

APPENDIX – Organisation (Sisters of Nazareth)

Part A – Background1. Characteristics1.1 History of the Organisation and Establishment

Past

- i. When, how and why was the organisation founded?

In 1851 Sr. Basile Marie (Victoire Larmenier), Little Sister of the Poor, came to London to establish a Foundation for the care of the elderly poor. This was at the request of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, strongly supported by Cardinal Wiseman, first Archbishop of Westminster. By 1857, the Sisters had built the first Nazareth House in Hammersmith, and by this time they were also caring for poor and infirm children. In 1861, the Hammersmith community was permitted by the Holy See to separate from the Little Sisters of the Poor, and in 1864 they were recognised by Rome as a diocesan religious community under the title Sisters of Nazareth.

- ii. What part did the provision in Scotland of residential care (including foster care) for children play in the organisation's purpose, operation and activities?

Each Foundation or House was established at the request of the local Bishop (Ordinary). Bishops invited the Sisters into their dioceses to care for these children. This was the foundation of our mission for children. The first such request following the Hammersmith Foundation came from a Bishop in Scotland. Right Reverend Dr James Kyle, the Bishop of North District of Scotland, asked the Mother General to found a house in Aberdeen to look after the poor. Thus, in 1862 the Sisters opened a house that provided care for children and care for the elderly. Thereafter The Sisters opened houses to provide care for children and the elderly in Kilmarnock, Glasgow and Edinburgh at the request of the local Bishops.

- iii. When and how did the organisation become involved in the provision of residential care (including foster care) for children in Scotland?

See answer 1.1 ii.

- iv. Why did the organisation consider that it had the competence to be responsible for, and manage the care of, children in establishments?

The Congregation has cared for children since its foundation in 1851 by our Foundress, Victoire Larmenier. The children were poor destitute children living on the streets of London with no one to care for them. Sisters could only come into a diocese if they were invited to do so by the local Bishop. The plight of children was very desperate in the early 20th century with many children living on the streets and in dire poverty. Bishops invited the Sisters into their dioceses to care for these children. This was the foundation of our mission for children.

- v. How many establishments did the organisation run, where were they located, over what period were they in operation, and what were their names?

There were four Houses in Scotland:

- **Aberdeen Nazareth House:** founded 18/02/1862: Children in residential care until 03/03/1983
- **Kilmarnock Nazareth House:** founded 04/02/1891: Children in residential care until April 1981
- **Glasgow (also known as Cardonald) Nazareth House:** founded 10/07/1902: Children in residential care until January 1985
- **Edinburgh (also known as Lasswade and Bonnyrigg) Nazareth House:** founded 28/07/1931: Children in residential care until 31/05/1984

vi. When, how and why was each of these establishments founded?

Aberdeen: This house was opened on 18/02/1862 for the care of “the aged and infantine poor” at the request of Right Reverend Dr James Kyle, who was the Bishop of North District of Scotland at the time.

Kilmarnock: This house was opened at the request of Right Reverend John McLachlan, who was the Bishop of Galloway at the time, on 04/02/1891. Kilmarnock Nazareth House opened its door for “the reception of the poor” – both elderly and children.

Glasgow: This house was opened on 10/07/1902 at the request of Right Reverend Charles Petre Eyre, Archbishop of Glasgow, for the reception of “the poor orphan and afflicted.”

Edinburgh: This house was opened at the request of the Right Reverend Andrew Thomas (Joseph) McDonald, Archbishop of Edinburgh, who wished the Sisters of Nazareth to take over the care of the children currently at a home in Edinburgh run by the Sisters of Charity. In August 1931 19 boys were admitted, who had previously been with the Sisters of Charity, and the nursery opened with the admission of the first baby girl in October of that year. In June 1933, with the opening of a new wing, 65 girls were also admitted from their home with the Sisters of Charity

vii. In the case of any establishment which is no longer in operation, when and why did it cease operating?

Aberdeen: The Children’s Home in Aberdeen closed on 03/03/1983 once the last child had left. The Home closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the House. There were fewer referrals over time due to changes in government legislation with regards to the residential care of children. The legislation meant that foster care became the preferred option for children. There were also fewer sisters to run the homes. Aberdeen Nazareth House, which had continued to accommodate the elderly residents and the Sisters since March 1983, closed altogether on 01/04/2006.

Kilmarnock: The Children’s Home in Kilmarnock closed in April 1981 once the last child had left. The Home closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the House. There were fewer referrals over time due to changes in government legislation with regards to the residential care of children. The legislation meant that foster care became the preferred option for children. There were also fewer sisters to run the homes.

Kilmarnock Nazareth House, which had continued to accommodate the elderly residents and the Sisters since April 1981, closed altogether in May 2002, although the last Sisters did not leave until the House was finally sold in June 2004.

Glasgow: The Children's Home in Glasgow closed in January 1985 once the last child had left. The Home closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the House. There were fewer referrals over time due to changes in government legislation with regards to the residential care of children. The legislation meant that foster care became the preferred option for children. There were also fewer sisters to run the homes. Glasgow Nazareth House, which has continued to accommodate the elderly residents and the Sisters since January 1985, remains open.

Edinburgh: The Children's Home in Edinburgh closed on 31/05/1984, once the last child had left. The Home closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the House. There were fewer referrals over time due to changes in government legislation with regards to the residential care of children. Edinburgh Nazareth House, which has continued to accommodate the elderly residents and the Sisters since May 1984, remains open.

- viii. If the organisation itself is no longer involved in the provision of residential care for children in Scotland, when and why did it cease to be so involved?

The Congregation has not provided residential care for children in Scotland since the last child left Glasgow Nazareth House in January 1985. All the children's homes run by the Congregation in the United Kingdom were closed due to the drop in the number of children being referred to the homes in consequence to new legislation and fewer Sisters being able to assist.

- ix. If the organisation was founded as a religious order by members of a particular faith or church, what was the precise relationship between the order and the religious hierarchy within that faith or church?

Victoire Larmenier was invited to perform her charitable work in London (1st foundation) by the then Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Wiseman, in 1851. The Congregation is a Pontifical Congregation directly under Rome. The Congregation is autonomous however it is answerable to the Pope. If changes are made to its constitution then those need to be approved by Rome. Local Bishops had no authority over the Congregation. Thus although Sisters worked within a particular diocese by invitation of the area Bishop, the Bishop had no direct power or jurisdiction over either the ministry of the Sisters or the Sisters themselves. The Bishop would examine the Sisters prior to them making their Final Vows. Bishops also visited the houses regularly throughout the 1950s and 1960s. However, such visits would not be in any official capacity relating to the elderly, children or staff, but rather in a pastoral, caring role. He was free to walk around the House visiting the elderly, children and Sisters.

- x. Within the faith or church to which the religious order belonged, what degree of autonomy was enjoyed by the order in relation to the provision of residential care for children in Scotland?

See answer 1.1. ix. The Sisters had full autonomy within each House in relation to the provision of residential care for children.

- xi. In the case of establishments that were run by members of a religious order, what degree of autonomy within the order itself was enjoyed by such members?

See answer 1.1. ix. Each House had a community of Sisters, one of whom was the Superior of the House. The Sisters were accountable and responsible to the Local Superior both in their religious life and their ministry.

Present

- xii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

N/A. The Congregation no longer provides child care.

On 3 September 1965 The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth was registered with the charity commission in England and Wales (registration 228906). On 18 May 2009 it was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity's Regulator (registration SC040507).

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth Charitable Trust now works in partnership with the Nazareth Care Charitable Trust. The Congregation now only undertakes a purely governance role. Nazareth Care Charitable Trust provides care to the elderly in Scotland at two homes.

- xiii. If so, please give details.

See 1.1xii above.

1.2 Funding of Establishment

Past

- i. How were the establishment's operations and activities, so far as relating to the provision of residential care for children, funded?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- ii. Was the funding adequate to properly care for the children?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iii. If not, why not?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iv. What state support did it receive?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

Present

- v. If the establishment continues to provide residential care for children, how is that funded?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- vi. What state support does it receive?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

1.3 Legal Status

(a) Organisation

Past

- i. What was the legal status of the organisation since it was founded?

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth is a private voluntary organisation. It was founded in 1851 by Victoire Larmenier who was a Paris novitiate of the Little Sisters of the Poor. She came to England to make a foundation in London caring for the elderly. In 1857 she built the first Nazareth House in Hammersmith, London. By this time The Sisters were caring for poor children as well as the elderly.

In 1861 The Sisters separated from the Little Sisters of the Poor as an independent pious society of laywomen.

In 1864 they were recognised as a diocesan religious community 'The Sisters of Nazareth'. Around this time further Nazareth houses were founded in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

In 1899 the constitutions of the Sisters of Nazareth were approved meaning that it was recognised as an international religious congregation.

On 3 September 1965 The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth was registered with the charity commission in England and Wales (registration 228906). On 18 May 2009 it was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity's Regulator (registration SC040507).

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth Charitable Trust now works in partnership with the Nazareth Care Charitable Trust. The Congregation now only undertakes a purely governance role. Nazareth Care Charitable Trust provides care to the elderly in Scotland at two homes.

The Nazareth Care Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee and was registered under the name of Victoire Larmenier Foundation with Companies house on 26 July 2005 with the company registration number 05518564. On 6 April 2006 it was registered as a charity with the charity commission in England and Wales (registration 1113666). On 10 June 2011 it was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity's Regulator (registration SC042374).

- ii. Were there any changes in the legal status of the organisation since it was founded?

See 1.3 (a)i.

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- iii. What, if any, material changes were there to the legal status of the organisation?

See 1.3 (a)i.

- iv. What was the legal basis which authorised or enabled the organisation to become responsible for the provision of residential care (including foster care) for children in Scotland?

See Appendix A.

The 1908 Children Act redefined Industrial schools as schools “for the industrial training of children in which children are lodged clothes, and fed, as well as taught”. From 1877 Nazareth House Aberdeen was an Industrial School for girls.

The Children & Young Person’s (Scotland) Act 1932 defined a voluntary home as a private establishment supported by voluntary contributions where children and young persons could reside away from their families. The Act required homes to register and to renew their registration annually. The establishments run by The Sisters would fall within this definition.

In addition the Act governed the approval of schools intended for the education and training of persons to be sent there under the 1908 Act (and then the 1937 Act – discussed below). The managers of schools could apply to the Scottish Education Department to approve the schools and then in turn it could receive funding. The Act provided that managers of an approved school were under an obligation to provide clothing, maintenance and education of persons under their care. Managers were also obliged to provide assistance, help them obtain employment and to provide medical care. Managers and fit persons to whose care children were committed had parental responsibilities and rights. Nazareth House Aberdeen was an Approved School for girls from 1933.

The Children & Young Person’s (Scotland) Act 1937 defined a voluntary home as any home or other institution for the boarding, care and maintenance of poor children or young persons, being a home or other institution supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions. The establishments run by The Sisters would fall within this definition. The Act also provided for children to be placed into care under a court order.

The Children Act 1948 made it a duty for local authorities to provide homes to accommodate the children in their care. If the authority was unable to provide this accommodation itself then it could discharge its obligation by arrangement with another local authority, boarding out or placing the child in a voluntary home. If the home was not registered with the Secretary of State the Act gave the local authority the right to remove the children from a voluntary home. The establishments run by The Sisters fell within this definition of a voluntary home.

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 defined “residential establishments” as “an establishment managed by local authority, voluntary organisation or any other person which provides residential accommodation for the purposes of

the Act". Local authorities had to provide and maintain these residential (and other) establishments or arrange for them to be so maintained. Establishments not run by the local authority had to apply to be registered prior to admitting residents. The Act also provided for existing establishments to be registered. The establishments run by The Sisters would fall within the definition of residential establishment.

- v. Did that legal basis require the organisation to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in its care? If so, please give details.

See Appendix A for details.

There were a number of requirements relating to:

- Registration
- Inspections
- Visits
- Management
- Record keeping
- Medical care
- Standards of sleeping accommodation
- Discipline

- vi. Did the organisation have a legal duty of care to each child in its care?

See Appendix A.

The Children Act 1908 provided that managers of Industrial Schools were obliged to teach, train, lodge, clothe and feed the children.

The Children & Young Person's (Scotland) Act 1937 emphasises the duty of parents and others caring for children in respect of their physical welfare. This would apply to those looking after children in voluntary homes. In relation to approved schools managers and fit person to whose care children were committed had parental responsibilities and rights. Managers were also obliged to provide assistance, help them obtain employment and to provide medical care. Managers and fit person to whose care children were committed had parental responsibilities and rights.

Under the Children Act 1975 Act a local authority could assume parental rights itself. It could also permit voluntary organisations that were incorporated bodies or trusts to assume these rights. However this was only if it was in the child's best interests.

Under the Social Work (Residential Establishments – Childcare) (Scotland) Regulations 1987 managers of these establishments were deemed to have a duty to provide for the care, development and control of each child resident there in such a way as would be in the child's best interests.

These regulations were replaced by The Residential Establishments – Child Care (Scotland) Regulations 1996 which imposed a similar duty on managers to ensure that a child's welfare was safeguarded and promoted in accordance with the child's best interests.

Furthermore the organisation had a common law duty to take reasonable care.

Present

- vii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

N/A. The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- viii. If so, please give details.

See 1.3(a) vii above.

- ix. If the organisation is a Scottish local authority, please provide details of the predecessor authorities for the local authority area for which the authority is now responsible, and the time periods during which these authorities were the responsible authority for the area, or any part thereof.

N/A.

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. Did the establishment have a special legal, statutory or other status?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- ii. If not, how was the establishment described?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iii. What was the legal basis which authorised, or enabled, the establishment to become responsible for managing the care of children in a residential setting?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iv. Did that legal basis require the establishment, or its management, to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in its care? If so, please give details.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- v. Did the establishment have a legal duty of care to each child in its care?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

vii. If so, please give details.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

1.4 Legal Responsibility

(a) Organisation

Past

i. Did the organisation have any legal responsibility for the children in its care?

Yes.

ii. If so, what was the nature and extent of that legal responsibility?

See Appendix A and 1.3(a)vi above.

iii. Did any other person or organisation have any legal responsibility for the children while they were in the organisation's care?

Yes.

iv. If so, what was the nature and extent of that responsibility?

See Appendix A.

The Children (Boarding-out etc.)(Scotland) Rules & Regulations 1947 provided that if a local authority was responsible for a child and chose not to place it with a foster parent then the local authority could place the child in an institution inspected or approved, by the Secretary of State. The local authority had wide powers to make sure that the institution they chose suited the child's best interest. They could visit the institution and satisfy themselves about the arrangements for the child's welfare. The authority had a duty to arrange visits to the children at least once a year with the visiting officer reporting to a local authority on a six-monthly basis regarding the child's health, wellbeing and behaviour, the progress of the child's education and any other matters after visiting the establishment.

Under The Children Act 1948 the local authority's powers to promote children's welfare were confined to caring for the children they received into care under the 1948 Act and those committed to their care by a court order under the 1937 Act. Where a local authority had taken a child into care then there was a general duty on the authority to use their powers to further the child's best interests. They could not place children in homes unless it afforded the child a right to receive a religious upbringing appropriate to their background. Furthermore, where a child was placed into a voluntary home the local authority and the Secretary of State had the powers to remove children from these homes. They had a duty to inspect homes. They had a duty to ensure that children received visits.

The Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959 required that the local authority (and others running such homes) to make sure that it was run in ways that secured the wellbeing of the children in its care.

Under The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 the local authority could assume

parental rights if the children's parents were dead, the child had no guardian or the parent/guardian could not care for the child. Local authorities had to provide and maintain residential (and other) establishments or arrange for them to be so maintained. The local authority could remove a child at any time. Each local authority was required to set up a social work committee and had to perform their functions under the general guidance of the Secretary of State.

The Children Act 1975 provided that any decision by a local authority about a child in its care had to take account of the need to safeguard and promote the child's welfare throughout their childhood.

The Social Work (Residential Establishments – Childcare) (Scotland) Regulations 1987 required the local authority to visit the establishment annually to make sure that it was maintaining the standards it had when first registered. If the establishments were managed by the local authority then the local authority was deemed to have a duty to provide for the care, development and control of each child resident there in such a way as would be in the child's best interests. Managers had to provide a "statement of functions and objectives". This statement included a lot of detail such as: arrangements for meeting the needs/development potential of children, education, safeguarding the children, disciplinary arrangements, arrangements for keeping records, policies for recruiting staff and healthcare arrangements, amongst other things. Managers had to monitor how these were being implemented by receiving reports on a six monthly basis and visiting the establishments twice a year. They also had the power to make arrangements for caring for/controlling children. However, they could not authorise corporal punishment. Managers had duties to ensure that the children were getting an adequate and effective education as well as religious education appropriate to their religion. They had responsibilities to ensure the Children's health.

The Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 imposed a duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. They had to undertake reviews of those in their care at regular intervals. They had to take the child's views into account. They had to promote contact with those who had parental responsibilities. They had to prepare and publish plans. Again the local authority had to provide accommodation for children where nobody had parental responsibilities, they were lost or abandoned or where those with responsibilities could not provide suitable accommodation and care. This included putting the children into residential care. In respect of inspections the Act permitted anyone authorised by a local authority to go to a registered establishment at all reasonable times. They could undertake an inspection into the state and management of the premises and the condition and treatment of person in it. The local authority had to visit establishments at least once a year to ensure that they were maintaining their standards.

The Residential Establishments – Child Care (Scotland) Regulations 1996 required local authorities to visit registered establishments annually (at least) and ensure compliance with the statement of functions and objectives and that the establishments were maintaining residents' safety and welfare.

The Arrangements to Look After Children (Scotland) (Regulations) 1996 required local authorities to prepare a care plan before taking a child into care and they also required the authority to give written notice of any

placement to various bodies. Local authorities had to undertake frequent reviews of the care plans and record their findings. They also had to keep extensive records including: the care plan, any report on the child's welfare and review documents. In terms of monitoring care the local authorities had to ensure that prior to being placed the children were examined by a doctor and thereafter received health care throughout their placement. They had to arrange three monthly visits and retain reports of those visits. They could end the placement if it was no longer in the child's best interests.

- v. If the organisation had no legal responsibility for children in its care, where or with whom did legal responsibility lie?

N/A. The Sisters did have a legal responsibility. See 1.3(a)vi above

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. Did the establishment, or those in charge of the establishment, have any separate legal responsibility (separate from the organisation) for children in its care?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- ii. If so, what was the nature of that responsibility?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

Present

- iii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iv. If so, please give details.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

1.5 Ethos

(a) Organisation

Past

- i. What did the organisation see as its function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the residential care service it provided for children?

The Constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth define who the Sisters are as a Congregation and guides their way of life. The Constitutions set out the mission of The Sisters. The Constitutions set out their mission as follows:

1923 edition: “the reception and education of foundlings or abandoned children, of those who are deformed or who suffer from incurable diseases, provided these diseases be not mental, epileptic or contagious.”

1962 edition: “the reception of orphan or abandoned children, of those who are deformed or who suffer from incurable diseases, provided these diseases be not mental, epileptic or contagious” “The Sisters may also teach in parish school, conduct day nurseries and establish maternity homes, chiefly for unmarried mothers, when requested to do so by the Ordinary.”

1979 edition: “the care of needy and deprived children, whom the Sisters receive into houses properly adapted to that purpose” also “teaching in parish primary school, conducting day nurseries”, care of maternity homes”

1984 edition: “the care of deprived children, whom the Sisters receive into houses properly adapted to that purpose” also “day nurseries, teaching in schools, Catechetics, Maternity Homes”

- ii. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, what vows were taken by members of the order and at which point in their training?

After 6 to 12 months as a postulant a young woman is Received into the Congregation and is a Novice for 1 to 2 years, after which she takes three vows of chastity, poverty and obedience for one year. These vows are renewed annually for three years, and then for a further two years before she takes her Final Vows after 5 years.

- iii. What did the organisation see as the establishment’s function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the service that the establishment provided to children accommodated there?

The function, ethos and mission of each Nazareth House was to provide a service to children in the following ways:

- To foster Christian values and morals
- To provide a loving, caring and safe environment
- To provide or enable an appropriate education and training for life
- To encourage development of children via lots of different activities, holidays etc

- iv. Were there changes over time in terms of what the organisation saw as its function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the residential care service it provided for children?

The ethos remained the same throughout. In essence the Congregation saw its function, in terms of its apostolate to children, as the care of needy

children. The way in which this care was provided changed and developed in line with changes in society and government legislation regarding child care.

- v. If so, what were the changes and when and why did they come into effect?

See 1.5(a)iv above.

- vi. Were there changes over time in terms of what the organisation saw as the establishment's function, ethos and/or mission in terms of the service that the establishment provided to children accommodated there?

The Congregation saw the function of the Sisters' work with children at all of the Nazareth Houses as providing the best possible care for the children living at the Houses. This did not change. The way in which care was provided changed over time in line with changes in society and in government legislation regarding the residential care of children.

- vii. If so, what were the changes and when and why did they come into effect?

The ethos of the Congregation remained the same throughout however there were practical changes. In the 1950s family groups began to be introduced at the Houses so that smaller numbers of children of both sexes could live together. In 1970s changes in professional guidelines and legislation led to the promotion of fostering as a preferable alternative to residential care, so children were admitted for shorter periods of time to the Houses.

Present

- viii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- ix. If so, please give details.

N/A

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. What services were provided at the establishment, in terms of care for children?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- ii. Did the establishment care for children of both sexes?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iii. If the establishment cared for children of one sex only, what was the thinking behind that policy?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iv. Were any special child care, or child protection measures, taken in the light of that policy? If so, please provide details.
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.
- v. What was the daily routine for boys/girls cared for at the establishment?
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.
- vi. What were the on-site activities for children cared for at the establishment?
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.
- vii. What were the off-site activities for them?
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.
- viii. Did children work manually, either at the establishment, or externally (e.g. farming work or other labour), or both?
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.
- ix. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, were any prospective members of the order who were in training permitted to care for children?
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

Present

- x. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.
- xi. If so, please give details.
See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

1.6 Numbers

(a) Organisation

Past

- i. How many children did the organisation accommodate at a time and in how many establishments?

There were four establishments in Scotland:
Aberdeen 1862-1983, Kilmarnock 1891-1981, Glasgow 1902-1985,
Edinburgh 1931-1984

Number of children accommodated in Nazareth Houses in Scotland:
(numbers of children in residence at one point in time each year)

1929	567
1930	632
1931	674
1932	688
1933	681
1934	688

1935	655
1936	662
1937	686
1938	682
[1939-1940 no extant statistics]	
1941	681
1942	720
1943	749
1944	739
1945	641
1946	674
1947	670
1948	676
1949	660
[1950 no extant statistics]	
1951	630
1952	570
1953	521
1954	473
1955	432
1956	406
1957	397
1958	384
1959	315
1960	276
1961	352
1962	328
1963	333
1964	344
1965	302
1966	349
1967	345
1968	347
1969	340
1970	345
1971	333
1972	318
1973	296
1974	305
1975	307
1976	312
1977	287
1978	249
1979	213
1980	190
1981	68
1982/1983	36
1984	7
1985	0

- ii. Please provide details of any material changes in numbers of children, or numbers of establishments, and the reasons for those changes?

Numbers of children in Nazareth Houses in Scotland were substantially reduced by the end of 1950s due to the creation of family groups within the

Houses. More space was required within each House and thus overall numbers were reduced. Also, numbers of children were steadily decreasing in the 1970s and 1980s due to the changes in legislation and guidance regarding the care of children, which resulted in fewer referrals.

- iii. How many children in total were accommodated by the organisation?

14,766 children were accommodated in Scotland by the Congregation:
(Aberdeen 6120, Kilmarnock 2055, Glasgow 3895, Edinburgh 2696)

- iv. What numbers (if any) were placed in foster care by the organisation?

The Congregation did not place any children into foster care. The social work services may have placed children at Nazareth House into foster care however The Congregation have no records relating to this.

- v. In general terms, was the main service provided by the organisation the provision of residential care for children in establishments, or was it the provision of foster care?

Provision of residential care.

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1xii above.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. How many children did the establishment accommodate at a time?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- ii. Did this change, and if so, what were the reasons?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iii. How many children in total were cared for at the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- iv. What accommodation was provided for the children?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- v. How many children occupied a bedroom/dormitory/house?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- vii. If so, please give details.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

1.7 Children's Background/Experience

Past

- i. Did the children admitted to the establishment generally have a shared background and/or shared experiences?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- ii. Were children admitted into the care of the organisation as a whole, or were they admitted into the care of a particular establishment?

Children were admitted into a particular house but could be moved between houses; for example, prior to the introduction of family groups, children, leaving a nursery in a single-sex house were moved if necessary into a house which accommodated boys or girls. Houses occasionally changed locations, e.g. temporary accommodation when there was a fire at Aberdeen in 1939, or during war-time.

- iii. If children were admitted into the care of the organisation, did the organisation decide which establishment they would be admitted into?

Occasionally, in earlier years, children were given into care of the Congregation and went into the care of whichever house had room for them. However, in general children were admitted by the particular House rather than the Congregation. Children were usually placed near to their family if this was possible.

- iv. Who placed children with the organisation?

Local authorities, Edinburgh Catholic Enquiry Office as arranged by diocesan authorities, the St Vincent de Paul Society, parish priests and private individuals placed children into the care of the Congregation.

- v. From 15 April 1971 (the date on which the Children's Hearing system was introduced), did the organisation/establishment receive children mainly from the Children's Hearing system?

The Congregation were not involved with the Children's Hearing system but through that children were placed with the Congregation.

- vi. If not, how generally did children come to be admitted into the care of the organisation?

See 1.7iv above.

- vii. Was there a gender or other admission policy or practice operated by the organisation or any establishment run by it?

Between 1930 and the late 1950s there were some houses that practiced a policy of housing either boys or girls. Most of these also accommodated babies of both sexes. Some houses had units specifically for mothers and babies.

Kilmarnock and Glasgow Nazareth Houses accommodated girls only until 1960s along with babies of both sexes.

By the late 1950s, with the introduction of family groups, both sexes were accommodated in all of the Congregation's children's homes.

- viii. What was the policy/procedure and practice regarding admission of siblings?

Until the late 1950s, siblings of different sexes were sent either to different houses, or lived in different wings within the same house. In Aberdeen boys and girls were kept separate. From the late 1950s sibling children were in different groups but within the same house.

- ix. How long did children typically remain in the care of the organisation?

The length of time children spent in a Nazareth House varied from their whole childhood to a few days depending on their circumstances. The length of stay in general was much decreased by the 1970's.

- x. Were children moved between different establishments run by the organisation?

Children were admitted into a particular house but could be moved between houses; for example, prior to the introduction of family groups, children, leaving a nursery in a single-sex house were moved if necessary into a house which accommodated boys or girls. Houses occasionally changed locations, e.g. temporary accommodation when there was a fire at Aberdeen in 1939, or during war-time.

- xi. If so, in what circumstances?

See 1.7 x above.

- xii. Generally did children typically stay in one, or more than one, establishment?

Generally, children stayed within one house.

- xiii. What provision was made for contact between siblings while siblings were at the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- xiv. What provision was made for contact between children and their parents and wider family while children were at the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- xv. What provision was made for information sharing/updates about the children to their parents?

In the early days information would have shared and updated about the children to their parents during visits. In later time this was done through Social Workers and Reviews, if the parents wished to attend these.

- xvi. What provision was made for information sharing/updates about parents to their children?

Children were able to have visits from their relatives where this was appropriate, and to go home for visits. Also in later years children were encouraged to create individual "life-story" books written with Social Workers. These included photographs.

- xvii. What provision was made for the celebration of children's birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions?

Children celebrated birthdays, Christmas and other occasions with parties, festivities, gifts, special foods etc.

- xviii. What was the process for review of children's continued residence at the establishment, in terms of whether they continued to require to be there?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- xix. When children left the care of the establishment, what was the process for discharge?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- xx. What support was offered to children when they left the care of the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- xxi. What information was sought by the organisation and/or establishment about what children leaving its care planned to go on to do?

Sisters would encourage and assist children to plan their future and often helped them gain employment when possible. Some children would have been reunited with their families after school leaving age.

- xxii. Was such information retained and updated?

In each House the Sisters kept report books where they recorded information about former children whenever they had contact with them. Some of these record books have survived, and are retained. See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

- xxiii. What was provided in terms of after-care for children/young people once they left the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments.

Present

- xxiv. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1xii above.

- xxv. If so, please give details.

N/A

1.8 Staff Background

(a) Organisation

Past

- i. How many people were employed by the organisation who had some responsibility for residential care services for children?

The Sisters were responsible for care of the children however they were not employed by the Congregation. From the 1960s/1970s the Congregation employed some lay staff. In any event they have no records for the lay staff.

- ii. How many people were employed by the organisation at any one time who had some responsibility for residential care services for children?

See 1.8(a) i above.

- iii. What experience/qualifications did such staff have?

See 1.8(a) i above.

- iv. If the organisation is a religious order, how many members of the order had a responsibility for residential care services for children provided by the organisation in Scotland?

In each of the four houses in Scotland responsibility for the care of the children lay with the Local Superiors and the Sisters in charge of the children. There would be a sister in charge of each of the groups within each House.

Between 1930 and 1985	88 Sisters worked with children at Aberdeen
	30 Sisters worked with children at Kilmarnock
	60 Sisters worked with children at Glasgow
	58 Sisters worked with children at Edinburgh.

It should be noted that some of these Sisters worked at more than one of the four houses, as they were frequently transferred between houses. The total number of Sisters working at the Scottish Nazareth houses was 195. However, there are records missing in relation to the war years.

- v. What experience/qualifications did such members have, to equip them to discharge their responsibilities?

From the late 1940s Sisters who worked with children, or who may do so in the years to come, undertook Child Care Courses, House Mothers courses and/or Teaching and Social Work qualifications.

The Sisters of Nazareth hold a General Chapter every six years, in which they meet together to elect Sisters to different positions in the organisation, to review the events of the previous six years and to plan for the future. At this Chapter the Superior General presents a report to the Congregation, and this is included in the Chapter Minutes (DA/1/4) which are held in the archive. From 1949 to 1982 inclusive there was a strong emphasis on training Sisters, particularly in child care. At the 1964 Chapter the Superior General reported that "we have made desperate efforts to train as many Sisters as possible." We also searched the Minutes of the Northern Region Council Meetings.

We have the following statistics:

1946-1949: 4 sisters qualified as teachers, 2 sisters were awarded certificates following completion of the Home Office course in Child Care, 2 sisters were in training for general nursing and sisters (number not specified) were also being trained as nursery nurses.

1952-1958: 17 sisters trained as nursery nurses, 4 sisters trained as nurses, 10 sisters obtained Teacher's Certificates, 10 sisters were awarded certificates following completion of the Home Office course in Child Care.

1958-1964: 16 sisters qualified as teachers, 12 completed their General Nursing training and 4 their Midwifery training; 12 sisters were awarded NNEBs (Nursery Nursing qualification).

1964-1970: 17 sisters trained as teachers and 17 as nurses, 11 took courses in Child Care and 8 gained the NNEB qualification.

19/10/1970: 3 Sisters were finishing their Child Care Course in Aberdeen at the end of October, and 2 Sisters selected by Mother General are to commence [the course] in Aberdeen at the beginning of November.

28/01/1971: 2 Sisters were commencing Child Care Course in February. 2 Sisters were completing the same course in February.

05/08/1971: 2 Sisters were commencing Child Care Course in Aberdeen in August. 2 Sisters were completing the course in October.

24/02/1972: 3 Sisters were completing their Teacher Training in June.

05/07/1972: 2 Sisters were commencing the Child Care Course in Aberdeen in November.

03/07/1973: 3 Sisters successfully completed S.E.N. training. 4 Sisters were commencing this training in August in Kilmarnock. 1 Sisters completed Teacher Training. 1 Sister was commencing this training in October.

1970-1976: 1 sister completed an Advanced Child Care Course, 33 other

sisters qualified in Child Care, 3 were awarded the NNEB, 2 completed a course in residential social work, 4 sisters trained as teachers and 1 as a nursery teacher.

1976-1982: 1 sister qualified in residential social work, 2 gained Certificates of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW), 2 sisters trained as teachers and 3 others gained Diplomas in Special Education; 1 sister gained a Diploma in Advanced Nursing and 2 undertook the Advanced Course in Child Care; 1 sister completed a Social Welfare certificate.

The above lists of courses do not include all of the training undertaken by Sisters during this period. Some Sisters, for example, qualified in catering or studied for higher degrees. Furthermore, it was not always the case that Sisters trained in Scotland remained in the Scottish houses following the completion of their courses.

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1xii above.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. How many persons were employed in some capacity at the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- ii. How many of those persons had the opportunity of unaccompanied access to a child, or children, cared for at the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- iii. How many were involved in the provision of care to children accommodated at the establishment (child care workers)?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- iv. What experience and/or qualifications, if any, did the child care workers require to have?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- v. What was the child care worker/child numbers ratio?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

vi. What was the gender balance of the child care workers?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

vii. Was any attempt made to employ child care workers in looking after children of the same sex as those workers?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

Present

viii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

ix. If so, please give details.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

2. Organisational Structure and Oversight

2.1 Governance

Past

i. What were the governance arrangements within the organisation?

The governance within the Congregation consisted of;

Superior General
General Council

Regional Superior (from 1969)
Regional Council (from 1969)

Local Superior
Local Council

ii. How were the members of the governing body selected?

The Superior General and General Councillors are elected by members of the Congregation at the General Chapters held every 6 years. All other positions within the Congregation are appointed by the Superior General and her Councillors.

- iii. What qualifications and/or training, if any, did the members require to have in relation to the provision of residential care services for children?

None of the governing body necessarily has qualifications or training in childcare.

- iv. Did the members receive remuneration?

None of the members receive remuneration.

- v. What was the nature of the accountability and oversight regime between the organisation's governing body and the establishment?

The Local Superior in each House was accountable to the Superior General, who arranged for regular Visitations to each House. From 1969 the Local Superior was accountable first to the Regional Superior who was herself accountable to the Superior General. Regional Superiors also arranged Visitations to each House. The Superior General also continued General Visitations of the Houses at least once every three years. The Congregation rules required that the Superior General and the Regional General had to visit each House every three years. Those visits were formal and recorded. However, other visits would frequently take place in between those required visits.

- vi. What visits were made by the governing body to the establishment?

See 2.1 v above. General Visitations were made to each house at least once every three years, and sometimes more frequently. After 1969 Regional Visitations were made to each house in the Region at least once a year, and sometimes more frequently.

- vii. What was the purpose of such visits?

From The Constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth 1984

“(a) The method of visitation is maternal.

Its chief purpose is to strengthen the Sisters in their vocation; to encourage their zeal and the participation of all in their community, their Region, the Congregation; to promote sisterly harmony; to help the Sisters in difficulty or perplexity; to foster religious observance; to correct any faults, disorders or abuses; to remedy any unfairness or injustice in administration.

(b) Where correction or remedy is called for, the Visitor must act decisively and promptly.

(c) Dispositions made by the Visitor regarding the community are to be communicated without delay to all concerned, preferably in writing.”

Thus, the purpose of the visit was to;

- give support and advice and to oversee the running of individual establishments

- enforce policies and procedures
- enquire about the welfare of the Sisters, children and the elderly

viii. How frequently did these happen?

General Visitations by the Superior General were made to each house at least once every three years, and sometimes more frequently. After 1969 Regional Visitations were made to each house in the Region by the Regional Superior every three years. However the Regional Superior would visit the house at least once a year and often more frequently.

ix. Were children interviewed, or spoken to, by members of the governing body during such visits?

Yes, children were spoken to and enjoyed visits from the Visitors. They would not have been formally interviewed by the Visitors unless this was requested. The children often gave concerts and entertainments for the Visitors.

x. If so, were establishment staff present while children were interviewed or spoken to?

The children were spoken to as the visitors made their way around the house. Therefore, sometimes the children were alone when spoken to and sometimes in the company of other children, staff or Sisters.

xi. Were reports of such visits made and discussed by the governing body?

Yes, visitation reports were written after every Visitation. The reports were discussed within the General Council and with the Local Superior and Council.

xii. Did visits result in changes to the organisation's policy, procedure and/or practice? If so, please give examples.

There is no evidence in the records held that Visitations changed the Congregation's policies or practice. However, if something was changed in one house and it worked well, this change was often adopted by other houses. Also, Visitors often suggested the same changes at more than one house, so these changes then became widespread within the Congregation's houses.

Present

xiii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

xiv. If so, please give details.

N/A

2.2 Culture

Past

- i. What was the nature of the culture within the organisation?

Throughout the years the culture reflected the ethos of the organisation. The culture was to care for and nurture children and to prepare them for adult life when they departed the care of the organisation. The Sisters housed, educated and cared for the children. In doing so they followed the guidance set out in the Directory of the Congregation. The Directory was guidance from the Superior General on how the Sisters were to carry out their employment.

- ii. Was that culture reflected in the organisation's policies, procedures and/or practice in relation the provision of residential care services for children?

In the earlier days, prior to the 1960s, there were little in the way of written policies and procedures. However, the Directory of the Congregation contained notes as to how the Sisters were to carry out their employment and other aspects of life in the Congregation. That guidance changed as time progressed. Furthermore, the culture was reflected in the procedures and practice which were demonstrated by the Local Superior and the older sisters to the younger sisters in the houses. When policies and procedures in child-care became common practice, the care given to each child would have been evident within the child's care plan, reviews and reports. There are surviving case files for some Aberdeen, Kilmarnock and Glasgow Nazareth House children, dating back to the 1950s. Items in these files include: "History of Case", "Progressive Case History", medical records and certificates, reports, correspondence, application forms, Memoranda regarding Children's Hearings, Case Reviews, birth and baptism certificates, photographs. However, not all items appear in all files, and some files contain little information.

- iii. How can that be demonstrated?

This would have been demonstrated by the reports, care plans and reviews written about the children.

- iv. Did the running of establishments reflect the organisation's culture, policies and procedures?

Yes, see 2.2 ii above. The running of individual houses reflected the Congregation's culture of nurturing children. As residential care of children progressed over the years, and the Sisters were gaining professional qualifications within this field (from the late 1940s), the care given to children reflected these changes.

- v. If not, please provide a representative range of examples and explain, by reference to those examples, why particular establishments were not, in material ways, run in accordance with the organisation's then culture, policies

and procedures and what, if anything, was done to change that state of affairs?

See 2.2 ii above. The running of houses did reflect the Congregation's culture.

- vi. When and why did any changes in the culture of the organisation come about?

The Congregation tried to keep abreast of the times with regard to the residential care of children, and this changed over the years. Changes came about due to the on-going training of Sisters and changes in government legislation. Having said this, the basic culture of nurturing and maternal care never changed; how it was delivered did.

- vii. Were any changes in culture driven by internal influences, incidents, experiences or events within the organisation, or any of the establishments run by the organisation?

Not usually. However, when something positive happened and worked in one House this was then adopted in other Houses, for example, changing meal times. A major change was the introduction of family groups as opposed to larger groups of children.

- viii. Were there any changes in culture that were driven by abuse, or alleged abuse, of children cared for at the establishment?

No, not to our knowledge.

- ix. If so, when did they occur and how did they manifest themselves?

No changes were made to our knowledge.

- x. Were any changes in culture driven by any external influences or factors and if so what were those influences or factors?

As the development and thinking with regard to the residential care of children changed over the years, the Sisters tried to adopt these changes and adapt the living accommodation of the children accordingly. It should be remembered that society in general changed considerably in its attitude to child-care over the span of years under consideration by the Inquiry, and government legislation changes reflected this.

Present

- xi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- xii. If so, please give details.

N/A

- xiii. To what extent, if any, has abuse or alleged abuse of children cared for at any establishments caused, or contributed to, the adoption of the current policies, procedures and/or practices of the organisation, in relation to the provision of residential care services for children including the safeguarding and child protection arrangements applying to its current establishments?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

2.3 Leadership

Past

- i. How was the establishment managed and led?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- ii. What were the names and qualifications of the persons in charge of the establishment? Please include the dates for when each of the persons was in charge.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- iii. What was the oversight and supervision arrangements by senior management within the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- iv. What were the oversight arrangements by the organisation, including visits by or on behalf of the organisation?

From The Constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth 1984

“The Superior General is to visit officially, either personally or through a delegate each House in the Congregation once every three years. With the consent of her Council, she may appoint a competent Sister, delegating to her what powers she deems fit, to make a special Visitation in whole or in part, and if required, assign to her a Sister who acts as companion and secretary.”

Thus, General visitations and regional visitations were made to the establishment by the Superior General and/or the General Councillors, and from 1969, also by the Regional Superior and/or Regional Councillors.

Prior to the 1970s the Superior General liaised with the Local Superiors at the houses. From the 1970s the Regional Superiors liaised with the Local Superiors. The Local Superiors were assisted by council members and a bursar. However, only the Local Superiors would actively oversee the houses. They would walk round the houses and talk to the children and the sisters/lay staff. They would check that children were well cared for in that they were clean, well fed and well clothed. If there were any issues then the Local Superiors would report to the General Superior (pre 1970) or the Regional superiors (post 1970).

Present

- v. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

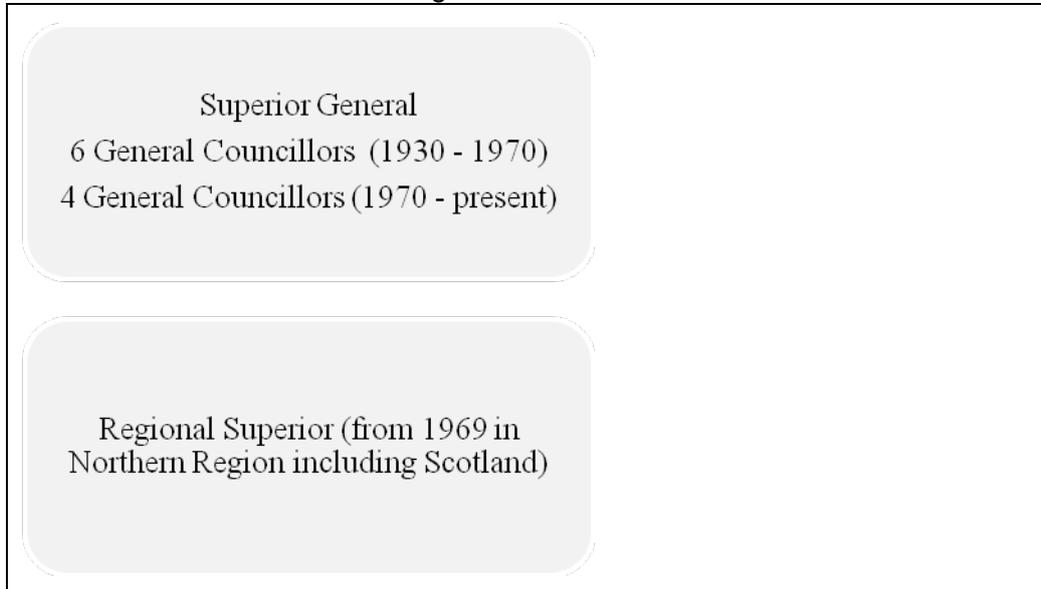
- vi. If so, please give details

N/A

2.4 Structure

Past

- i. What was the structure of the organisation?



- ii. What was the structure of the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

Present

- iii. With reference to the present position, is the answer to the above question different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- iv. If so, please give details.

N/A

2.5 Hierarchy and Control

Past

i. What was the hierarchy within the organisation?

The hierarchy within the organisation comprised of:

Superior General*

**Superior General assisted by her Council exercises full and immediate authority over all the Sisters and Houses of the Congregation, and is ultimately responsible for the welfare of all.*

6 members of the General Council (1930 - 1970)
4 members of the General Council (1970 - present)

Regional Superior**
Regional Councillors**

*** (1969 - present in Northern Region including Scotland)*

Local Superiors
Local Councillors
Local Bursar

Sisters in the Community

Thus, The Sisters in the houses were accountable to the Local Superior who in turn were accountable to the Superior General. Following the introduction of Regions the Local Superior reported to the Regional Superior. See 2.5 iv below.

ii. What was the structure of responsibility within the organisation?

The structure of responsibility was as above (2.5i).

iii. What were the lines of accountability?

The lines of accountability were as above (2.5i).

iv. Within the organisation, who had senior management/corporate/organisational responsibility for the managers/management teams/leadership teams who managed the establishment on a day-to-day basis?

The Superior General and the General Council always had the senior management responsibility. When the regions were established the intermediate management was the Regional Superior and her Councillors.

v. What were the reporting arrangements between the establishment and the organisation?

The Local Superior of the house would report to the Regional Superior with

regard to matters of a serious nature or for advice. Prior to Regions being set up all reporting would have been to the Superior General.

- vi. Within the establishment itself, who had managerial responsibility for, or was in overall charge of, those employed there, including in particular those who were involved in the day-to-day care of children, and any other persons who had contact with the children?

In the establishments the Local Superior had overall charge of those employed in the house.

Senior Sisters were responsible for the children.

- vii. To whom were child care workers within the establishment directly responsible?

To the Local Superior and the Sister in charge of the children.

- viii. Who, within the organisation, took decisions on matters of policy, procedure and/or practice in relation to the establishment?

Superior General, Regional Superior when regions were established and Local Superior.

- ix. Who, within the organisation, was responsible for the implementation of, and compliance with, the organisation's policies, procedures and/or practices at the establishment?

Regional Superior, Local Superior and Senior Sister in charge of the children.

Present

- x. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The Sisters no longer provide residential care for children in Scotland. See 1.1 xii above.

- xi. If so, please give details.

N/A

2.6 External Oversight

Past

- i. What were the arrangements for external oversight of the organisation and the establishment?

There are no surviving records regarding arrangements for external oversight however organisations made arrangements to visit the houses. In the Foundations of the Congregation there are references to recommendations or comments made. Where inspections were undertaken by public bodies they may retain any reports which were produced.

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- ii. Who visited the organisation and/or the establishment in an official or statutory capacity and for what purpose?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- iii. How often did this occur?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- iv. What did these visits involve in practice?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- v. What involvement did local authorities have with the organisation and/or the establishment in respect of residential care services for children?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- vi. What involvement did local authorities have with the organisation and the establishment in respect of the children at the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- vii. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, what actual involvement and/or responsibility, whether formal or informal, did the Catholic Hierarchy/Bishops' Conference have, either directly or at diocesan level, in the creation, governance, management and/or oversight of the establishment?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- viii. What was the nature and extent of any pastoral care provided to the establishment, if it was run by a religious order?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

Present

- ix. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

- x. If so, please give details.

See separate reports prepared in relation to each of the Establishments

Part B – Current Statement

3. Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission

3.1 Acknowledgement of Abuse

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that between 1930 and 17 December 2014 some children cared for at the establishment were abused?

In recent years the Congregation has received allegations of abuse from adults who, as children, had been resident at one of the Nazareth Houses in Scotland. These allegations were made many years after the events. For the reasons already set out, there are no relevant records to allow the Congregation to assess the extent and scale of any abuse. The Sisters acknowledge that there were times when the care provided to children did not meet the level it ought. With the benefit of hindsight the Congregation understands that staffing ratios were too low; care was provided by sisters who had little training and were often still young and inexperienced; and oversight of the groups and the sisters was not structured or proactively monitored. Where any child was abused then the Congregation apologises unreservedly for that.

In addition, Sister Marie Docherty was convicted in 2000 of offences against four children. The Congregation does accept that those children were abused.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse?

The Congregation cared for 14,766 children in Scotland. They have received 257 civil actions and 147 complaints. One sister was prosecuted and was convicted on charges relating to four children.

- iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

Review of the records of claims, complaints and the criminal prosecution.

3.2 Acknowledgement of Systemic Failures

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that its systems failed to protect children cared for at the establishment between 1930 and 17 December 2014 from abuse?

The Congregation accepts that where any child was abused then their systems failed to protect those children.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent of such systemic failures?

The Congregation's assessment is as set out at 3.1 ii.

- iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

The Congregation's assessment is based on the complaints and allegations they have received.

- iv. What is the organisation/establishment's explanation for such failures?

The Congregation did not want any child to be left destitute, uncared for or at risk. They therefore strove to accept every such child whenever possible. They cared for large numbers of children. In the early years in particular, each sister was responsible for a group of over 30 children. The older children (the girls in particular) were expected to help care for the younger. Until the 1960s there was little support from lay staff. The sisters were often young and had little formal training. They were moved from one house to another. They did not necessarily have an aptitude or affinity for child care. There was not the ratio of carers to children that would now be considered appropriate. There was not the structured planning and oversight of care provision, nor the detailed record keeping, that would now be the norm. Although children were adequately nourished and clothed resources were very tight, were almost exclusively from donations in early years, and were managed on a frugal basis.

In consequence while the Congregation believes that most sisters sought to care for and nurture the children in their group, they recognise that there was the risk of poor practice and even of abuse.

3.3 Acknowledgement of Failures/Deficiencies in Response

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that there were failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse, and allegations of abuse, of children cared for at the establishment between 1930 and 17 December 2014?

Many adults who had been children at a Nazareth House return to see the place where they grew up and to see the sisters who cared for them. The Congregation provides after-care support to those children on an informal basis.

The Congregation did not receive allegations of abuse until many years after the events concerned. Where the police made investigations the Congregation assisted them. Where there were claims for damages the Congregation referred those to their insurer, as was appropriate.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent of such failures in its response?

The Congregation does not accept that they failed in their response to allegations of abuse.

- iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

Not applicable.

- iv. What is the organisation's explanation for such failures/deficiencies?

Not applicable.

3.4 Changes

- i. To what extent has the organisation/establishment implemented changes to its policies/procedures and practices as a result of its acknowledgment in relation to 3.1 – 3.3 above?

The Congregation has not cared for children in a residential setting in Scotland since 1985. To that extent they cannot make changes to their policies and practice.

However, children do still come in to Nazareth Houses, for visits, for events or to see elderly residents. The Congregation therefore maintains and enforces policies on:

- Protection of children entering a Nazareth House;
- Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults;
- Training of staff and sisters in contact with children;
- Document retention.