

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LCT

Support person present: Yes —

1. My name is LCT My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Background

2. I lived with my family in Glasgow. I was two and a half years of age. At that time I had eight brothers and sisters and we all lived with my mum and dad.

Life before being put into care

3. My sister was raped and murdered

4. My dad was a bit of a drinker. He was in and out of prison. My mum was left with all the children. They had eight children. She couldn't cope after the murder of [REDACTED] and committed suicide.
5. I have a memory of being in a house. I came out of the living room and went into the bedroom. The curtains were shut. There was a lamp on and I saw people in the room. I remember trying to get up on the bed to get to the person in the bed. I think this was my mum. I think she was dead. I didn't know that at the time. Someone lifted me and took me back out of the room. That's my first memory of being at home.
6. I think it was the social worker's decision to put us into care. My dad thought we would have a better life in care. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] my eldest siblings, stayed with my Gran. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were fostered. [REDACTED] was fostered by my aunt and uncle in Newcastle. She was only eight weeks old. [REDACTED] and I were sent to Nazareth House in Glasgow.

Nazareth House, Glasgow

7. My first memory of Nazareth House is standing on the steps. The [REDACTED] family arrived at the same time. There was a few of them. There was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] became like a sister to me. [REDACTED] and I were put in the nursery. If you were under five years old you went to the nursery. Once you were over five, they put you in the red group or the green group. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were sent to the Green Group. We never got to see them.

Nursery Routine

Mornings and bedtime

8. Everything was regimental. Bedtime was 6 pm in the nursery. We had to brush our teeth and have a clean. We stood in line wearing white vests and white pants at

the sinks to get washed. If anyone got out of line Sister [REDACTED] LFL would beat you with a wooden hanger. This happened to me a few times.

9. We said our prayers and went to bed. We had to sleep with our arms crossed over our chests. I thought it was to do with the angels. The nuns would check in the middle of the night that we were lying with our arms crossed. If the nuns found you sleeping in a different position, you would be woken up and given into trouble. I remember on one occasion I was lying curled up with my hands in between my legs. Sister [REDACTED] LFL woke me up and beat me with her hands for not lying the proper way.
10. We were put to bed at 6pm even in the summer months. It was bright and sunny outside and we were made to go to bed. If you didn't go to sleep, you would get a battering from the nuns. Another punishment they used, was when they made you kneel and stretch your arms out. The nuns would make you hold this position. You had to hold the position as long as you could.
11. We all had our own toothbrushes and beakers. We all had a red beaker from Colgate. I remember clearly what it had written on it "Keep that happy smile sparkling clean and bright, brush after breakfast and last thing at night."

Religion

12. Nazareth House was a Catholic home run by nuns. We were made to go to chapel on a Sunday. We went to Benediction on a Friday and we also had to go to confession. When I was young I was hyper. I couldn't stand still in chapel. Sister [REDACTED] LFL used to take me and make me stand behind the piano in the dining room. I would watch as everyone else ate their breakfast and I wouldn't get any. I was getting punished for fidgeting in mass. She did it to make me sit nice in mass.
13. I was confirmed in the chapel at Nazareth House. I remember being slapped in the face as part of the proceedings. It was what they would do. I'm not sure what age I was when I was confirmed.

Bedwetting

14. I never had a problem with bedwetting. I do remember seeing what happened to the bedwetters. I knew a few kids who would just wet the bed as they were terrified to go to the toilet. I don't know the reason why they were terrified. The nuns would grab the child out the bed and take the sheets off. The child would have the sheets wrapped round them and made to go and have a cold shower. [REDACTED] would wet the bed and I saw it happen to her. The beds would then be made up again with fresh sheets.

Force Feeding

15. I remember the food was generally quite good. I didn't like Brussel sprouts, custard or semolina. I refused to eat them. Sister [REDACTED] LFL and Sister [REDACTED] LHA would use a spoon and force feed you if you refused to eat anything. If you were sick while they were force feeding you, they would scoop up sick with the food and shove it back in your mouth. They did this to me between the ages of five and nine. I can't remember any of the other nuns force feeding.

School

16. We attended the local school. The primary school was Our Lady of the Rosary, Tarfside Gardens, Glasgow. A social worker took me to the school outfitters and bought me a new school uniform. When I grew out of it, it was then passed to someone else and I got a hand me down uniform.

Birthdays and Christmas

17. Birthdays were not celebrated in Nazareth House. I think that's why I have difficulty remembering when things happened as I didn't know my exact age. When I was in first year at school, I remember walking into the classroom and a friend had left a

present on my desk for my birthday. I was dead embarrassed. I still get embarrassed now if someone gives me a present.

18. At Christmas time we were given one toy. I remember one Christmas writing to Santa and asking for an action man. I was a tom boy. They put a Barbie doll down in front of me. I kind of lost it and I snapped it. Another thing I asked for was a football. I was never given one.
19. We celebrated Easter. I remember being given an Easter egg. They also used to organise Easter egg hunts. During Lent, the nuns were not allowed to speak to us. I remember the nuns walking about with their rosary beads.

Visits/Inspections

20. Someone came to visit me but I'm not sure who it was. I just remember someone big visiting. I remember hanging on to his leg and Sister [REDACTED] LFL grabbed me away from him. It might have been my dad. My granny [REDACTED] used to visit. She never came into the place. She would stand on the steps and hand in a bag of fruit. She used to bring granny smith apples. I never got any.
21. I don't remember there being any inspections the whole time I was there.

Trips

22. Every year we were taken on a trip to Troon for the day. We all went in taxis. It was a brilliant trip. There was entertainment. It was a fun day. We were given a shoebox with sweeties. These would be taken off you as soon as you got back to the home. I used to eat all mine on the way back so they couldn't be taken from me.
23. On a Sunday, all the weans had to go into the '21 Room.' This was the room we used to play in when it was raining outside. I remember people would come in as we were all sitting there. Some of them were taken out on trips by families. [REDACTED] and I were taken out by Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. They stayed in Renfrew. They were

nice. They had two boys [REDACTED] I remember [REDACTED] put an ear wig in my socks. I was screaming. Mrs [REDACTED] whacked him for scaring me.

24. [REDACTED] and I were taken on holiday. I don't know who took us. I remember there being bikes and a pool. [REDACTED] wore a yellow bikini. The couple who took us lived high up. [REDACTED] and I were sitting on the window ledge and I think [REDACTED] knocked a vase out the window by accident. We were never taken back there after that.

Medical care

25. When you were unwell, you were told to just go to bed. They didn't care. We were left in our beds. No one ever asked us if we were ok. There was no love, no affection.
26. I remember going to see [REDACTED] LKQ? to get our jag for going to school. I was scared. I was greeting and I lashed out. So three people had to hold me down while [REDACTED] LKQ? gave me the injection. He was not gentle. He whacked the needle into my backside. I couldn't sit down for a week. I had to sit on the edge of a chair. After that I was terrified of getting an injection. I don't remember there being any routine check-ups.
27. I remember being taken to the dentist and having teeth removed. It took six staff members to hold me down. I was scared. My canine teeth were taken out. My dentist recently told me that they must have been taken out by mistake. I had been a biter when I was younger. I believe that they took out my biting teeth on purpose.

Civilian Staff

28. Miss McGregor worked in the nursery. She was an old lady and a resident of Nazareth House. There was a part of the complex where old people lived. We had our building and the old folk had their building. She was an old school teacher. I loved her. She never used to shout at me even when I was being boisterous. Miss

McGregor was a beautiful woman. I used to go and visit her after I left Nazareth house. She's dead now.

29. The only person I got affection from was from a woman called Mary. Mary worked in the kitchen. She would talk to me. She made me feel good. Mary was nice, she never hurt me.
30. [REDACTED] LKB worked in Nazareth House. She was like a house mother. She smacked me once when I attacked her. I deserved it. I never saw [REDACTED] LKB disrespect any of the weans. I think she knew some of what was going on. The place was her home. There was nothing she could do.

Green Group

31. I was moved to the Green Group when I was five years old. I was told that I was going to be seeing my older sisters. I had kept going on about seeing my sisters. We must've been close at some time. I had not seen them since we arrived. The older kids were not allowed down into the nursery. I had been in the nursery for about two years.
32. When I moved to the Green Group, my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] weren't there. I hunted the whole of Nazareth House for them. That night, I was agitated and angry. I was then told that they had already been fostered out. The nuns that had told me about seeing my sisters already knew they had been fostered out. I thought they were cruel lying to me. I was very upset. I really thought I was going to be with my sisters.

Sister [REDACTED] LHA

33. Life was not good in the Green Group. Sister [REDACTED] LHA was in charge. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She would hold you against the wall and kick you [REDACTED] It was horrible. Sister [REDACTED] LHA also force fed us. She also called me the devil's child because I was left handed. She

used to put my left arm up my back. She didn't like me. I was beaten up all the time by Sister [LHA]

34. I got the blame for everything. Many years later I visited [LKB] an old staff member, back at the home. I asked her if I was really that bad when I was wee. She said I was boisterous and that I did get the blame of everything. I said no wonder I kept running away all the time.
35. I remember running away when [redacted] fell out the tree on the grounds. [redacted] [redacted]. I thought I would get the blame for him falling. He was lying on the ground and I was scared to go back and tell the nuns that [redacted] was hurt. I ran away because I knew I would get the blame for it. There was another girl who injured her arm when she was doing the washing. Her arm got stuck in the washing machine. I ran away again as I thought I would get the blame for that. I used to get the blame for everything and I used to be battered.
36. When my sister [redacted] moved up to the Green Group, we were not close. A wedge had been put between us when they split us up. I didn't remember my wee sister. They had kept us apart. I had been taken out on holiday but I was taken with [redacted] Later on, [redacted] and I were taken out together for holidays.

Bedtime

37. Bedtime was about 7.30pm in the Green Group. It was the same routine as bedtime in the nursery. There was a choice of bath or shower before bed. We were made to say our prayers and had to have our hands together pointing upwards.

Personal Hygiene

38. If any child caught nits the nuns would clip your hair. They put a bowl over your head and they would cut your hair. All kids were treated the same. This only happened if you had nits. It didn't bother me having my haircut. I was a tomboy and

liked my hair short. Sister [REDACTED] LHA used to jab the metal nit comb through your hair. It was very sore.

Death of a Nun

39. One of the nuns died. I didn't know her. Everyone had to go to the funeral. All the kids were lined up and we had to kiss the dead nun on the head. I hated that. I remember her skin felt cold. The nun's arms were folded over her chest. I hated going to chapel. It was boring.

School

40. I attended the Annex of Lourdes Secondary School, Kirriemuir Avenue, Glasgow. I remember being in my first year and getting in trouble. I had written the names of all the Celtic players on my school tie. Miss Sullivan was not happy. She was a teacher at the school. I told her my sister had done it. Miss Sullivan phoned the primary school. They checked with my sister [REDACTED]. Miss Sullivan was told that I was lying. I got six of the belt for that. I remember she kept saying that I was moving my hands. I wasn't moving them. She kept hitting me. I think she picked on me because I came from Nazareth House.
41. Another teacher kept poking me. I can't remember her name. She had long nails. I picked up a chair and I hit the teacher with it. I was expelled. I was twelve years old.

Old Folks Home

42. I worked in the old folk's home at Nazareth House instead of going to school. I had to bathe the old people. I remember there was this old woman. I had to bath her. I was never taught what to do. She was just sitting in the bath. I felt sorry for her. I

worked there for two and a half years. I received no education the whole time I was expelled.

Visitors

43. My dad came to visit us a few times. I remember playing outside with a boy. I had on a Rangers scarf. I had been playing with a hula hoop and I hit myself with it. I said 'bastard' and he came over and hit me. He was not happy with me swearing. I told the nuns. My dad was not allowed back again to visit.

Abuse In Nazareth House

44. Sister [REDACTED] LFL used to beat us with her hands and with a wooden hanger when we were in the nursery. She never showed us any affection. This was when I was in the nursery. She would tell me that I would never become something.
45. I remember an old man used to visit. [REDACTED]. He used to get the little girls to sit on his knee. I wanted to sit on his knee. I had never sat on anyone's knee before. When I was sitting there he touched me underneath. I knew it was wrong and I got off his knee. That was the first time I had been sexually abused. I never went back on his knee. I wasn't the only one that it happened to. This happened when I was in the nursery. I remember him well. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He was not as nice as we thought. That only happened once with him.
46. When I was moved to the Green Group, Sister [REDACTED] LHA used to kick me [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She also used to tell me I would end up like my mother. I wasn't sure what she meant. I knew it wasn't good. I didn't understand. The only mother I knew was Mother Carmel. Mother Carmel was the highest nun in the home. I never knew what had happened to my mother. My mum's suicide was never spoken about. It felt like my family were tarred when we went into Nazareth House because of my mum committing suicide.

47. I used to run away quite a lot. I remember one occasion running away to [REDACTED]. I slept in derelict buildings. There was blood in between my legs and I thought I had injured myself. I was scared. I went back to the home. I think I was about eleven or twelve. I told Sister [LJS] that I had hurt myself, that I was bleeding underneath. I had taken my period. I had not been told about periods and I had no idea what was happening to me
48. Sister [LJS] put me in a bath. She took all my clothes off and I was standing nude in front of her. I felt humiliated. She filled the bath with disinfectant and she scrubbed me with a scrubbing brush. It was a brush that was used to scrub the floors. She scrubbed me from head to toe. My skin was red raw. My whole body was sore. She told me that she had to clean my sins away. I don't know what they thought I had been doing when I was away.
49. I went to bed and I cried myself to sleep. I felt so sore and winced every time there was a breeze against my skin. It was the first time I had cried whilst within the home. That was the one night that I needed to go to the toilet in the middle of the night. I wouldn't get up because I was so scared of the breeze against my skin.

[LFN] abuse

50. I was taken out on holiday by [LFO] and [LFN]. They were not our relations. We were taken to a caravan. It had been a good holiday. I remember playing with [REDACTED] beside some water. I ended up in the water. Apparently I nearly drowned. When I came to, I was lying on the grass and I saw [LFN] standing over me. I thought that he had saved my life. I got taken to hospital as they had to pump my chest to get rid of the water.
51. [REDACTED] and I slept on the floor of the caravan and [LFN] and [LFO] slept in the bed. I remember walking in and [LFO] was lying on the bed and I saw her boobs. I had never seen a woman's boobs before. On this one occasion, [LFO] left the room. I don't know where she went. [LFN] then came down to the floor and sexually abused me. After he was finished with me, he moved on to [REDACTED]

52. [LFO] was changing us later that day and she noticed blood on my pants. She asked me what happened. I can't remember what I told her. We were taken back to the home.
53. I used to think that in some way I had deserved the abuse because he had saved my life. [REDACTED] told me years later that it wasn't [LFN] that had saved me that day. Another man had been walking by and jumped into the water to save me. I just assumed it was [LFN] as he was the first face I saw when I opened my eyes.

Reporting of abuse

54. I heard the nuns talking about [REDACTED] and I going back out with [LFO] and [REDACTED]. [LFO] This was a few days after we got back to the home after [LFO] abused me. I told the nuns that I wasn't going back out with the [REDACTED]. I told them that he had abused me. The nuns did not believe me. They called me a liar and a troublemaker. I was told I should be thankful that someone had chosen to take me out on holiday. I was told to go down to the chapel. I was told to say ten Our Fathers and twenty Hail Marys. I wasn't lying. It hurt me so much. I learned to keep my mouth shut. I don't know how old I was at this time.

Leaving Nazareth House

55. I kept running away from Nazareth House. I sometimes ran away for over a week. They eventually wouldn't take me back. I was sent to Ganavan Children's Home, Pollokshields, Glasgow. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

56. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

57.

[REDACTED]

Beechwood Assessment Centre, Glasgow

58. I was sent to Beechwood Assessment Centre, Glasgow.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

59.

[REDACTED]

60.

[REDACTED]

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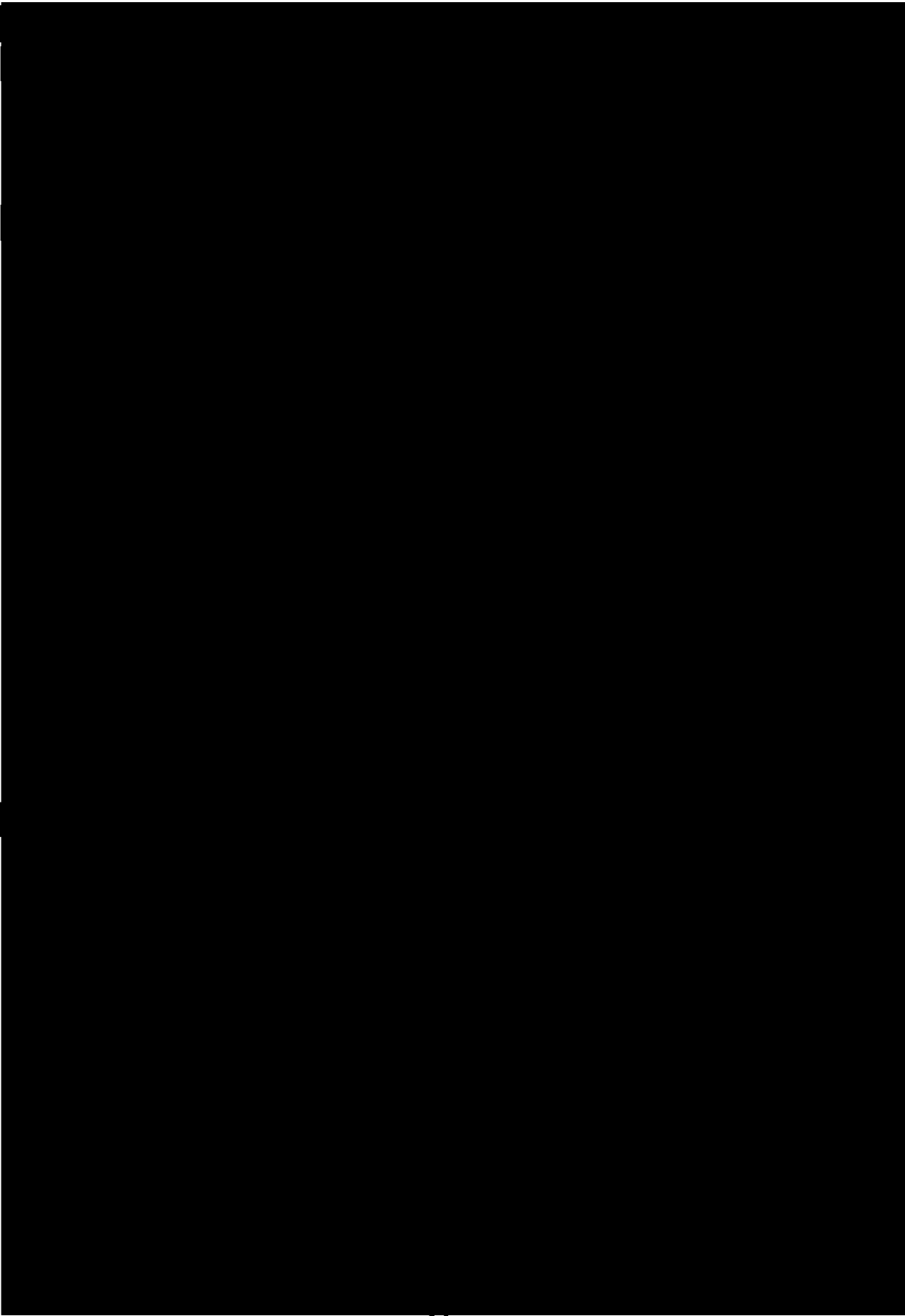
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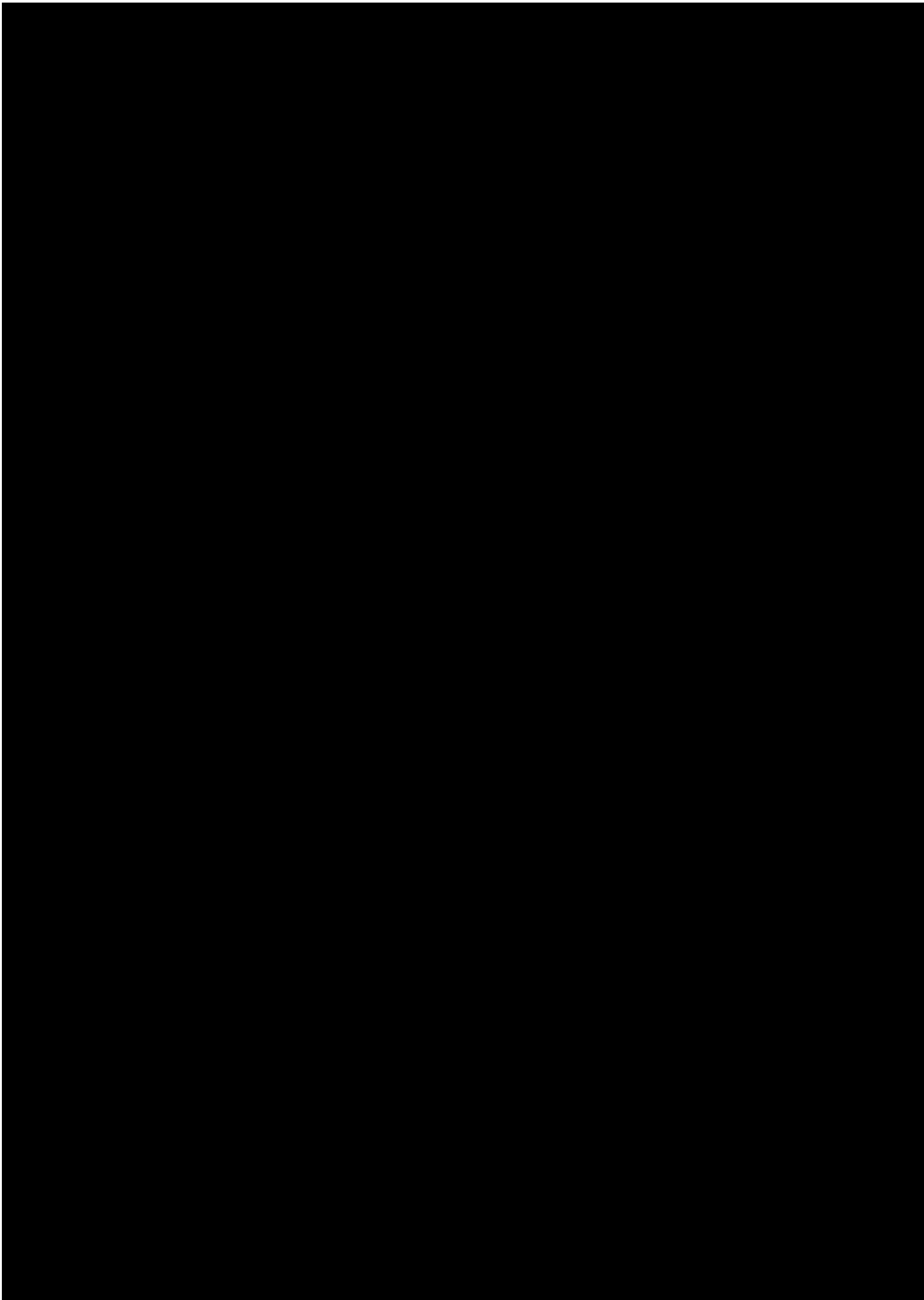
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Leaving Foster Care

77. [REDACTED] and I then went to stay with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I attended [REDACTED] School. I started sniffing glue and getting in trouble. I was only fifteen. I then went to [REDACTED] School, [REDACTED], Glasgow. I stayed with my Uncle [REDACTED] and Aunty [REDACTED]. I still felt like I didn't belong. I didn't stay at the school for long.
78. I got a job at [REDACTED] in Glasgow. I took another job somewhere else and then gave them up. The [REDACTED] couldn't control me. They had four kids of their own. I still say they only took [REDACTED] and me for the money. We never got anything out of it.
79. I moved to Aberdeen. I started drinking and I was smoking 'wacky backy'. I was getting in trouble. I had a probation officer. I tried to commit suicide. I decided I needed to sort myself out. I went to live with my sister [REDACTED] who lived in Edinburgh. I stayed with her until I was eighteen. I was still on probation. My probation officer was [REDACTED]. He got me a scatter flat. This is specifically for kids coming out of care.
80. The last time I tried to commit suicide I ran out of tablets. I would have been successful if it wasn't for that. The doctor was asking me questions. I was scared I was going to get committed. I didn't tell him exactly how I was feeling. All the pain was locked up inside me. I didn't know who I could trust. I thought no one was going to believe me. No one believed me in Nazareth House.
81. I had been given no preparation for life after care. I had no concept of money. I spent all my money on drink. I got off the drink myself. I cut it right down. I only have a drink on a special occasion. I would get quite aggressive when I was drunk. I would lash out.

Life after Care

82. I met my husband. He was a soldier. We were married for twelve years. He was a bit of a bully. He was manipulative. I found intimacy hard. We had three kids together. We stayed in Germany for a time.
83. When I had my children, I tried to bring them up the way I was brought up. I was strict. I knew it wasn't right. I became less strict. I realised that children were boisterous, that's just how they are.
84. I worked when I was married. I did night jobs. I worked in chippies and I worked as a cleaner. I found it difficult to hold a job down. I liked a night shift job as there was less people to work with.
85. My husband and I divorced and I met my last partner [REDACTED]. He died and I've not had a partner since.

Relationship with Siblings

86. I still keep in touch with some of my siblings. [REDACTED] lives in Ireland. I last saw her nine years ago. We keep in touch. [REDACTED] stays in England, I still see her. I don't see the rest of them.

87.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

88.

89. I go to a support group every Thursday night. I founded it with [REDACTED]. It's called [REDACTED]. My niece [REDACTED] goes too. [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Impact

90. I have trust issues. I find it hard to trust people. Trust is my biggest issue. I have been in the same job for three years and I still can't trust anyone. I don't have many 'friends.' I still have my best friend. She has been my best friend since I was twelve. I also have two close friends that I met when I was in Edinburgh.
91. I'm close to all my children. I see them all the time. I have nine grandchildren. I help to look after them. I enjoy that.

Hopes for the Inquiry

92. I hope that the inquiry raises awareness for other kids in care out there. I want them to be able to speak out. I did a radio show a while ago. I told people to come forward, to speak about their experiences. A hundred people called in. I was so pleased.

- 93. I would like for kids when they leave care to have some support. I had nothing. They should be taught money management and life skills. Counselling would be helpful too.

- 94. 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.....
 LCT

Dated 20-6-17.....