
130. In September 2017 I will be a full-time student. I will be doing a degree in Social Policy and Sociology. I also volunteer at the Citizens Advice Bureau.
131. I also found that my resettlement move to Bridge of Allan two years ago has helped me. It's a quiet, peaceful place. I enjoy walking and I find it very therapeutic.
132. If I had to identify a period in my life where I felt that things were turning around, it was when I managed to stop drinking alcohol and the medication that they prescribed me was helpful in that. When I got the addiction to alcohol out of the way, I could begin to recover.

133. The support fund in place from Future Pathways has also helped greatly in the last couple of years. It has helped me with my university studies with a laptop and books. It would have been difficult for me otherwise.
134. My studies have also been part of the therapeutic process. They have helped me move on from the handicap I had of not being educated and I am now with other people with the same goal.
135. My overall goal is to get my degree and I would like ultimately to work with the Scottish Government doing social policy work.

Records

136. I did obtain records from the social work department and I have referred to them in this statement. I did write to the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth at their office in Hammersmith in London asking for records too.

Other information

Sister LDX [REDACTED]

137. I know that Sister LDX [REDACTED] left the Order about a year after I left Nazareth House, and Sister LJS [REDACTED] took over. I knew this because [REDACTED] has remained in touch with her. I met Sister LDX [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]'s wedding in 1984. [REDACTED] and I were crying in front of her when we met her at the wedding. This was the first time I had seen her since I picked up my clothes. She was no longer a nun. I was about 21 by this time, but I never said anything to her about the way she had treated us. I think that now I would challenge it but I never then.
138. When [REDACTED] met her again about a year ago she told him the reason behind leaving the Order. She said she was sent to Nazareth House in Cardonald and they didn't

accept her there because she was too strict. Because of this she left the Order completely.

139. [REDACTED] was of the view that he remembered the punishments that were dished out but thinks that you shouldn't talk out about the Catholic Church because they put a roof over our head and fed us. That's the way he sees it. He visits her in Ireland still. Her name now is LDX [REDACTED].

Lessons for the future

140. Any care placement of a child should be overseen correctly. The child should be safe in a nurturing and caring environment. There was no love in a lot of these places, particularly Nazareth House.
141. People have to listen to the kids who are in these care placements. Moving kids from one placement to another and another is very disruptive and damaging. It is just wrong and is abusive. Kids can't form attachments, or they get settled in school and other places only to get moved on again. That is just the wrong way to do it.
142. It's simply about supporting kids and listening to them and listening to any concerns that they have. When kids have left care they must have independent living and social skills equipping them to live independently.
143. Education is a big thing. Just because you are in care it should not mean that your life opportunities should be any less. This is very important to me. Kids in care have a right to education like everybody else, a right to benefit themselves in the future through education.
144. There is one other thing I would like to say. I have heard talk and I have read it in a document somewhere, that organisations blame my parents and the situation that [REDACTED] came from. That's no excuse for what happened to us in Nazareth House. [REDACTED] were moved from [REDACTED] parents for care and protection because they were unable to

look after [REDACTED] because of their mental health and situation. You cannot excuse what the nun did to [REDACTED] because of the situation that ended up with [REDACTED] being in care.

145. 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.. [REDACTED]

Date.. 24 | 8 | 2017