

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Edward John CALVEY

Support person present: Yes [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1. My name is Edward Calvey. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mum and dad, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are both deceased. They were Irish immigrants and came to Scotland to work. They initially stayed in [REDACTED] Edinburgh. This is where I was born. We were only there for a short while because half the tenement block collapsed. We went back to Ireland until we got rehoused. We came back to Edinburgh, and we lived in [REDACTED] for a while and then got moved to [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I only have happy memories of my time at home with my family.

3. My dad worked a lot of the time on building sites. My mum was 42 when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Because of these problems my mum got taken into hospital. She was in hospital [REDACTED] for a while after. My dad needed help [REDACTED] [REDACTED] because he needed to work to pay the bills. My dad knew the local priest, and he sometimes came to the house. My dad sometimes went to football matches with the priest. I think that must be how my dad got to know about Nazareth House. I would have been ten years old, and I remember being asked if I wanted to stay at home or go to Nazareth House whilst mum was in hospital. I decided to go to Nazareth House because I thought it sounded like it would be a holiday. I had never

been away from home before. I presumed that [REDACTED] only going to be there until my mum was better

4.



5. I remember two social workers came to the house and picked [REDACTED] up in a minibus. I was quite excited about going and was looking forward to it.

Nazareth House, Lasswade

6. Nazareth House was a grey stone built building. It was run by the Sisters of Nazareth Order of nuns. They wore the usual black habits that nuns wore and the thing on their heads. I have no idea who was actually in charge. I seem to remember that we called the nuns "Sir". There were quite a few dormitories each with about twenty to thirty beds in them. There were wash rooms with two or three great big baths in them, like the baths you would get in a hospital, and a dining hall. Out the back of the building there was a football pitch. I would guess that there were about ninety to a hundred boys and girls in there. I think there would have been about twenty nuns. The nuns ran the football, apart from on a Sunday when a non-religious lady called [REDACTED] LJZ came in.

Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade

First day

7. I remember we drove up the long driveway, and could see there was a big building at the end. I suppose it kind of looked like a prison. We went in, and the social workers introduced [REDACTED] to a nun [REDACTED]. I seem to think it was Sister Francis who met us. That is the only nun's name that I can remember. She would have been in her thirties or forties then. I don't really remember being made to feel particularly welcome. [REDACTED] shown to [REDACTED] dormitories, and I think one of the social workers came [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mornings and bedtime

8. The nuns used to get us up in the morning. They would put the lights on in the dorm and start shouting at us to get up. That was usually at about 6:30am. We would get washed and dressed and then go down for breakfast. We had a bath nearly every morning. The nuns were always there supervising us in the baths, and they were always shouting at us. They gave us grey shorts, a shirt, a bomber style jacket and black cobbler style shoes. That's what we wore to school. We usually went to bed at about 7pm at night. When we were lying in our beds we were always told to lie on our backs with our hands by our sides, outside the covers. I don't know why we had to do that.

Food

9. Breakfast would be porridge and some bread. You didn't get a choice of anything else. You had to eat it. If you didn't eat it you would be punished. Generally the food was terrible. Even the main meal was bad. If you didn't like what was served you were made to eat it. If you didn't eat it you would get punished. You weren't allowed to leave the table until your plate was empty. If you didn't eat your food, you got hit.

School

10. I went to the local primary school. We just walked there. It was just round the corner. We had lunch at school. School was terrible because we stood out because of what we were wearing. The other children were horrible to us. They called us “the kids from the poor house”. I never made any other friends when I was at school. The teachers were alright to us. When we got back from school we would get changed and ready for our dinner. We got homework to do at school, and we just got on with it when we were at Nazareth House. The nuns didn’t help us with it.

Discipline

11. There was no written discipline code in Nazareth House that I was aware of. The main thing all the nuns taught you was that you were to be quiet and not make a noise. If you were making too much noise, especially in the corridors, you would get told to shut up, then you would get hit.

Leisure time

12. Whenever I had any spare time I would just play football outside. There wasn’t a television to watch. There weren’t any books, newspapers or comics to read. The only thing that was there that you could read was the bible. I can’t remember there being any toys to play with. I don’t recall there being any organised trips out anywhere. [REDACTED] LJZ [REDACTED] who was the only non-religious member of staff used to come in on a Sunday and supervise us playing football outside.

13. [REDACTED]

Running away

14. I remember a few times when we got back from school we talked about running away together. We had never run away before, and we wouldn't really have known where to go. We were too frightened about what would happen if we were caught. We never did run away.

Visits/Inspections

15. I stayed at Nazareth House over the weekend. I didn't go home. My dad came to visit [REDACTED] on a Sunday, and he brought [REDACTED] sweets and things like that. I never had any other visits. I never saw a social worker when I was there.

Religious instruction

16. We had to say prayers in the dining room before we had our meals. We had to kneel beside our beds at night-time before we went to our bed and say our prayers. We had to say prayers quite a lot.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade

17. If you didn't like your food the nuns would grab you by the back of your neck and force your face down towards your plate and shout at you to eat it. They didn't actually push your face into the food, just towards it. I saw this happening to most of the other kids at some point. The nuns would shout and bawl at you. They would shout that you had to eat the food and that it was good for you, and stuff like that. If you still didn't eat your food the nuns would clatter you across the back of your head with their knuckles. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
18. We had to line up when we were queuing for our meals. The nuns would shout at us if we weren't in a straight line, and then they would hit us on the head with their

knuckles. The nuns didn't like us speaking or making a noise, and they would constantly be shouting at us to be quiet.

19. The nuns came round the dorms through the night. If your hands were under your covers when you were in your bed they would use their knuckles again, and they would hit you on the head. That didn't happen to me, but I saw it happening to others. The nuns would just tell them that they were bad and hit them on the head.
20. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The nuns used to go round during the night, and I saw them checking other boys' beds to see if they were wet. Sometimes they would just pull my sheets back and have a look. I never wet the bed. When they were checking the beds of the boys who were bed wetters, I saw them check the sheets with their hands. One time I got woken up at about 6:00am because [REDACTED] had wet the bed. The nuns told me [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and for that reason they made me put [REDACTED] sheets in the bath. The nuns stripped the bed, and I remember them making me scrub the sheets with a block of green soap. I remember the nuns screaming and shouting at [REDACTED] and they were telling him that he shouldn't be wetting his bed. [REDACTED] was upset and crying when they were shouting at him. They woke me up a few times to do this. The nuns would check everybody's bed first thing in the morning, and they would also check some of them throughout the night. Sometimes I would hear the nuns shouting at someone calling them naughty, and then I would hear them getting hit and crying. I would hear this quite often.
21. The nuns regularly hit you over the back of the head with their knuckles. It never really injured me when they hit me, but it was sore. They just had bare knuckles and weren't wearing rings or anything like that. I don't remember any particular nun doing it, but I think they all did it. I don't remember if there was ever a time when a nun was nice to me.

Leaving Nazareth House

22. I am not sure exactly how long I was in Nazareth House, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Looking back it must have been about three months, but I can't be sure. I remember my dad came to visit one Sunday, and he told [REDACTED] that mum was getting out of hospital so that [REDACTED] going to be able to go home soon. A few days later the social workers came and took [REDACTED] back to my mum and dad's house at [REDACTED] Edinburgh.

Life after being in care

23. I went back to live with my mum and dad in [REDACTED] Edinburgh. Apart from getting into a bit of bother I got on fine at primary school and then at secondary school. My first job was working at Burton the tailors, and I have had many jobs since then. I am not sure why but I have had difficulty sticking to any one job. For the last ten years I have been a handy man at a hospital. I have been with my current partner for the last thirty years. We have two children together.

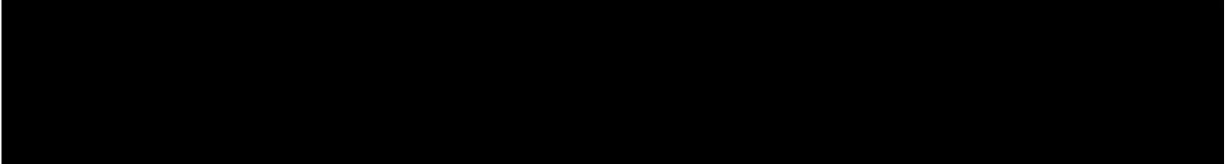
Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House

24. There was no-one at Nazareth House that I could have told what was going on. There was no point saying anything to the nuns, or I would probably have just got hit. I told my dad when he came on a Sunday to visit me, but he probably just said that [REDACTED] needed the discipline. I don't think he understood the scale of what was going on.
25. I never reported any of what happened to me to the police. I remember hearing an Archbishop saying that people who reported things were just looking for pots of gold. Because of that, it put me off telling anyone.

26. When I went to the school when I was at Nazareth House there was no-one at the school that I could have told. I was only ten years old, and the teachers really just looked down at me. They probably wouldn't have believed me anyway.

Impact

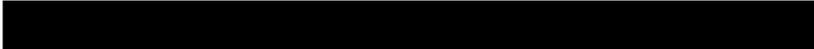
27.



28. When I left Nazareth House and started going to my local primary school near my house, I started getting into trouble. I started hitting people with my knuckles to their heads. I was doing exactly the same to other children as what had been done to me. I got into a few other bits of bother.

29. When I was fifteen I started drinking alcohol. I am not sure if I was doing it just to forget about my time in Nazareth House. I do think about my time in there quite a lot.

30. I find it very difficult to trust people. I am just worried that if something goes wrong, someone is going to hit me. Since I left Nazareth House I have never gone back to the Catholic Church, and I don't follow the Catholic religion. The nuns were supposed to keep me safe, and instead they screamed and shouted at me and hit me.

31. When I was at Nazareth House I sometimes had great difficulty sleeping. I think I was just lying there and was frightened. When I did fall asleep I would often wake up having nightmares.  Even when I went home to my parents I had great problems sleeping. I started to have panic attacks and couldn't breathe. One time my mother had to call out a doctor because I was having a panic attack and couldn't breathe. The doctor just said it was my nerves. I had these panic attacks for years. One time I had to call an ambulance myself. My partner came back and saw the ambulance at the door, and she was

really upset. For a number of years I was regularly having panic attacks and often was taken to the hospital by ambulance. My partner frequently found me and had to phone for an ambulance. My panic attacks subsided and I probably haven't had one for about twenty years.

Treatment / support

32. I have never had any counselling or anything like that. I was diagnosed with high blood pressure about three years ago. I am on medication to reduce my blood pressure.

Hopes for the Inquiry

33. I hope that as a result of this Inquiry something is put in place to support children in care. They have to be spoken to by an outside independent body who are prepared to listen to the children, and more importantly the children should be believed. I hope that this also results in better care for the children.

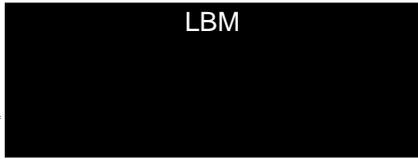
Records

34. I have never tried to get any of my records.

Other information

35. I have never tried to get any compensation. I have never tried to get back in touch with anyone at Nazareth House or gone to visit it.
36. I am happy for my information and details to be shared with other people and agencies to assist the Inquiry in obtaining information about me. 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.

LBM


Signed.....

Dated..... 25. 9. 17.