

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LCH

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is [REDACTED] LCH [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

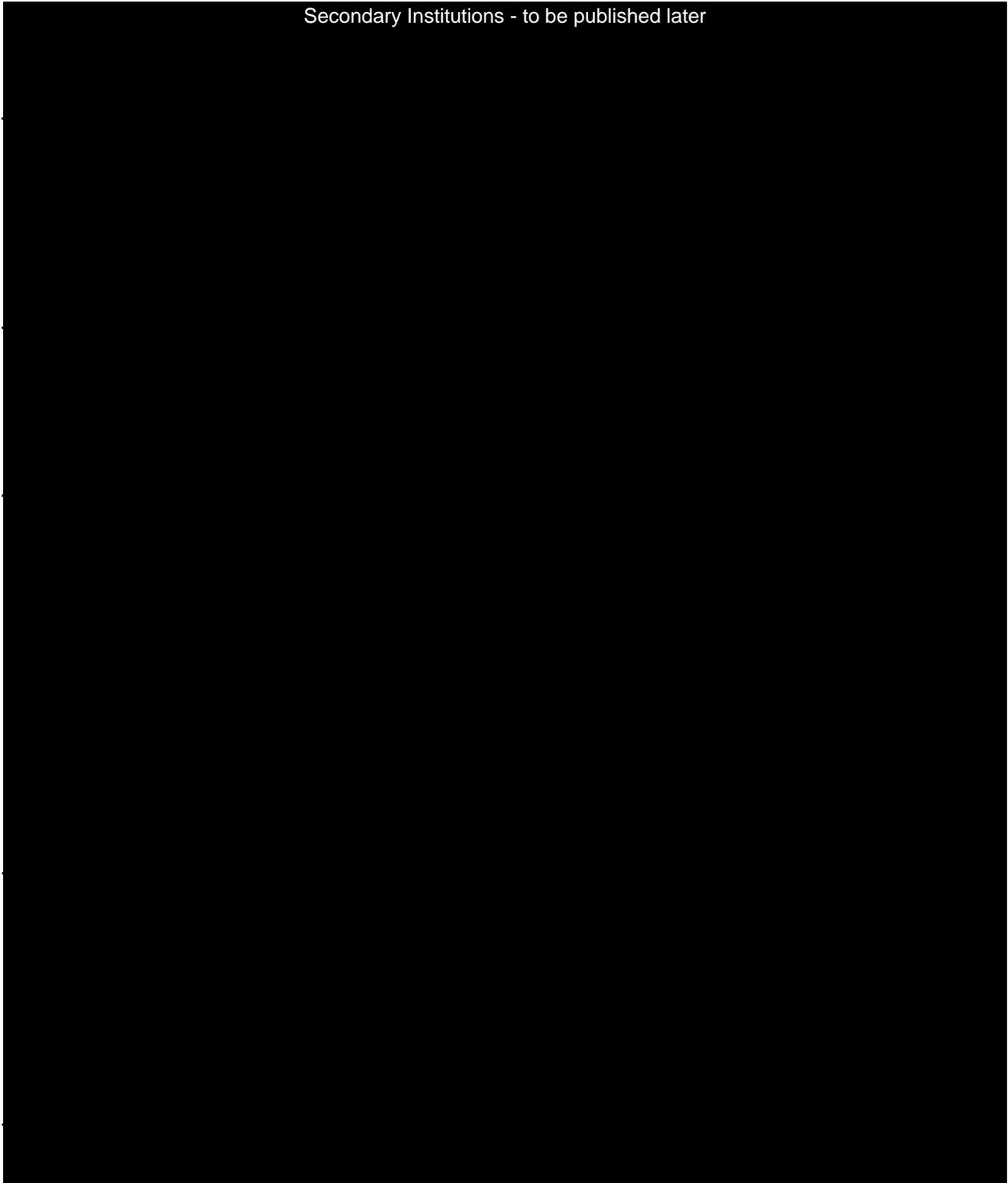
2. I lived with my mother in Duntocher before I went into care. My father left when I was very young. The only contact I had with him was on one occasion when I was about fifteen years old.
3. I had four older brothers, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] three of whom died in childhood. I believe [REDACTED] died of pneumonia and [REDACTED] drowned when he was out playing and fell into a burn. [REDACTED] who was a year older than me, had leukaemia and he died in the same week my mother gave birth to a baby girl, [REDACTED] who also passed away shortly after birth. They all passed away before I went into care. I only vaguely remember them. I think it's a deliberate ploy to forget as it hurts.
4. There was a time when I was in about five different homes over a four-year period. I am confused about what age I was in the different places. I can only remember bits and pieces. I'm honestly trying to recall everything but it was a long time ago. I know I was in Nazareth House for short periods of time. I think I was in two places which were run by nuns, one of which was in Kilmarnock.

5. My younger brother, [REDACTED] and I were always together right through our time in care. He is two years younger than me. My other brother [REDACTED] is five years older than me. He wasn't really brought up with me and [REDACTED] as he stayed with my mum.
6. I don't remember how old I was when I first went into a home. My cousin, [REDACTED] is a year older than me and she is a bit clearer about dates than me. She lived in the flat above us in Duntocher and went to St Mary's primary school with me. We were a close family. She remembers coming to visit us in the first home. She thinks I was in primary three at St Mary's when I first went away.

Nazareth House, Kilmarnock

7. I know that I was definitely in Nazareth House. That is locked in my mind. I don't know what age I was. I was there each time for maybe a month or a couple of months and then returned to my mother. My memory is that my mum kept trying to have us back to look after us at home but she wasn't able to. I'm not sure how long we spent back in her care. I lived in the home seven days a week when I was there and my mum used to come and visit us.
8. [REDACTED] and I were in a dormitory together with about twenty to thirty other children.
9. The home was run by nuns who were really cruel. They battered us and whipped us with canes for things like not sitting correctly, not sitting in the right place, and not doing as we were told. They hit us constantly. I was hit and saw other children being hit. I don't remember the names of any of the nuns. They were all the same. They were all twisted.
10. I don't actually remember telling my mother what the nuns did, but I think I would have as I would've had marks and bruises on me.

11. I never received any medical attention for the beatings. I did get medical treatment once when I broke my arm falling off a witch's hat in the playground. I think it happened in Nazareth House's own playground.



Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Contact with social services during time in care

60. My mother had a social worker called Mr Stansfield. I think he was the family social worker. I saw him over a period of about three to four years. He's dead now. He used to take [REDACTED] my mum and me out for fish suppers. I think that was around the time we were in and out of Nazareth House.

61. I remember him bringing my mum to [REDACTED] to see us. I don't remember seeing him around the time I was being abused at [REDACTED]

62. I think my mum was in a relationship with Mr Stansfield. I saw them together one time in my mother's house. He was still around after we left [REDACTED]. He used to come up to my mother's house now and again with fish and chips for her.

63. The only time I remember seeing any social workers in [REDACTED] was at the end when the guy killed himself. I remember social workers and the police came. I don't know who the social workers were. I don't remember anybody else coming to see me who I could've spoken to about my experiences.

64. A social worker called James Dean was the major social worker in my life. He was brilliant. He kept me on the straight and narrow. I might be dead were it not for him. He is now one of the top men in East Dunbartonshire Council. I'm not really certain when he became involved. My first thought is that he was involved from when I was aged between fourteen to eighteen, but I married my first wife when I was twenty-three and he was still involved then. I last spoke to him about

twelve years ago, but he had to pass me on to someone else. My brother keeps in touch with him. I'm one hundred per cent certain I spoke to him about what happened to me in [REDACTED]. I never told anybody the full detail of what had happened in [REDACTED]. I lived with that myself for so long.

65. I also remember going to hundreds of children's panels. It was like court. I think that's when James Dean came in. I went to panels years before I was moved to [REDACTED]. I didn't go to a panel before being moved from [REDACTED]. I was just moved straight into that place.

Life after the institutions

66. I went back to live with my mother full-time once I turned sixteen. [REDACTED] came back too. My mother couldn't control us. We both ran about the streets at all hours, like nutcases, doing whatever we wanted.

67. [REDACTED] and I had a bad reputation for fighting. We teamed up together until we were about twenty-five. We weren't liberty-takers but if somebody started anything, we would go ahead with them. You'd get bullied otherwise.

68. I've been married twice. My first wife left me with our three kids. They're all in their twenties now. I told my wives about what happened to me in the homes before I got married.

69. I've lived in America and Australia. The last time I was in Australia, I was basically working as a slave in a boat-sanding team. I was living in a tin shed with no running water and just a generator for power. We worked at night as it was too hot during the day. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

70. I came back to Scotland after that and lived in a homeless unit. That's one of the worst environments you can get. It was horrific.

Impact of experiences

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Treatment and support

76. I've seen several psychiatrists and psychologists, but I've never had any treatment that's helped. I ended up in a relationship with one of the psychologists. I was homeless at the time and she took me home and I stayed with her for three months. She was very controlling. She treated me like a slave. I get on well with females, but they can control me easily. The majority of my friends are female. I don't get on very well with males.
77. The last psychiatrist I saw was a woman called Dr [REDACTED]. I was referred to her about two years ago. My GP, Dr [REDACTED], referred me because I was hearing voices and having flashbacks. I had previously coped with that myself. I went to her for help and she twisted what I said and got me into trouble with the police. She asked me hypothetical questions and then contacted the police and reported me. She deliberately set me up. Because of what she said to the police, they believed that I had knives and swords and was going to stab a policeman. I was charged but it was later thrown out of court.
78. A psychiatrist from Stobhill Hospital sent me a letter in connection with my treatment which said something along the lines of "If you have been abused or been an abuser". It was put through my door at quarter past eight at night. The postman had obviously delivered it to the wrong house and someone opened it before passing it on to me. That was about a year ago. I know it was the woman who lives next door to me, but I can't prove it. I reported it to the police. I've been hassled by neighbours ever since. An old lady stopped me in the local shop and asked me if I was a paedophile. I've also had the word 'beast' sprayed on my window. I reported that to the police as well. I was so glad to see the mail from the Inquiry being delivered to me by recorded delivery. Really sensitive information should never be sent by ordinary post.
79. I don't ever want to speak to another psychiatrist. I'm done with them.

I've ended up in serious trouble every time I've tried to get help. That has made me not want to speak to anybody. I had serious doubts about speaking to the Inquiry because of what happened when I spoke to the psychiatrist and the NSPCC. I only came forward because I felt confident after speaking to people in the Inquiry witness support team that the same thing wouldn't happen again.

80. My GP is good. He reckons I've got a split personality. Dr [REDACTED] said I was schizophrenic because I [REDACTED] I don't think she's right because I felt the same way and had flashbacks before [REDACTED] I'm on a drug called Risperidone. It's a mind-altering drug. It was prescribed by Dr [REDACTED] I get the repeat prescriptions from my GP practice. At one point I was on 6 mg and I couldn't function, but it's now been reduced to 4 mg.

Current life

81. I've been in my current house for four years but I'm hoping to get a move because of the problems I've had with my neighbours.

82. I used to work as a computer programmer. I studied for an HND in computing at Clydebank College. I haven't worked in that field since I came back to Scotland. I've only worked casually. I'm not fit enough to work now. I can hardly walk at times. I don't touch computers now. If I were to have a laptop and someone got a hold of it and downloaded something suspect, that wouldn't look good for me and I wouldn't be able to prove it wasn't me.

83. I used to run a marathon a week and play rugby. I'm paying the price now for the way I played rugby. I use a stick to walk. My leg locks and I fall over. I've been told that they won't operate until I'm sixty. Not being able to run about freely like I used to affects my mental health as well.

84. I spend a lot of time on my own and rarely leave the house. I enjoy my own company. I don't have much time for other humans. I don't trust many people in life and I don't associate with many.

85. I see my one of my daughters and grandson, who is eight. My daughter brings my grandson to my house so I can spend time with him. I don't speak to my other daughter or my son now. Both of my daughters know that I've been abused, but they don't know the full detail.

86. My mum is dead now. I cared for her in the last ten years of her life and flew round the world with her. I'm glad I got to do that. I'm not close to [REDACTED] now. We were close up until my mum passed away.

87. Suicide is a thing I deal with every day. There are plusses that stop me, my grandson being the main one. My daughters and son are now old enough to look after themselves. When you've been so healthy and start to deteriorate over time, you question your quality of life and whether it's worth it. I don't know how I've managed to survive this long, I really don't.

Reporting the abuse

88. I reported the abuse to the police at Kirkintilloch police station about two years ago. I told them what had happened to me at [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be and [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions. As far as I'm aware, nobody has been charged and the investigation is ongoing. I might have been given a crime reference number, but I don't have it now. I haven't received any updates on the progress of the investigation. I don't think they're taking it seriously. I don't think they've spoken to my brother about it. He would have been on the phone to me if they had.

89. The police contacted the NSPCC and told them to get in touch with me. They came to my house to interview me. My whole experience with the NSPCC was shocking. I was absolutely livid when they left. They basically attacked me and accused me of being a paedophile. That's another thing I've had to try to get my head round. They twisted things in the same way the psychiatrist did.

90. For some reason, I can't just explain one part when I talk about what happened to me. I need to explain the whole lot. I remember seeing a girl in a tent in **Secondary Institutions - to** being touched by a few boys. I went into the tent because I was a child and was inquisitive, but I didn't touch her. The NSPCC asked me if I had touched her and when I told them that I hadn't, they asked me if I was sure about that. I was trying to tell them everything that had happened to me and they were questioning me and telling me that a large number of people who've been abused become abusers. That was hard. I know that that is the case, but there are a lot of people who don't. The NSPCC did eventually acknowledge that at the end of the interview. You'd think they'd have a proper format for questioning people about this kind of thing so that it's done right.

91. The woman who interviewed me also asked me why it was so important for me to find out what age I was when I lost my virginity. I had explained to her about my injury in **Secondary Institutions** and told her I was hoping it had been recorded in an accident book. I answered her question by saying that I was sure she knew what age she was when she lost her virginity. I know that was rude but she shouldn't have asked me that. The steam was coming out of her ears and she jumped to her feet and started talking through her walkie talkie. I think the NSPCC people need to be retrained. They also said to me that I was put into homes because my mother neglected me. There was I trying to tell them about my experiences in the homes and they were saying things like that. That's the worst thing you can say to someone.

92. I remember people used to say to me that I was being very brave reporting what had happened to me. I never understood why they said that. As far as I was concerned, all I was doing was telling the truth. I understand now why they said it. I haven't been right since I was interviewed by the NSPCC. If other people were thinking about reporting it, I would tell them not to do it and just live with it. What happened has made me worse. I know the NSPCC have a job to do but the way they went about it was wrong. After the interview, they handed me a booklet and that was the last I heard from them. They didn't even come back and say we've done our investigation and we know you're not a paedophile. I feel that this

is still hanging over me. Also, handing someone a booklet is no use. You can't get a manual for coping with life after abuse. It's an individual thing.

93. I didn't want to report the abuse when my kids were younger as I was scared to, especially with my mental health issues. I waited until I was fifty and my kids were older. Imagine if I had reported it when my kids were younger and the NSPCC had reacted the way they did.

94. I've had involvement with the police in relation to other matters. I have been brutalised by the police in the past and they've stitched me up. The officers who dealt with the cases against me are also based at Kirkintilloch police station.

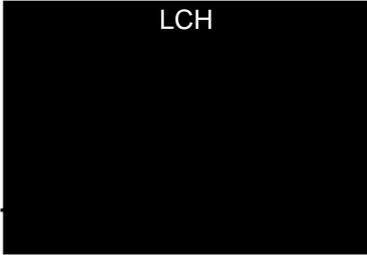
95. I've had other problems with the police on other occasions when they've either not believed me or not taken any action when I've reported crimes against me.

96. I don't know if I'll go back to the police about the abuse. I'll need to wait and see how I feel about things. I went to them in the hope that I could get the truth out and make sure the people who did things to me when I was young paid for what they did. That's why I spoke to the NSPCC as well.

Records

97. I've only ever wanted to see certain parts of my records as I'm too scared to read everything. I filled out forms to get the records from East Dunbartonshire Council but I didn't do it properly. I remember a signature of some sort was needed, maybe a doctor's, and I ended up not seeing the process through. That was well before the NSPCC interviewed me. They had my records when they came to see me. They had read them beforehand.

98. 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.

LCH


Signed.....

Dated..... 19/ FEB 2017

