

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LCB

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LCB. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mum's name was [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED]. They had four children who are (oldest to youngest): [REDACTED] who has passed away, [REDACTED], myself then my sister LXB.
3. I don't know what my life was like before care. I have seen my social work records some years ago but there wasn't anything in them to say why I was in care. My dad said that my mum left him with us when I was eighteen months old. I think our address was [REDACTED] Edinburgh. I think my dad turned up at the social work department and asked for help and put us in care voluntarily.
4. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to Nazareth House in Lasswade first. LXB and I followed on. I was eighteen months old and LXB was three months. We were all there for a few years together. I was in Nazareth House from 1967 to 1979.

Nazareth House, Lasswade

5. The order of nuns was the Poor Sisters of Nazareth. There were two parts to Nazareth House. There was the big side and there was Holycot One and Holycot Two. These were joined together. I was in Holycot One.

6. There was a main house that you could see from the end of the drive where the mother superior stayed, along with other nuns who worked in the kitchen and with the hens and animals. The nun that looked after you stayed in your part of the building. Sister [LTX] stayed in Holycot One. The whole place was eventually joined together. They built a tunnel.
7. In the convent there could have been over 100 children altogether. The boys generally left when they were about twelve. The girls from babies up to sixteen years old. Kids could be in there short term if their mum was in hospital. Some kids were brought in and put up for adoption. I was eventually put up for foster care with my sister. My two brothers had left at that point.
8. Sister [LJS] was the nun in charge of us before Sister [LTX]. I think she must have been great because after she left she visited us and we just wanted to cuddle her. Sister [LTX] was in her thirties I think.
9. There were five nuns looking after 100 children. The only ones I can remember are, Sister [LKI] at the big side, I can't remember who was in Holycot Two. I think there was a Sister [LHT], who came after Sister [LTX]. I had left when this happened but I went for a visit. I'm sure there was a Mother Frances, but I believe there had been a few mother superiors over my time there. I think Mother Frances was in charge. A lot of the nuns were nice.
10. The staff, carers, were [LTK] and [LJZ] who had a room in Holycot One. They washed the clothes with the older children helping. Anne Dawson came in daily and [LKD] was in the kitchen.
11. My earliest memory of Nazareth House is from when I was seven. I came back from hospital after getting my tonsils out. At dinner time the other kids got ice-cream and wafers, but I only got ice-cream. This new nun, Sister [LTX] came in with the other nun, whose name I can't remember, and said there couldn't be much wrong

with me because I was eating. So she was quite bitchy. I didn't really think about it. I was only seven.

Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade

12. The routine was good. Strict but good. I don't know how Holycot Two was set up. There were six bedrooms for the kids in Holycot One. Holycot Two looked a bit bigger. There were sometimes two, three or four beds in a room. There were some single beds, so you'd get a bed to yourself if it wasn't too busy. There could have been 24 to 25 in Holycot One at any one time. It was mixed with boys and girls until the boys were about twelve.
13. Some kids were in Holycot Two and the rest were in the big side. We were apart from the other groups except when we went out to play. Sometimes, if it was nice weather we would go over to the big side and all play football. Sometimes the nuns would come for a kickabout. They'd always put on a show for other people.
14. I sometimes shared a bed with LXB and we mixed with our brothers all the time except in the dining room. All the girls sat together and all the boys sat together. We were allowed to go to the shops ourselves. They were careful not to let us out at night. You couldn't leave the grounds.

Mornings and bedtime

15. In the morning we would get up about seven or seven thirty, brush our teeth and get ready for school. We would go down and have our breakfast, say our prayers and go to school. Sometimes we had to go to church if it was a special saint's day, to do a mass before we went to school.
16. We would come home from school and get changed and maybe play for a wee while. Dinner was about five. We would then play for a while outside depending on the weather. The wee ones would get bathed early and put to bed earlier. I used to help change nappies and bottle feed them. I loved it, I loved the babies.

17. Bedtime was about 9pm. We'd put our nightwear on, have supper, toast and hot chocolate, or a piece of fruit. We would maybe watch TV for a while, give Sister LTX a kiss goodnight then go to bed.

Food

18. The kitchen was on the big side and the food got brought over on a trolley to us. All the kids and staff ate in the dining room. The nun didn't eat with us, she ate at the big side. The food was ok. We were well fed and clean.

Hygiene

19. We had baths twice a week. I got bathed by a member of staff until I was twelve. It wasn't until I went to high school that I went to a private bathroom and had a bath.

Clothes

20. We wore our own clothes, there was no uniform. I remember going to Edinburgh at Christmas and Easter and getting an outfit from C&A. Sister LTX took us in the minibus.

School

21. We went to St Mary's Primary School in Bonnyrigg. We walked to school. It was a fair walk and all the kids walked together. Most of the time I liked it because it got me away from the convent. We got homework from school and did it before or after dinner. Whenever it suited us.
22. One time I ran away with a boy and we got to Gorebridge. The police caught us and took us back to the convent. They bought us chips on the way. We didn't get punished.

23. When Sister [LTX] was nice, she was really nice. I remember being upset one day because one of the younger kids had ripped my jotter. We were meant to line up and give her a goodbye kiss before going to school but I walked past her. She called me back and I told her what had happened, so she gave me the day off and said she'd give me a note to take to school the next day.

Religion

24. Nazareth House had its own church. We had to pray every day before we went to school. We were made to go to church every Sunday. If it was a special day, we'd get up early, even on a school day, and go to church early. We had first communion at the convent and confirmation at school.

Leisure time

25. The grounds of the convent were lovely, always well-kept. We played outside if the weather was good. We would play outside at hide and seek, skipping, rounders. If the weather wasn't good we'd stay inside and play games. We would dance or watch TV. Sister [LTX] loved Elvis. It wasn't always doom and gloom in there.
26. We were taken to parks. We'd go to graveyards or we'd walk about the streets singing. We went to the pictures in Dalkeith. I remember going to see "Grease". We saw other films in the home. Somebody would come in with a projector, and we saw "Benji" and other films over at the big side in the games room. Every Sunday, the children from Holycot One and Two were taken to Bonnyrigg swimming pool. They were great times, but Sister [LTX] would always put a dampener on things with one of her moods. She was very moody. She would change at the flick of a finger.

Bed-wetting

27. I remember a few of the younger boys wet the bed and they got cold showers. I remember going to bed and all of them who had done it were lined up in the corridor

waiting to get a cold shower. This was during the night. It was Sister [LTK] who put them in the shower.

Holidays

28. We went to Dunbar every summer, and most of the time that would pass without incident. Sister [LTX] would sometimes sit with some of the younger ones. Because we had [] a [] girl, in Holycot One, we were put in the cottage hospital, which was at one end of the beach. The kids from the other part of the convent went to Castle Park Barracks. I think we went for two weeks. It was good because the staff looked after you more. We used to go to the outdoor swimming pool there.
29. There was a boy called [] He was two or three years old and nearly drowned in the sea. Sister [LTX] went into the sea, in her habit, and pulled him out by his hair and saved him. She didn't take him to the hospital.

Chores and pocket money

30. At weekends we would help with the housework, hoovering and dusting. We got pocket money unless we were bad. I can't remember how much we got, but we always got sweets. The staff would bring in a big bag of mixtures. They'd put them in little piles and your name was called out and you went over and got a wee pile. I spent my pocket money at Granny Clarke's in Lasswade. It was a Mrs Clarke who owned the shop, we called her Granny Clarke.

Birthdays and Christmas

31. Christmas was brilliant. We could get a big carrier bag filled with presents. I remember getting a Tiny Tears doll and a watch. I think the presents came from donations from outside, from shops and things. We put decorations up, a tree and the windows were all frosted. We had a nice Christmas dinner. We also went to pantomimes.

32. On our birthday we got a card and a present. I can't remember a cake, I don't know if the staff made you a cake.

Visits/Inspections

33. My dad visited every Sunday. He sent [REDACTED] to go and get us a bit of fruit. He punished the one who needed punished. There was always one of us. He would smack us with a belt in the reception room. He got the information from the nuns so they would have known this.
34. He would then sit and talk about the school, and we had to say good things or he would hit us. We didn't want him to visit us, we were scared of him. This was for an hour or an hour and a half.
35. I vaguely remember my mum coming to see us. I remember her taking us for the weekend. She was an alcoholic. She took us to an auntie's down in Leith.
36. A social worker from the Gorgie Dalry social work office came to visit us. I remember one called Anne Bradley. I think that was her name. I can't remember how many times they visited but we wouldn't say anything. We were too scared. A social worker took us for dinner sometimes, Mrs Paisley was her name. We had a few different social workers. They were always changing them.

Healthcare

37. The doctor came in regularly if we weren't well. We got our injections. A dentist came into the school to check our teeth.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade

38. Those who were in the home the longest got more of the abuse. Those whose mum and dad visited didn't get it so bad. They were disciplined, but not so harshly. The

[REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] got it bad. We were long-termers. When my dad came to visit, Sister [REDACTED] LTX spoke to him first. If she told him we were naughty we'd get it from him too.

39. When Sister [REDACTED] LTX was brushing my hair, and I don't know whether I moved or I fidgeted or something, but it would be a pull of the hair then a punch to the head.

The abuse was daily, not so much to myself but there was always one of the kids getting it. Punching, kicking, pulling hair. At that time [REDACTED] LXB and I had long hair. She threw brushes at kids' heads for laughing. She was really good at aiming her brushes. It was hard at times, the physical assaults on the kids. She would punch with the top of her fingers in a fist.

40. One time Sister [REDACTED] LTX made [REDACTED] LXB drink salt water until she was sick because she had accused [REDACTED] LXB of taking some Benylin or some sort of medicine. This was when we were on holiday in Dunbar. I was about nine or ten.

41. One time [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] and I were in the living room and [REDACTED] shouted because she needed the toilet. Sister [REDACTED] LTX and a member of staff were out in the hall talking. They weren't paying attention so she wet herself. Sister [REDACTED] LTX picked her up by her arm and smacked her bare legs.

42. Kids got accused of lighting candles and trying to burn the units. I can't remember the wee boy's name, but he got leathered for that. I don't think he was even old enough to strike a match.

43. She was funny because sometimes if you'd been naughty she didn't hit you, even if you'd done something bad. One time I hit someone with a cricket bat and she only sent me to my room. I really thought I was going to get it.

44. She would sometimes "send you to Coventry", which meant nobody was allowed to talk to you or play with you. Family, friends, no-one. Even at the dining room table.

The longest it lasted was three or four days. It was horrible being sent to Coventry. We could go to school but after that you weren't allowed out of the grounds. So you could speak to friends at school. It was the only time I liked going to school. My sister used to whisper to me in bed. You had to apologise to have it stopped. I didn't mean it when I apologised because I didn't know what I'd done half the time.

45. There was a time when LXB was in the bathroom trying to help ████████ to walk and she fell and hurt herself. Sister LTX asked everyone to go in and hit LXB but we didn't. She also punched LXB in the face because the school had said she didn't have a tie on. She ended up with a bruise on her face. The school then asked LXB how she got the bruise on her face, I think it was a Mr Mooney. He called the convent to say that LXB told him a nun had done it, so she got punished again.
46. There was always kids getting slapped about somewhere. It was just one of those daily things. You got used to seeing it. Somebody got hit every day. From when I was seven until I left, somebody always got it.
47. The most humiliating thing was when I was told to strip naked in the laundry room and Sister LTX smacked my bare bottom. I was completely naked and had to lie over a chair while she hit me with a slipper. She said I'd been to someone's birthday party without permission. One of the older girls walked in because they were in the laundry working. I can't remember who it was. The hitting went on and on. I was grabbing the chair with my legs so hard I had bruises, trying to grip on to it.
48. One time she accused me of breaking a set of rosary beads. I hadn't done it, but she punched me in the mouth and punched me so my head was hitting a wall. I had to say the devil made me do it, even though I hadn't broken them.
49. On one occasion, Sister LTX put a wooden splint on a wee boy's right arm to stop him sucking his thumb.

Leaving Nazareth House, Lasswade

50. My oldest brother [REDACTED] eventually went to the Quarriers home. My other brother [REDACTED] went to a remand centre. He was only nine when he was accused of setting fire to a locker and putting a child called [REDACTED] inside it. She was three or four years old but she wasn't injured.
51. I was seven or eight when this happened. I'd been at ballet with [REDACTED] LXB and a girl called [REDACTED]. We came back early because we were laughing at the ballet teacher's socks and she sent us home. We had to tell Sister [REDACTED] LTX we were back early, so she made us stand in a corner of the hall. We saw the fire engine in the grounds. A police officer and a nun took [REDACTED] into the reception area. We were sent upstairs and we heard [REDACTED] screaming.
52. I thought it was the police officer hitting my brother. Because of this I hated and couldn't trust the police until four years ago. I spoke to [REDACTED] and he told me it was the nun, Sister [REDACTED] LTX, not the police officer, who hit him with a wooden coat-hanger. He was sent to Howden Hall Centre. He was then fostered and eventually adopted by Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] from Tranent.
53. I left Nazareth House in 1979. [REDACTED] LXB and I were fostered by a couple in Glasgow. The social work thought enough was enough of us being in the convent and wanted to get us out. Mrs Paisley, our social worker at the time had the impression they would have turned us into nuns.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

112. At eighteen I got my own flat through the Livingston Development Corporation - West Lothian Council now. I started glue sniffing again. I met up with [REDACTED] who I knew from the assessment centre and another girl called [REDACTED]. We'd go to the pub as I tried to go out socialising and we started glue sniffing. I then started babysitting for people and that kept me out of trouble.
113. I fell pregnant when I was nineteen and had my daughter when I was twenty. I suffered from post natal depression when she was born, but I never got help with it. Her name is [REDACTED]. I've suffered from depression ever since. I've got schizo-affective disorder. That was diagnosed when I was 37. I've been on anti-depressants for 24 years and get injections for the schizo side of things. I found it hard to love my daughter when she was born. It took three months before I felt anything for her. [REDACTED] and my son [REDACTED] have turned out great. I had [REDACTED] when I was 23 or 24 and got even more depressed.
114. I went to visit the [REDACTED] now and again until I had another blow up. They split up and I saw [REDACTED] LMX. She moved into the same street as me, so I'd pop over with [REDACTED] my daughter. She was a baby then.

Impact

115. I had flashbacks when I was brushing my daughter's hair. Her hair was right down her back. I felt myself getting all uptight and I'd have to push her away. She was nine and I couldn't cope. I threw the brush away and told her to do it herself. Looking back, I was far too strict with my daughter but she turned out great. She works. She hasn't given me any hassle.
116. I had a social worker when I was going through a hard time with my neighbours. Her name was Moira Tickle, she was a good support. The police were at my door every day. I was being reported for being an anti-social neighbour. Moira wrote to my doctor about my moods. I self-harm. I cut my stomach and my legs when I get worked up and depressed.
117. As I said, I was diagnosed with depression in my 20s. A lot of anger came out at this time. I was angry about everything, life. I found it hard to express this to a doctor, so the social worker wrote to my doctor. I would go through phases of anger.
118. I got barred from Livingston shopping centre about two years ago because I just wanted to fight with everybody. [REDACTED] is my granddaughter. She was having a tantrum because she got the wrong kiddy meal in McDonalds. I was telling her to just eat it, but she was screaming the place down and this woman kept looking over, so I thought I'd just leave. She said something as I was passing her and it triggered me off. There was a big argument and the security got involved. I was threatening to punch her in the face. So I just went to Burger King.
119. I spoke to my community psychiatric nurse (CPN), and she said if that carries on while [REDACTED] is in my care she'd have to speak to the social work. That was enough to calm me down a bit. I still have a lot of anger.
120. Sometimes I don't think about it, but it could pop up when I'm watching TV and abuse is mentioned on the news. I don't sleep. I used to be great at sleeping, but when this all comes up I can't sleep. It's not that I worry about it, it just goes around

in my head. I close my eyes and see the nun. I think the worse thing about the abuse wasn't getting it but watching others being abused. That sticks in your mind more.

121. I hate religion. I hated my kids getting taught it at school. I stopped being involved with religion when I left the convent, after I went to a normal children's home and I wasn't going to church anymore. I thought this is what life is meant to be about. I hate the Catholic Church. I wouldn't even go to my daughter's friend's christening because it was held in a Catholic Church.
122. I was never a person who sat and cried when I was depressed. I do now, but not years ago. You just get used to hiding your feelings.
123. I was diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder when I was 37 when I first saw a psychiatrist for schizophrenia and depression. I started feeling like this when I was 25. I didn't get help because I was scared I'd get my kids taken from me. I had the feeling I was being watched by the police. I thought they were watching me through the TV, that my phone was tapped and that people were laughing at me; also that I was being followed and talked about. I stopped taking my medication between [REDACTED] 2007 and [REDACTED] 2008, and became an inpatient in the psychiatric ward, [REDACTED]
124. My mum ended up in Carstairs, then she went to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. She died six weeks after my dad died. He was 54 and died of stomach cancer.
125. I think I contacted my dad when I was in foster care, and I went to visit him with my boyfriend. He was acting like an over-protective father and threw my boyfriend out the house. I gave him another chance when [REDACTED] was born. He was brilliant with her, and then I fell out with him about decorating. He was decorating my house and I told him a bit was squint and he kicked off. I didn't see him again until he was dead. My dad didn't have mental health problems. He was just a bad man.
126. I've had a lot of support from CPNs, psychiatrists and my own GP. A few years ago they tried to get me into a group but I'm not one for mixing with people. I see the

psychiatrist every three or four months now. I see a CPN once a month. Both at St John's Hospital. I take anti-depressants and get a depo injection that lasts a month; it's slow releasing, for the schizo side of things.

127. My daughter tried to get me to go to a group for people who have survived abuse from care, up at Crofthead, but I couldn't go to it.

128. My sister [REDACTED] has her own family in Edinburgh. I haven't spoken to her for years. [REDACTED] LXB has a flat in Gorgie. [REDACTED] went to see him. [REDACTED] and I went to see him, but I didn't like what I saw. He has his own problems. [REDACTED] was 53 when he died in 2015. I hadn't been in contact with him since I was in Red House. The police told me he had died.

Reporting of abuse

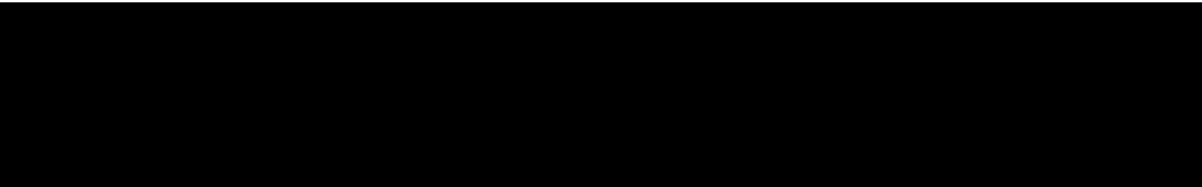
129. I told my GP and Esmee Murray about being assaulted by [REDACTED] LVK at the time. I have given a statement to a DC McNulty at Fettes regarding this. This investigation is ongoing. I'm waiting to hear back from them.

130. I disclosed the abuse from Nazareth House to the social worker Moira Tickle about 24 years ago. I just told her I used to get hammered. She took it to her senior.

131. I spoke to the police about the abuse by Sister [REDACTED] LTX seventeen years ago, when I saw it in the news that people had come forward. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I wasn't going to get involved but [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I decided to give a statement. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The police officer came to my house. Her surname was McQueen, from Livingston police station.

132. [REDACTED]

133.



134. My CPN and my psychiatrist know about the abuse. I told my friend [redacted] seventeen years ago and my children know.

Records

135. My records are in the Gorgie Dalry social work office. I got to read them when I was at the [redacted] home.

Lessons to be learned

136. There should be no smacking in care. Children are in there for their own protection.

Other information

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] LCB

Dated 27/9/17