

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LBQ

Support person present: No

1. My name is LBQ My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

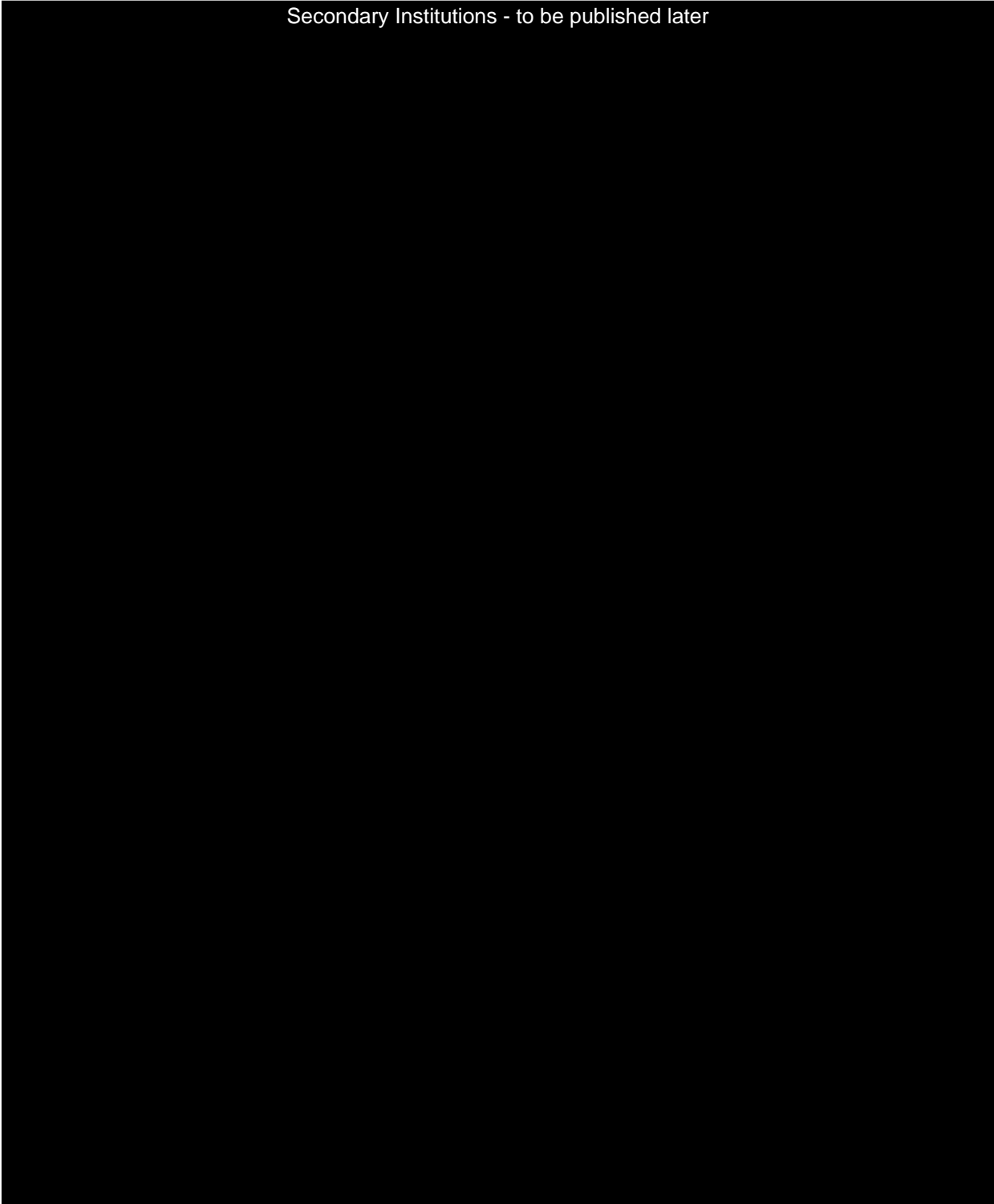
2. I have two older brothers, and LBL and an older sister, I don't really have any memories from when I was living with my parents before I went into care. I was born in Fife but spent the first few years of my life in the west end of Glasgow. I remember living in Glasgow. Both my parents are now deceased.
3. I think I would have been in my twenties when my dad told me a little bit about what happened before I went into care. He told me he was a print machinery salesman at the time and had been involved in an accident. A young boy on a bike had come out the forest and collided with his car. The young boy was killed. According to my mum, after the accident, my dad became very unwell, couldn't work and became a gibbering wreck. He ended up in hospital and we lost the house we were living in. My mum couldn't cope looking after all four of us so we were put into care.
4. The one lasting memory I have before I went into care is of my mum wrapping us all up in warm clothes. We were still living in Glasgow at that time. We somehow ended up at what I seem to think was a police station. My oldest brother and sister were upset and crying. We were just standing there in a counter area. I have since learned from my records that we had actually been visiting my father at Gartnavel Hospital and my mother walked out and abandoned us. From there, I don't remember how we

got there but we were taken to what I now know to be a satellite home of Quarriers Village at 1 Dumbreck Road, Glasgow. I have found out from my mum that I would have been three when I went there.



5.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



6.

7.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8.

9.

10.

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

11. I have no idea how many children were in Nazareth House. We were in dormitories upstairs but I don't know how many beds there were. It was only nuns who ran the house. They wore grey habits with a white collar and head dress. There was one man there who was possibly a trainee priest. His name was something like Father **LHN**. I have since been told by my brother that he was actually a resident there like we were. My brother told me his name was **LHN** Sister **LVC** was a sister there and she was excellent. She was dressed in a white habit. There was another nun there whose name I remember was Sister **LTX**.

Routine at Nazareth House, Aberdeen

First day

12. I remember arriving at Nazareth House and seeing the big staircase and the big stained glass window. I had never seen anything like that before. It was very impressive. I don't remember much else about my first day there.

Mornings and bedtime

13. I remember there was a bell, a hand bell which woke us up in the morning. The bedroom door then opened and the nuns came in and told us it was time to get up and get washed.

Washing and bathing

14. There were two rows of basins in the washroom which was upstairs in a sort of attic area. We stood in lines of 12 to 14 boys at the sinks in our white vests and pants. Once we were washed we turned round and waited to be inspected by the nuns. They would check the front of your hands, the back of your hands and behind your ears.

Sibling Contact

15. I know my brother [REDACTED] and my sister [REDACTED] definitely came to Nazareth House. I can't actually remember ever actually seeing my brother [REDACTED] at any time when I was there, but he must have been. [REDACTED] may have been in the same dorm as me. I desperately wanted to see my sister all the time I was there. They wouldn't let me see her and I got into trouble for trying.

Leisure time

16. I was too young to go to school so I just stayed at Nazareth House. Sister LVC sometimes took us out onto the playing field and played football with us. She was the only nice nun there that I remember.
17. I don't really remember much about inside the house or the garden. Almost on a daily basis, myself and six or seven other toddlers, were taken by the nuns to the beach. We were all probably four or five years old.

Birthdays and Christmas

18. I have no real memories about Christmas. I believe I was at Nazareth House for my fifth birthday. I don't remember there being any celebration of my birthday.

Visits/Inspections

19. My mum and dad didn't visit me when I was at Nazareth House. My mum told me years later that she didn't even know that I had been moved to Aberdeen from Glasgow. My grandmother came to visit me only once when I was at Nazareth House. It was dreadful. We had to sit with her one at a time. I didn't even get the chance to see my sister then.
20. I am not aware of there ever being any involvement with my family and the social work department. I don't think anyone in authority ever came to speak to me at Nazareth House or at home afterwards.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Aberdeen

21. My worst memory from Nazareth House was one morning when I woke up and I had done the toilet in my bed. I was covered in excrement. The nun came in and grabbed me by the arm and dragged me into the washroom. I remember I was dragging the

soiled sheet behind me. The washroom was full of all the other boys. They were all between eight and ten years old. I was probably five at that time. The nun was horrible to me and it was like she held a kangaroo court. She told everyone what I had done and then asked them how they thought I should be punished. Everyone was laughing at me. I was standing there crying. I can't remember how me or my sheets got washed that day. For ages after that some of the other boys called me names like "smelly".

22. When the nuns took us to the beach, which was nearly every day, I was freezing. There would usually be two nuns with us and they would be all wrapped up. I can't remember what I was wearing. I just remember that it was bitterly cold. If I did something to annoy them or asked to see my sister, to punish me the nuns dipped my sandwich into the sand and made me eat it. They also poured sand into my bottle of milk. They did this more than once to me and I saw them doing this to other children.
23. If ever we were naughty or misbehaving the nuns used to nip us. If you were slow or dilly dallying, they would nip us. This happened to me and I saw it happening to others too. Sister LVC never nipped me, in fact she was the only one who ever hugged me.
24. Another thing I remember was getting carbolic soap rubbed into my mouth and face by a nun. I can't remember how many times this happened or why it was done to me.
25. All the time that I was at Nazareth House, Aberdeen I asked to see my sister. I was closer to her than I was to my brothers and I missed her. I never got to see her the whole time I was there. I desperately wanted to see her. I remember trying to climb a wall outside because I knew she was on the other side. I got into trouble for that. I remember the nuns saying that I was in the boy's section and she was in the girl's section.
26. My gran came to visit us and you would think all of us would have got to see her together. They wouldn't let that happen. We saw our gran one at a time. I still didn't

get to see my sister. My gran brought a tin of sweets for us when she visited. The nuns wouldn't let her give me a sweet. After my gran left the nuns took the sweets away. I was told that they weren't just for me, they were for everybody. I never saw these sweets again and I never even got one.

27. Apart from Sister [REDACTED] LVC none of the nuns tried to make us welcome or comfortable at Nazareth house. I just don't think any of the nuns had child skills. The nuns, as far as I am concerned, hated children. They were always stony faced and obviously couldn't be bothered with children. They never showed any love and affection towards us. They were just cold hearted. Sister [REDACTED] LTX who I remember was unfriendly and not a nice person. She did some nipping too.

Reporting of abuse at Dumbreck Road, Glasgow and Nazareth House, Aberdeen

28. I never reported to anyone the abuse that I suffered at either Dumbreck Road or Nazareth House. When I was living at home with my parents my mum would mention in conversation about us being in homes. If we tried to talk any more about it she refused and changed the subject. My mum and dad never, ever asked me about my time in care.

Leaving Nazareth House, Aberdeen

29. One day we were told that my parents had got a new house and that we would be going home the next day. We were all excited and we got taken there in a minibus. I can't actually remember leaving Nazareth House or who drove us there. This was the first time I had seen my sister since we had arrived at Nazareth House. She was in the minibus with us. We were all excited because we had a new house. It was in [REDACTED] I am sure that this was in September because they were trying to find school places for us when we got home. The term had just started and all the schools were full. We eventually did manage to get into a school.

30. I have since been told by my uncle [REDACTED] who is my dad's brother, that he apparently helped my dad by [REDACTED]. He did this just to get my dad back on his feet.

Life after being in care

31. I suppose I had a fairly normal childhood and upbringing after I was returned home from Nazareth House. I lived at an address with my family in Greenock from the age of five and a half when I left Nazareth House. I have no recollection of there being any social work involvement with my family when I was in care or any time after I went back to live with my parents.
32. I left school at the age of fifteen and went to work for my dad in his [REDACTED] business. I had been working for him on and off probably since the age of [REDACTED]. This included when I was supposed to be at school.
33. I lived with them until I was 23 years of age. I married my wife at the age of 26 and we have two children. I currently have my own business [REDACTED]. I have been involved in [REDACTED] all my life, and have now moved on to [REDACTED].

Impact

34. I don't really think that my time in care has caused a massive impact on my life. I think the way we turned out was just a product of the environment. When we left Nazareth House my relationship with my brothers just resumed and carried on as normal. Before we went into Nazareth House I had a closer relationship with my sister. After we left care and got back with our parents she was quite different. I have found it really hard to deal with her. My sister has become quite cold and completely unemotional. She just wanted out of the family home as quickly as she could. She

left home when she was sixteen. I still keep in touch with her. I am trying to keep our family in touch with each other.

35. I didn't really do well at school. I don't like authority, and felt school was just too slow for me and that I was smarter than they thought. I couldn't handle it. Primary school was fine but it was in secondary that I wanted to leave.
36. Because of that time I defecated in my bed when I was at Nazareth House I was absolutely terrified that when I got married and started sharing a bed with my wife it would happen again. I was on edge for years and worried about dirtying the bed.
37. About five years ago I saw something on the television about child abuse and this was a trigger and brought it all back to me. I was at my mum and dad's house at the time and as soon as the report started the television was quickly turned off and they started talking about something else, anything just to change the subject.
38. Because of what happened to me at Nazareth House when the nuns dipped my sandwiches in the sand and put sand in my milk this has affected me. If ever I get a wee bit of grit or sand in my mouth from something like eating a mussel, this gives me flashbacks to my time at Nazareth House. I just avoid seafood now altogether.
39. What the nuns did to me has driven me away from the church. I am now a complete atheist. I hate nuns. I generally don't hate anybody. I know it is wrong but I can't help it. I know they aren't all bad but I just hate them because of how they treated me. I have some involvement with the church because I became involved with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and had to go the church once a week for twelve years. I liked the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and everything they did but hated the church.

Treatment / support

40. I have a friend who works for [REDACTED] which has something to do with mental health or people with issues in the community. I spoke to her about my issues and some of the things that happened to me in the home. She recommended that I go

and speak to someone from [REDACTED] who I didn't know. I never followed that up and have never been or sought any form of counselling or treatment.

Records

41. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
42. [REDACTED]
43. My brother [REDACTED] LBL also applied for his records from the social work department and we have looked through them together. In his files there are comments from the social work department. They basically queried why we were being sent to Nazareth House in Aberdeen when we were getting regularly visited and that my mother was doing everything she could to get us returned to her.

Other information

44. I regularly go back to Bellahouston Park, where I used to go when I was at Dumbreck Road and where I saw my mum and dad when they visited. It makes me think about my time there.
45. What happened to me makes me think a lot about children in care. I just hate the whole idea of children being in care. I am still in touch with my sister but she doesn't want to talk about what happened in care. She won't come forward to give evidence to this Inquiry and doesn't want her family to know about her being in care. I have tried to speak to my brother [REDACTED] about his time in care but he made it clear that he

doesn't want to talk about it to anyone. I know my brother [REDACTED] LBL [REDACTED] has already given a statement to the Inquiry.

- 46. About ten to twelve years ago I decided to go back to Nazareth House. I was invited in by a nun and I told her I had lived there for a while as a child. Unbelievably she asked me if I had been abused when I was there. I thought it was a very strange thing to ask. I felt quite miserable and sad when I saw Nazareth House.
- 47. I hope that by coming forward this may stop other people, children especially, from being abused. I would like to see improvements in monitoring of living standards for anyone in care. There will always be care homes but I just hope standards of care improve.
- 48. 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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
23/11/17
[REDACTED]