# **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of



Support person present: No

Other persons present: Denis Maloney, Solicitor, Donnelly & Wall and Isla Bowen, Solicitor, Clyde and Co

- 1.
   My name is Sister
   LFZ
   I was also known as Sister
   LFZ

   My date of birth is
   1942. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
- 1962. When I joined I had to do 2. I joined the Nazareth House order on six to nine months as postulant in Finchley. After that I was in Hammersmith for two years. After that I was professed, I went to Middlesbrough for one year. I was sent to do nursing in west London which I did for a year and a half. I was then posted to Aberdeen in 1968. I think I was there until sometime in 1972, I'm unsure. I understand that it might have been 1973. I was posted to Lasswade after Aberdeen. I was there for just over two years. I think I was there until 1975. I then went to Derry. In 1978 I then went down to Sligo. I was there from 1978 to 1982. I was sent back to Middlesbrough from 1982 to 1984. I was then Isleworth where I worked with children and the elderly until 1991. I was in America from 1991 to 2002. In 2002 I came back and was sent to Mallow. I was there from 2002 until 2008. I came to Dublin in 2008. I am now retired as a nurse but I'm currently **and the second second**. I also did a course for one year in child care in Aberdeen. I did a diploma in child care when I was in Sligo on a part-time basis. It was after I had completed my time in Aberdeen and Lasswade.

#### Nazareth House, Aberdeen

3. I didn't make any application to go to Nazareth House in Aberdeen. I think a sister had left in Aberdeen and there was a vacancy so I was posted there. I had always wanted to work with children. I'm from a big family so I had enough experience. It was an appointment in the order. There was no interview process nor were there vetting procedures. I think the house was located in 34 Claremont Street. It was a big, granite building. It was beautiful from the outside. It was old inside. There was a fair bit of ground and there was a field. We had our sports in the field. The boys and girls were separated. It's hard to say what my impression of it was. It was so far up in Scotland, we called ourselves "dead end kids". There were just enough rooms inside the house. There were beds were laid out for the children and there was large at the floor. I didn't form any impression on my arrival. The community was large at the time.

#### **Other Sisters**

4. I think there were around twelve to fourteen sisters. I was a junior sister. There was always a senior sister. That was on the boys' side. There were two sisters on the girls' side. There was also a hostel on its own. It was a separate building and it had girls in it. There was another sister in there. When I arrived I travelled up from London with a Sister Superior, she was called Mother McCarten. There was a change of superiors at the time. She was from Glasgow. We were starting on the same day. I can remember Sister was the Senior sister. I reported to her. FAF On the girls' side there was Sister and Sister There was also a Sister Brosnan. I can't remember her first name. I think Brosnan was her family name. She was over in the house on her own. Sister boys' side. We were the only two sisters on the boys' side. I had 24 boys at one stage. There would sometimes be more, and sometimes less. They were around the age of seven up to fourteen.

#### Staff

5. There were two part-time civilian staff and a lady cleaner. Sister LFB had one member of staff and a cleaner too. I wouldn't remember any of their names. I can do faces more than names. In relation to the girls' side, I wouldn't know how many other staff were there. I know there were staff over there. We would meet Sister LTX on the bus in the mornings and in the evenings. Then I would meet them in the community for prayers and dinner.

#### My role and the running of my group

- 6. My role in the boys' side involved looking after the children in my care. I gave them the best that I could. I tried to give them as normal a life as I could. A lot of them were from the east end of Glasgow, like the Gorbals. A lot of the children were dysfunctional. There were other children from Dundee and Stirling. I was looking after them but I was responsible for reporting to Sister LFB I had one group and Sister LFB had the other group. They were in two groups. My group was on the third floor of the house. Sister LFB and her group were on the second floor but all of the beds were on the third floor. It worked alright. We had to go through their bedroom to get to our beds. They shared bedrooms, there might have been two or three in each bedroom. There were no dormitories in my time. There was a communal bathroom which had baths in it. I was dealing with only boys.
- 7. I wasn't given a formal induction when I arrived at Nazareth House. I was introduced to the group and staff who were working at the time. I reported to Sister LFB Sister LFB was available to speak to about things. My sleeping area was also on the third floor. I am asked if there was a typical length of time for children to spend in Nazareth House, when I was there nobody left. Some children came from other homes. They might have been in two or three different homes before they came to us. I had no new children when I was there. It would have come through the superior or the senior sister.

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### The Children

8. The children went to St Peter's Secondary School. They had a school uniform. I don't think they had a uniform for the primary school. My group didn't have a particular name. It was just 'the boys'. There was no way of distinguishing my group. It was really just the name of the children and they knew which group they belonged in. The clothing was bought for the children. I think the sisters in charge of them would have taken their sizes. The part-time staff were responsible for washing the clothing. They would polish the shoes too. It wasn't assigned to the children. The children had their own clothes. As I have said, there were no children admitted when I was there. I wouldn't be aware of the procedure for when new children arrived at Nazareth House.

### **Daily Routine**

9. The sisters had mass at 7.15 in the morning. Some of the older boys served the mass. They were altar boys. There would two boys one week and then there would another two the next week. They usually got up at seven o'clock. The staff would begin to get the other children up when we were at mass. The children would then have breakfast.

### Breakfast/Dinner

10. I would help serve the breakfast with the staff. I would be back from mass to help with that. They would get a cooked breakfast and cornflakes. We made French toast once a week. They got sausage or bacon. The food was good. We tried to get something else from the kitchen if they didn't like what was served. They ate their lunch at school. We didn't have any of them coming back at midday. We took them on the bus to St Peter's Primary and Secondary. We had to have the bus to take them. The girls sat upstairs and the boys sat downstairs. The children took it week about for getting to sit upstairs. They didn't mix on the bus. They got a snack when

they came in from school. They would get tea and a piece of cake. They got their evening meal at about six o'clock. It was from the main kitchen. The meals varied. There might have been a four week cycle but latterly they mixed it up.

### Bedtime/bedwetting

- 11. Their bed time varied according to their age and also to what was on the television. If there was a good programme on or if Celtic were on you couldn't get them to go to bed. I think it was around half past seven or eight o'clock for the younger children. The older children went to bed at nine o'clock. They would have done their homework in between. We helped them do their homework in the dining room. They had wardrobes which were shared and a little locker beside their bed.
- 12. There might have been one or two children who had a problem with bedwetting. The staff took the sheets off the bed in the mornings and the children would be taken to have a bath. I would always be on call through the night. If someone chapped the door I would get up. The children got up if they needed to go to the toilet. They didn't have to ask permission.

#### Washing and bathing

13. They had a bath a number of times every week. They didn't have a bath every night. Their clothes were washed in the house in the laundry. We would just pick the clothes up and have a look to see what needed washed. Some of the children were better than others. In terms of washing, I am sure it was baths. There wouldn't have been many showers around in the sixties. As far as I can remember it was just baths. The children wouldn't share baths. We would draw fresh water for each bath. We only helped the children up to the age of seven or eight.

### Leisure time

- 14. In terms of leisure time, they played table tennis, some of them were quite good at it and we always had sports. They went outside to play football or cricket. We were the ninth St John Bosco cub scouts. We got to the Intercup final in Aberdeen football two years in a row. We won it one year and the next year we were beaten finalists. I couldn't say about the girls' groups. There was a sitting room where the children watched TV. It was supervised by staff or me if I was there. I usually knew which programmes they liked. There might be a fight now and again over who watched what. There were some books but not a big library as such. There were children's books and football books. There was the table tennis table and jigsaws. There were little trains that they could play with. That's about all. They got their own toys and games at Christmas.
- 15. We had the old 16 mm films now and again for them. We got to go down and watch them. Sister Cabrini would show them.

### Trips

16. We had secret outings. They didn't know where they were going. We went on holidays to Tom Bae in the Highlands. We climbed mountains and there were the sheep dog trials. It would be all of the boys together. They went swimming once a week for a while. I don't remember the cinema. They loved going to the beach particularly when the Church of Scotland were there. They would join in with the singing.

# Schooling

17. The children went to St Peter's secondary school. They didn't go to any other schools in my time. I think that was the only secondary school there in the sixties. Communication was good with the school. The teacher would phone up to say there was a problem with a child. We would go down and meet with the teacher. They didn't have parents evening then. We helped them with their homework. There was

the sitting room, a dining room and a play room. They weren't given any cooking lessons.

#### Health and medical care

18. Sister Cabrini was the nurse. If we were worried about a child, she would come over to see them and take their temperature. The doctor came in once or twice per week. There was also a police doctor at the time. I can't remember if the children had regular health checks. If they were sick you took them to Sister Cabrini. They went to the dentist often enough. I can't remember the dentist's name. I don't remember any child going to the hospital during my time. There would have been medical records and a daily menu of what food the children got. I don't recall any other records such as an incident book. The medical notes would have been kept in Sister Cabrini's office. There weren't any deaths when I was there.

#### Religion

19. There was just the usual. We were enrolled in St Dominic Savio Society. We got little books and instruction from them. We would meet once a week and talk about it. They attended mass on a Sunday and always on the feast of St Andrews. It didn't matter what day it was. The boys wore kilts. They had to be paid to wear them. The chapel was inside of Nazareth House. There was also a cathedral choir. There was a Mr Hoskins who came into the chapel one day and he thought he could help out. There was choir practice twice per week. They went into the cathedral from school. They would have a cup of tea and biscuit in there. They quite liked that. I think that was for an hour and a half.

#### Manual Work

20. The children helped with the washing and drying up. I remember that one of the other boys helped out in the church. There were no manual jobs. They got pocket money but I can't remember how much. I remember it wasn't very much. I got a box of chocolates on feast day. There was a bit of paper on top of it which said "so and

so" had given so much towards it. I thought that was lovely. It probably wasn't much. There was a little shop nearby.

### Christmas and birthdays

- 21. We celebrated Christmases and birthdays. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December a Dutch bank came up to the home to entertain the children. I think it was called 'Black Santa'. We had midnight mass and then they got Christmas presents in the morning. They got Christmas dinner but they never liked turkey. I always remember that.
- 22. They didn't have to do their chores on their birthday. They got a day off. They had party and cake. They might have got extra pocket money.

#### Visits

- 23. There was no set visitor's day. I can remember students from university who were doing child care would be assigned to us for two or three weeks. They were mature students. They would be with the children for that length of time. A social worker would come every two or three months. Each child had a social worker. I think there were seven or eight children to each social worker.
- 24. The visits from the children's families were encouraged. A lot of parents didn't come to visit. One or two might come drunk. It would upset the kids. There was only one or two who went out because a lot of them were very disturbed. The social worker came to visit the child and spoke to the child on their own. They would also speak to me and I would give them feedback. We had visitations from the order every two or three years. It would be the Mother General or one of the counsellors.

#### Inspections

25. There was a Miss Johnston in my head but I don't know if that was in Aberdeen. I think there was one inspection when I was there. We would get feedback to the community. I would have seen that. I don't have any recollection of seeing a written

report from the local authority. I would remember seeing that. They would always go round and speak to the children on their own. In terms of the children's placement there were no formal reviews, not in those years.

#### Siblings

26. The children had contact with their siblings on the bus on the way to school. They would only be able to see each other getting on and off the bus. There was no thought given to organising any socialisation between family groups.

#### Other Visitors

27. We had one priest called Father Gowan. He had a club in Dumbarton. He would visit once a year and take the children out to entertain them. He had been coming up visit for years. There were not any boys discharged from Nazareth House during my time.

#### Discipline and Punishment

- 28. The only discipline would be to deprive them of their TV or to disallow them from watching a Celtic match. It was all done internally. I don't remember any written or unwritten codes. I think a child would be disciplined if, for example, a boy had thumped another little boy or was being disruptive. There was no other discipline other than I have mentioned. There was no corporal punishment. I didn't see any corporal punishment. If something happened when the staff were there they would deal with it. If I was there I would deal with it. If I couldn't then I would go and discuss it with Sister LFB if I wasn't able to handle it. The staff would tell us about any incidents.
- 29. I am asked if there was a record kept of when children were disciplined in Nazareth House. There was not. I cannot remember seeing or hearing of any abusive

behaviour. I don't remember children making complaints to me of being hit or struck. I didn't see any bruising on children. If a child did make a complaint, I would report it to Sister LFB who was the senior. I can't remember seeing anything that I would now consider to be abusive in Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

### Allegations

# LBR

30. I am asked if I remember a girl called LBR She makes reference to when she and her siblings first arrived, their social worker took them into the blue parlour. I am told there is information from LBR to say that I took her brothers, and away. I don't remember the name. I don't remember that. It doesn't ring any bells.

LBR 31. I am told that the Inquiry has information that has said about arriving at Nazareth House and meeting Sister LTX that. and I were taken LTX up to the second floor. That's when Sister started her abuse. She called us names and said we were "Glasgow tinks". I said I wasn't a Glasgow tink. Sister FAF stood playing with her rosary beads. She then wandered off and I heard water running in another room. There was a rocking-horse in the room we were in. LTX We all went over to it and Sister slapped us for touching it. I wouldn't know. LTX She goes on to say that Sister was calling her names and she said "So you think you are pretty do you? I'll soon knock that out of you. I thought "Oh my God, this is worse than the other home". Sister **LTX** was working in the girls' side of the house when I was there. I wouldn't know about any of this.

32. I am told there is information from her about Sister **LTX** to say that she recalls an incident that day where her clothes were cut off by Sister **LTX**, that she shared a bath with her sisters in either scalding or freezing water filled with Jeyes disinfectant and their hair was cut off. I am told she has said that she and her sisters were then beaten with a belt by Sister **LTX** I didn't hear anything about any of that. I wouldn't know.

- 33. Some information has been read to me which I understand has been said by her as LTX follows: "Then out of the blue, Sister started to hit us. It was a real battering. She hit us with her knuckles, this was into our heads and our backs. Basically, anywhere she could get into us. Sister LTX wore a rope as part of her uniform. She took this off and her belt. She started to hit us with the belt. She went to town on all three of us. She was using the belt and the rope. I was trying to protect FAF the two smaller ones. Sister left after the bath. I think she knew what Sister LTX was going to do. I had a lot of blood on me where I had been hit with Sister LTX knuckles and from the buckle on the belt. I had welts on my legs. and were howling and screaming. We were all naked. We were still wet and LTX the put us into another room. There we had hair still sticking to us. Sister were three iron beds in it. She left us there and shut the door. She just banged the door shut. She gave us nothing to wear. It was the middle of the day. This was to be our room for the rest of our time at Nazareth House." The only comment I can make about it is that we never wore a rope. We used to have a cincture. We wore a cincture with a habit. It's like a belt. I don't know about anything else.
- 34. She goes on to say that she remembers when the other kids arrived, everyone got a Jeyes bath, but not everyone got a beating from the nuns, that she thinks that Sister LTX was in a mood that day, and she used them to get her anger out. I have no comment to make about that.
- 35. She says in relation to Nazareth House, that no boys or girls were allowed in the same area at the same time, that the only time they were in the same place was at church, that the girls went in first and sat on the right, that the nuns then came in and sat behind them, that the boys then came and sat on the left at the back, that she didn't dare turn her head round to see if she could see her brother and, that she only saw the boys briefly on the school bus. When she refers to seeing them on the bus that is correct. The boys and girls did attend mass at the same time but they did not

sit together. I don't know what side they sat on but they sat with whichever sister had them.

- FAF 36. She has said about bedwetting that Sister LTX and Sister did the bed LKG duties for the bed-wetters, that they would use the time when Sister was not there to check the beds, that they would drag the girls out of their beds, that they would take the sheets off the beds, put the wet sheets over the girl's heads and called them smelly. I never heard about that. She has said that she remembers the food was just as bad as in the Nazareth House in Cardonald, that it was the same food all the time, that she would vomit it up and that she was made to eat it. I never saw or heard about it. I am told that she has said about Sister **LTX** that, "Sister LTX used to stand at the front of the dining hall. When our food arrived on a trolley from the kitchen, she would stand and crack raw eggs into the mashed potato and mix them in. She loved an audience. I used to sit retching." No, I didn't see or hear about that either. I am told that she has said that the foods the kids were given was disgusting, that the nuns were given really good food, that they would get desserts and bread. I can't comment on that. We ate the same food as the children.
- 37. She has said that she remembers when she started her period at Tom Bay, that periods had not been explained to her, that she started crying and thought she was dying, that she told Sister **LTX** that she had found blood in her pants. She says that, *"she took out her pocket watch and told me that I would be dead by midnight."* I am asked if I ever heard about that. I did not.
- 38. I am asked if I know if the girl's birthdays were celebrated. I can't tell you about the girl's birthdays.
- 39. I am told that there is information to say that, *"It was all confusing when we first arrived. We had been beaten and called names as soon as we arrived and then we were being told that nothing bad would happen to us."* She has said that, *"Sister LTX knew that Sister LKG was not in the house at the time and she couldn't wait to get her hands on the new kids. She had really bad bouts of anger."* I can't comment.

LBR 40. I am told that says that there was an incident where she had been sitting on one of the swings in the grounds and that "Sister LTX grabbed me by the hair and pulled me off the swing. It all happened really quickly. I was on the ground. She was kicking and punching me. She was still holding me by the hair, she threw me against the church wall. I went right into the dip at the wall. My mouth hit FAJ the dip and all my teeth shattered. I looked like an orang-utan. came FAJ running out of the house with was in her forties and was would come in to the house and give us sweets. really nice. and dragged her away. FAJ was screaming to get the grabbed Sister LTX Mother Superior who arrived and I was carried to a bedroom. I was in so much pain. There was a lot of blood. I remember threatening to go to the police. Mother Superior talked down, telling him that Sister **LTX** would be dealt with. FAJ said that she gone too far and Mother Superior said that she would not be allowed to do this again". I remember FAJ was a member of staff. I am told she goes on to say, "Mother Superior did not want me taken to accident and emergency. Mother Superior said that they would clean me up. FAJ asked me if it was alright to take my clothes off. I couldn't speak. My teeth were gone. FAJ told everyone to get out the room. She looked all over my body and she got a pen and wrote it all down. I remember Mother Superior said she hoped FAJ would not be giving it to anyone. They got a bowl of salt water and I had to swirl it round in my mouth. It nipped my mouth. FAJ washed my body down. She got ice and put it on the worst part of my body. was knocking the door. He was shouting that he was not letting it go and saying that he was going to go to the police. My mouth was badly damaged, it started to really swell. The pain was horrendous. The salt water was not doing any good in my mouth. I needed something for the pain. I was given paracetemol, but that didn't work. FAJ came in later with Mother Superior and they talked round from going to the police. It was on the understanding that I would be taken to the hospital." I never heard about that. She has said "I was not taken to the hospital. I couldn't speak as the pain was so bad. My teeth were all broken. FAJ took it as FAJ gospel that I had been to the hospital. I couldn't say that I had not been. walked out of the home shortly after this incident." I wouldn't know about that.

- 41. I am told that is also information from LBR that Sister LTX had slapped FAJ and that FAJ refused to come back to the house because of the abuse going on. I didn't hear about this, I wouldn't really expect this to be discussed between the sisters. I didn't ever see Sister LTX with any children.
- 42. I am told that the Inquiry also has information from her which suggests that when Sister LGN died, that her dead body was laid out in a coffin in the chapel, that all of the children had to stand in line and go into the chapel. LBR has stated that, they were told that they had to kiss Sister LGN on her forehead, that she didn't want to do it, her sister Sister LGN died in Aberdeen. She would be laid out in the church. I don't think the boys went to see her. I didn't see any girls there. I am told that LBR has also said that children would simply disappear from Nazareth House and that she heard that some boys would disappear too. I don't know about that.

# LBV

- LBV I don't remember him. I am told that 43. I don't remember a boy called there is information that he was in Nazareth House for about three months. He has said that he remembers getting the bus to St Peter's Primary school and that Sisters FAF FAF and would slap him if he spoke on the bus. Sister LTX LFB didn't go on the bus. I'm sure she never went on the bus. It was Sisters and me. I didn't see Sister **LTX** slap anyone on the bus. He has said LTX about being force fed that, they got a pudding which they used to call "frog spawn", that he thinks it was tapioca and it had bubbles in it, that if he spat it out, or vomited he was made to eat it. I wasn't aware of it so I don't know if it happened or not.
- LFB FAF I am told that there is information from him that Sisters 44. and LTX would slap him at any time and that, Sisters FAF and LTX were FAF the worst. Sister wouldn't have been over in the boys' side. He has also said about bedwetting that, "I was nervous so I wet the bed. You had to out your pants on your head and you'd be put in a cold bath. They'd hold your head under the

water then you put the same wet pants on and wet sheets. It happened nearly every night because you were so nervous. You'd get battered about the place." I don't recognise **LBV** He has also said about Christmas time that, the other kids from school knew they were going home to nice things at Christmas, they knew that they were going back to getting hit by the nuns. I have no comment to make about that.

#### LCN

LCN 45. I am asked if I remember a boy called who may have been in Nazareth House from 1951 until 1966. I don't remember him. I am told there is information from him that suggests that he was force fed burnt porridge, shouted at by the nuns and had to share baths with other boys. That is different from my LCN recollection. I am told that there is information from that they sometimes put rubber sheets on the mattresses which were attached to a big battery and an alarm which gave a shock if it got. He has said that some of the other boys said they got electric shocks and that he struggled to sleep because he had a fear of getting electrocuted. I don't remember. He says about bedwetting that the nuns would take pride in humiliating the children, that they would bring those down who had wet the bed to breakfast in their wet pyjamas and that they would sometimes put the wet pyjamas on his head. That didn't happen.

LCN 46. I am told there is information which says that was fighting with LHQ that Mrs came in and that she was an abusive another boy, LCN type of person. I am told has said that "She was screaming at us but LDU the fight had split up by then. She must have told about it though I don't know what was said. Later that day LDU grabbed me in the corridor and dragged me into a cupboard or it may have been a wee bathroom. He was effing and blinding at me and punching me. He then stripped me naked and battered me black and blue. I thought I was going to die. Eventually a nun found me but she didn't even guestion what had happened. I was covered in red marks, I told her he had LDU assaulted me. When was assaulting me he was saying "You think you know it all". He just ripped the clothes off me and battered me with his hands, fists

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and feet. He didn't sexually abuse me." I know who they are talking about. They were with Sister LFB. If a child had made an allegation I would have gone to the Mother Superior. There were only ever Sister LFB and I working on the boys' side. He has also said about this incident that he had a big hand mark on his face and was taken by the bus driver to the headmaster and that he thinks the headmaster's name was LFA. Mr LFA was a teacher prior to my time.

47. I am told the Inquiry has information that LCN has said that Sisters FAF and LDW used to give him a 'back-hander' onto the back of his head which caused him hit his head off the wall. Sister LDW had been there prior to my time. I didn't witness or hear about that.

AAK

- AAK I am asked if I remember a girl called 48. I don't remember her. I am told that she remembers being put in a bath with disinfectant, that the food wasn't nice, that they had to go to confession every week and, that FAF Sister made her lie on her back with her arms out of the covers crossed over her chest, that she would patrol at night and if she would prod her to lie on her back. I wouldn't know about that. She has said that the boys and girls weren't allowed to mix on the on the bus, that they weren't even allowed to mix at school, and that she wasn't given the education she should have had. I never heard anything AAK about St Peter's. I am told that has said she remembers that when the nits were about the nuns would comb their hair with very fine toothed combs that left her hair and her head feeling sore and that they made her wash with carbolic which nipped her eyes. We used to use special stuff for nits, it was yellow and there was a fine comb. There probably was carbolic soap which was used for clothes.
- 49. I am told that she has said that some of the older children had to go into the old folks' home in Nazareth House to help out, that she had to put dusters on her feet to dust the corridor floor in the main building and that she had chores to do like cleaning the shoes and clearing the table after meals. I never remember them going to the old

folks home. Yes, they could do that, they put dusters on their feet to clean the floors. I am told she has also said that, *"Christmas time was just prayers, prayers, prayers, and thanking Jesus Christ that we were born. It wasn't a happy time. It was probably worse than normal. There was no special meal on Christmas day."* I'm sure they did, they had a special meal on Christmas day. She has said that children did not receive presents that had been handed in for them, that all of these toys were put away somewhere. There was probably a different approach between the sisters.

- 50. She has said about bedwetting in Nazareth House that, Sister **FAF** would check to see if the sheets were wet every morning, that if the sheet was wet the girl would have to strip the bed, that she would be made to stand with the wet sheets above her head or holding them, that the child would be put in a roasting or freezing bath. I don't know about that. She has also said about visits from family, that Sister **FAF** would always be there and that she wouldn't be able to speak to her aunt on her own, and that the only time she saw her brother, **ICF** was when they were getting on the bus to go to school. She goes on to say that he must have been taken away from Nazareth House, nobody told her and that she didn't get a chance to say goodbye to him. It might happen, I'm not saying that it didn't.
- 51. I am told there is information which says that AAK was polishing the shoes under the stairs as part of her chores. I am told that AAK has said that "Sister FAF said that I hadn't done them properly. I think I must have answered back because she grabbed me. She put me in a really dark cupboard under the stairs and locked the door. There were no windows. I was banging on the door asking what I had done. I don't really know how long I was in there for but it must have been a couple of hours. I wasn't particularly scared but I was just confused why I was there." I wouldn't be aware of it.

### Nazareth House, Lasswade

52. I went to Lasswade directly from Aberdeen. I had no say in the matter. It was totally different to Aberdeen. It was a smaller house altogether. The groups were in individual houses. There was one house called Holycot. There were babies and toddlers over there. It was just lovely.

#### **Other Sisters**

53. Sister Mary Cecilia Superior was in charge. Then Sister Mary Francis was the superior in my last year there. It was boys and girls together. At that time it was all toddlers and children. There were three units and I was in the middle unit. It didn't have a name really. There would have been Sister Eileen and Sister LQC She was next to me. Sister LTX was in Holycot along with Sister Dominic and Sister LNR Sister LTX was the same sister I mentioned earlier. She moved to Lasswade with me.

#### Other staff

54. There were better civilian staff in Lasswade than in Aberdeen. They were good staff.I had two members of staff and a cleaner. This time I reported directly to the Sister Superior. This was the first time ever.

### My role and the running of my group

55. My role was similar to Aberdeen. I was welcomed on arrival but I wasn't given an induction. It was a case of "get on with it". There was no one else responsible for mentoring me. There were mixed units in Lasswade. I think it was the beginning of keeping families together. It was the 1970s.

#### The Children

56. I think it was children between the ages of seven and fifteen. The boys, when they reached eleven, went to De La Salle Brothers or Marist Brothers whether or not they agreed with it or not. I forget the name of the place that they went. There were comings and goings in the home. They didn't seem to be as disturbed as the boys in Aberdeen. There was more contact with families. The children had a school uniform. The washing was done by the care staff. They had their own clothes, there was no sharing. They came from the house. When children arrived, one of the first things we always had to do was look at their hair. There was no set procedure. I can't remember any information being provided from social work. I always impressed upon the staff that one of the most important things to do was to leave the children in their own clothes for at least 24 hours because that was theirs. They would also be introduced to the other children and it would depend on the time of day that would happen.

#### **Daily routine**

#### Breakfast/Dinner

- 57. The children would be up at 7.30 or 8 so that we could get them ready for school. We didn't have any altar boys in Lasswade. We would have mass early in the morning. They would have their breakfast.
- 58. The staff would walk the younger ones down to school. It wasn't too far away. The secondary school was called St David's in Dalkeith. They would travel by bus there. I'm sure the school was called St David's. It was in Dalkeith anyway.
- 59. They would get cornflakes, rice crispies and coco pops for breakfast. I don't think they got porridge. There was a wee girl who was a celiac. She had a special breakfast. She was the only one who came home for lunch. She got given gluten

free food. It would come from the kitchen for her. I can't remember any children having problems with food in Lasswade.

### Bedtime/bedwetting

- 60. The children mostly slept in doubles. There might have been one or two single rooms for a couple of the older girls. The boys were separate. They had places for their personal possessions. The bedtime arrangements depended on their age. Sometimes they might go out to the ice rink near Lasswade. They went ice skating once every week. They enjoyed that.
- 61. I think there was one or two who wet their beds. They were never punished for the wetting the bed. The sheets were taken off and they were washed. I think there were showers in Lasswade. It had been refurbished. Unfortunately, we had a fire after it had just been done up. I would be in my room on call. There was no staff on duty during the night. The children would get themselves up for the toilet. They didn't need to come and ask me for permission.

#### Bathing/washing

62. The washing was done once or twice per week. They had showers. It wasn't every night. I think it was maybe once or twice a week. If I wasn't there, the staff would be there. The little ones had baths.

#### Leisure

63. In terms of leisure time, the children would play outside as there was a big playing field nearby. I would play football with the boys. They had a swing. They had a TV. If they misbehaved they would miss out. They weren't in charge of what they watched. If the two older girls were there, they would override if the staff weren't around.

64. There were books around but not a library. We had a bookshelf. There was no library. There were toys, jigsaws and games. Some of them liked the jigsaws. They could be accessed by anyone. There weren't any guides or scouts at Lasswade.

Trips

65. We went to Dunbar on holiday every year to an old cottage hospital. We went there for two weeks. The children went shopping with us. The older ones could go on their own but not the younger ones. The little celiac girl would go with anybody so she really had to be watched.

### Schooling

- 66. Mr Carney was the headmaster of the primary school. There was excellent communication with the school. He would phone us to let us know about any problems. I don't remember any parents' nights. He took a great interest in the children. The children did their homework in the dining room at the table.
- 67. There was a main kitchen in the house. We didn't have a separate kitchen in the units. I don't think the children learned cooking or baking skills.

### Health and medical care

68. We had a brilliant doctor called **Constant of an analysis** would do a yearly medical on the children. **Constant of an analysis**. We took them out to the dentist. I spent many a Saturday in A&E at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. If they had fallen or split their knee open. I would spend my time out in the A&E for a few hours. There were no deaths of any children when I was there.

#### Religion

69. The children said their morning and night time prayers. It wasn't thrown down their throats. Religion was taught at school. They attended mass every Sunday. I don't remember much about the confession but they must have gone.

### Manual Work

70. The children just did the usual chores. They would sometimes clean the dining room table and maybe set the table because there were more girls there. They didn't get any money for the jobs. They got good pocket money at Lasswade better than Aberdeen. I think there were more funds at Lasswade and also it was the 1970s going into the 80s.

### Christmas/birthdays

71. Christmas and birthdays were celebrated. One of the staff had a mother who worked over in the kitchen so she would make a nice little cake for their birthdays. Some of them were taken out by people for Christmas and Easter.

### Visits

72. There was no set day for visitors. There was more family visits in Lasswade than in Aberdeen. It was limited, there wasn't that many who came. The visits were encouraged. Sometimes the family would take them out for the day. The children looked forward to that. I don't remember any overnight visits. The social work visited regularly. It was similar to Aberdeen. I think it was every three months.

#### Inspections

73. I don't remember an inspection while I was there from social work. I can't remember that. There was a visitation from the Order when I was there. They would have an

opportunity to speak to the children. They were free to go around and do that. The community would have got written feedback from the visit.

74. Lasswade was the first place we had a coloured television. It was a black and white television in Aberdeen. I remember the day we got the coloured television.

### Children's Families

75. Social work reviews of care placements would take place at the home. They would interview the children. We were generally successful in keeping family groups together. They would be kept together if possible. I can't remember if children wrote to their families.

### Personal possessions

76. They would keep their personal possessions in their lockers. The girls would share a dressing table between their beds.

# Access to Children

77. There wasn't anyone who taught sports or dancing coming into the home. There were no trainee priests helping out.

# Children leaving Nazareth House

78. The boys knew that they were moving on to De La Salle. I don't think they visited before they left Nazareth House. I think maybe one of the brothers might have come to visit them. In terms of children leaving to go into the community, the two older girls were still there when I left and they would have been the first to leave Nazareth House.

# Discipline and Punishment

- 79. In relation to punishment, the children were deprived of the television, that was about it. They did not have any pocket money taken off them. I don't remember any written or unwritten codes of conduct. The children would be disciplined for fighting or fighting with the staff. That was a big one. There were one or two girls always getting in trouble with the staff. I don't remember any problem with bullying. I didn't see any bullying.
- 80. Corporal punishment wasn't used. I didn't hear about it. The civilian staff would refer most of the discipline to me. They were able to deal with normal telling off or something like that. There was no record of discipline kept. I don't remember keeping one. I didn't ever witness any abuse taking place at Lasswade. The children never complained to me about any abuse or bullying. I would expect them to bring any problems to me. If I couldn't deal with it I would tell the superior. I never actually had to do that. I can't remember anything taking place which I would now consider to be abuse.

### Allegations

- 81. I have been informed that allegations have been made by some children who were at Lasswade, against sisters and staff.
- 82. I have been told there are allegations against myself and some other sisters and staff.



LBF I am asked if I remember a girl called I remember the name but I 83. can't put a face to it. I am told the Inquiry has information that suggests she was at Lasswade from 1967 or 1968 until 1976. I told that she had brothers and and a sister called **set of** I can remember he was known as I think LFX was younger. I am told that she says that when she was there Sister LFX LFZ was in charge of her group and after that Sister was after Sister 1

was actually after Sister Benedict. Sister **LFX** was there years after me. I am told the Inquiry has information that she has said that she was left with Sister **LFX** I am told that she has said that upon arriving *"The nun who met us at the front door left us with Sister* **LFX** *She more or less got me and my siblings to stand in a line and started checking our heads for lice. The windows were long and I was standing head height with the window sill. I said to her, "We don't have lice. We get looked after". She slapped me across the face and my head rattled off the window sill. I didn't say anything else after that. She carried on checking our heads."* There was only one Sister **LFX** 

- 84. I am told that she has said that "we had a bath before bed on alternate nights, that the whole group got a bath, they all lined up, girls and boys, in a queue, the bath water didn't get changed, it was scorching hot if you were first in and filthy and freezing if you were last." I don't remember that. She goes on to say that "children were classed as responsible when they got to the age of ten, that meant that they were responsible for one of the younger ones, that they had to make sure they got their bath and washed their hair, that they weren't just looking after themselves, they had responsibility for someone else." I don't know anything about that. She says that two of the girls in her dorm were sisters who were used to sleeping together, that one would climb into the other's bed after lights out, she'd get slapped and put into her own bed if she was caught. I don't remember, I never heard about that.
- 85. I am told that there is information from her that there were a few children in her group who wet the bed. She has said that the other children were encouraged to humiliate them, that they had to stand up at breakfast time in front of everybody and say that they'd wet the bed. She has said that they'd be put into freezing cold baths, and that she would hear them screaming. I wonder which group she was in. I don't know about that. She has also said that children had to be quiet at mealtimes and weren't allowed to talk at all. I know where that is now. I am trying to think where she was in Lasswade so I didn't witness that. She goes on to say that, you weren't allowed to leave your food, you had finish what was on your plate, even if you were full or didn't LFX LFY like it. I am told that she has said that Sister and would force feed her if she didn't eat her food. I never heard about force feeding. I remember

LEY, she was a care assistant. I am told that she has also said that "we had to polish the floor of the big, long corridor until it gleamed. It was a weekly chore. We out the polish on by hand and buffed it up with rags on our feet until it was shiny. It took ages. We also had to brush and mop the floors in the kitchen and dining room." That doesn't accord with my recollection.

- 86. I am told that she says about birthdays in Lasswade, "Birthdays weren't celebrated. I knew it was my birthday, but I didn't get a card or anything else." She goes on to say that if she was given anything nice from her family, that it was taken off her, that she got a watch from her dad and it was taken away. She was told that she didn't need it. I never heard about that. I am told that she has said about her siblings, "My brother and sister, were taken away to the other side of Nazareth House the first day we arrived. I never saw them again until they were five and came to live in Group 2. They were just whisked away that first day. We weren't even allowed to go and visit them." I think that may refer to a time before I arrived. If there weren't enough beds in one place they might have had to be separated. I remember the name but I can't put a face to it. He was still there when I left. I was 1973 to 75.
- 87. I am told there is also information from LBF to say that, the place had been refurbished by the time came to Group 2, that wasn't put in a bedroom with her, she went into a room with three other girls, that she was never given responsibility for she was looked after by other girls, that you would think given she was her sister, that she would have been asked to look after her. It doesn't mean anything to me. She goes on to say, that she would see every day until he left Nazareth House, he was in the same group as her, they were only separated at night for sleeping purposes, that was never with the same group by the time only separated at night for sleeping purposes.

came to her group. She doesn't know whether he was fostered or adopted, she didn't know that he was leaving, nobody told her, one day he was there, the next day he was gone. If he was eleven he would have gone. He was till there when I left. I was there from 1973 to 1975.

- 88. I am told that she says about Sister that she was always picked on her by her, that even if she wasn't involved, it was always her who got the blame. She has LFX said Sister hit her most days, she slapped her on the face the very first day she arrived, and that she would get hit every two or three days. I don't know about that. She has also said "We used to go to the swimming pool in Bonnyrigg on a LFX Sunday. I was late back one day, which annoyed Sister She called me into the dining room. All the chairs were tilted up on the tables. She asked me why I was late, and I said that I rushed up the road. She slapped me and I fell to the floor. She then started kicking me on the face and stomach. She was shouting at me, telling me to stand up." I never heard about that. They didn't go to the swimming baths in Bonnyrigg when I was there. She goes on to say that, "I fell against the record player LFX stated hitting me with a wooden chair, and it scratched the record. Sister banging it on my back, over my head and on my legs. Eventually, the chair broke and she started hitting me with the leg of the chair. I think she must have exhausted herself with all the hitting and kicking, as she then stopped and told me to get up and get out." She goes on to say, "I took myself up to my room and just lay on my bed, crying. I was covered in bruises. She had been kicking me with thick, heavy boots, and she didn't come up to see if I was okay. I was only a wee lassie. I think I was about seven. I hadn't long had a birthday. There was no apology. She thought she could do it, so she did it. That was the punishment for being five or ten minutes late." I don't know about that but I know one thing they wouldn't have to the swimming baths on their own at that age. I don't know anything about this incident.
- 89. I am told she has said that, "Sister LFX slapped me across the face one day when I was having a laugh and a carry-on with a few others. I was about eight or nine. I lost my balance and fell down the stairs. I knocked myself out. They couldn't bring me round, so Sister LFX took me to the hospital in a red van." At seven, they wouldn't have gone to the swimming baths on their own. There was a red van in Lasswade.
- 90. I am told that there is also information from LBF that she was hit by a staff member called LGA The LGA that I remember was an older lady. I don't know. She has said that she was force-fed on a couple of occasions, once with

spaghetti, that she tried to keep her mouth shut while Sister **LFX** banged the spoon against her mouth, she had bruising all around her mouth and her gums were really sore afterwards and, that if she was sick when being force-fed, the vomit was forced into her mouth as well. I didn't witness that. She has also said that **LFY** would walk round the dining room with a thick wooden spoon, which she'd use to hit the children on the their side or top of the head if she caught them talking. No, there was a dining room for each unit. She says, **LFY** was wicked. We used to be allowed to go down to the chapel in Bonnyrigg. You just asked if you wanted to go. I said I was going there one day and then changed my mind and went somewhere else. They managed somehow to find out that I hadn't gone to church.

beat me with the wooden spoon when I got back to the home. She was hitting me on my bottom at first and the nun told her not to hit me there, as there was too much flesh and I wouldn't feel it. She told her to hit me at the bottom of my back, which she did several times. I didn't count how many times LFY hit me, but it was a lot. It was really, really sore. I could hardly walk after it. It actually scarred the bottom of my back." I have never heard about that. I just remember her. I can't comment. I didn't see her interacting with the children.

91. I am told that there is information where she has said that her friend was hurt by one of the nuns when they were about twelve or thirteen, that it wasn't a nun from their group, she didn't know her name, that hit the nun back and pulled her veil off, she then got sent away to live in St Euphrasia's in Glasgow, and they kept in touch when she left. was still there when I was there it must have been after I left so I know nothing about that. She has said "I wrote to her one time and got a slapping from a nun when she opened reply to me. I think it was LFZ Sister who hit me. It was just a slap, not a beating." I don't remember, that is the one thing I did not do. I don't know if she has confused me with another nun. I LBF understand that has said that, she knew other kids were getting hurt, but she didn't always witness it, that they were taken away sometimes, she just knew it was happening, and that every child knew about it. She has also that, cold baths and getting humiliated were the typical things for the bed-wetters, she remembers a nun rubbing a child's face in her bed because she had wet it, that she was roaring and shouting at her, that it wasn't Sister **LFX** as she had moved on

by then, and that she doesn't remember who the nun was or the child's name. I never saw any behaviour like that.

LFZ 92. I am told that she has also said that "Sister used to hit and another LBL a lot. They seemed to get the brunt of it. I only ever saw her hitting them bov. with her hands. It was hard for me to see my little brother getting hit and not being able to stop it. It was for hard for me to see any child getting hit. I don't know if Sister LFZ LFX was as brutal as Sister lor LFY As I said, you didn't always witness what was happening." That did not happen.

LCB

- LCB 93. I am asked if I remember a child called who may have been in Lasswade from 1967 to 1979. I think she was in Holycot. She has said that every Sunday, the children from Holycot One and Two were taken to Bonnyrigg swimming LTX pool, that they were great times, but Sister would always put a dampener on things with one of her moods, that she was very moody and, that she would change at the flick of a finger. I sort of remember the name but I didn't look after her. LCB I am told that has said that she remembers a few of the younger boys LTX wet the bed, they got cold showers and, that it was Sister who put them in the shower. I never heard about any bedwetting. I am told that she remembers a wee boy called he was two or three years old and nearly drowned in the sea. She remembers that Sister LTX went into the sea, in her habit, and LTX pulled him out by his hair and saved him. Sister didn't take him to the hospital. I never heard of that.
- 94. She goes on to say that those who were in the home the longest got more of the abuse, that those whose mum and dad visited didn't get it so bad, and that they were disciplined, but not so harshly. She goes on to say that, the LCB and the got it bad, they were long-termers, that when her dad came to visit, LTX spoke to him first, and if she told him that they were naughty they'd get it from him too. I never experienced anything like that.

- 95. She has described some of the other abuse as follows, "When Sister **LTX** was brushing my hair, and I don't know whether I moved or I fidgeted or something, but it would be a pull of the hair then a punch to the head. The abuse was daily, not so much to myself but there was always one of the kids getting it. Punching, kicking, pulling hair. At that time, **LXB** and I had long hair She threw brushes at kids' heads for laughing. She was really good at aiming her brushes. It was hard at times, the physical assaults on the kids. She would punch with the top of her fingers in a fist." I never witnessed Sister **LTX** with the children.
- 96. She has also speaks of an incident on a holiday in Dunbar when Sister LTX made LXB drink salt water until she was sick because she had accused LXB of taking some Benylin or some sort of medicine.
- 97. I am asked if I remember anything about that incident. I do not remember it. I never saw this happen. We did go on holiday to Dunbar.
- 98. I am asked if I remember a girl called **LCB** has said that she was in the living room one time and **Solution** should because she needed the toilet, that Sister **LTX** and a member of staff were out in the hall talking, they weren't paying attention so she wet herself, that Sister **LTX** picked her up by her arm and smacked her bare legs. I don't remember her at all. I never heard about that incident. She goes on to say that, kids got accused of lighting candles and trying to burn the units. She can't remember the wee boy's name, but he got leathered for that, she doesn't' think he was old enough to strike a match.
- 99. She says about Sister **LTX** that, "she was funny because sometimes if you'd been naughty she didn't hit you, even if you'd done something bad. One time I hit someone with a cricket bat and she only sent me to my room. I really thought I was going to get hit." She says that "She would sometimes 'send you to Coventry', which meant nobody was allowed to talk to you or play with you. Family, friends, no-one. Even at the dining table. The longest it lasted was three or four days. It was horrible

being sent to Coventry. We could go to school but after that you weren't allowed out of the grounds. So you could speak to friends at school. It was the only time I liked going to school. My sister used to whisper to me in bed. You had to apologise to have it stopped. I didn't mean it when I apologised because I didn't know what I'd done half the time." I have never heard that expression with regards the children.

- 100. Some information has been read to me which I understand has been said by her as follows: "There was a time when LXB was in the bathroom trying to help for to walk and she fell and hurt herself. Sister LTX asked everyone to go in and hit LXB but we didn't. She also punched LXB in the face because the school had said she didn't have a tie on. She ended up with a bruise on her face. The school then asked LXB how she got the bruise on her face, I think it was a Mr Mooney. He called the convent to say that LXB told him a nun had done it, so she got punished again." I never heard about that. I don't know who Mr Mooney was.
- 101. She has also stated that there was always kids getting slapped about somewhere, that it was just one of those daily things, she got used to seeing it, somebody got hit every day, from when she was seven until she left, somebody always got it. I don't remember that. She goes on to say, *"the most humiliating thing was when I was told to strip naked in the laundry room and Sister* **LTX** *smacked my bare bottom. I was completely naked and had to lie over a chair while she hit me with a slipper. She said I'd been to someone's birthday party without permission. One of the older girls walked in because they were in the laundry working. I can't remember who it was. The hitting went on and on. I was grabbing the chair with my legs so hard I had bruises, trying to grip on to it."* I never heard about that.
- 102. She describes another incident involving Sister **LTX** as follows: "One time she accused me of breaking a set of rosary beads. I hadn't done it, but she punched me in the mouth and punched me so my head was hitting a wall. I had to say the devil made me do it, even though I hadn't broken them." I can't help with that. I am told that **LCB** says there was an occasion where Sister **LTX** accused a girl called **Solution** of stealing sweeties out of the Easter eggs and she rammed a **CO** chocolate bar down her throat in front of everybody in the dining room, and that

# LCF

- LCF I am asked if I remember a child called I don't. I am 103. LFB told that he says that Sister was the one that dished out the punishment to LFB him. He has also said that he only really remembers Sister and Sister LFZ LFZ that Sister was okay and he doesn't really remember much about her. I don't remember that name. He has probably got my name wrong I am told that he says he doesn't remember there being any toys or books in the home and that he doesn't remember ever celebrating his birthday. There were toys and books, but there might not have been many. I can't comment on his LCF birthday as I don't know which group he was in. I am told says there was an occasion where he fell off a bike on a trip to Tomintoul, that his penis was bleeding, and the staff never took him to hospital or got him medical attention. It doesn't ring any bells.
- I am told that he has said that his sisters lived on the girls' side of the home, that he 104. was separated from them and, that they were segregated. He has said that he was not allowed to leave the boys' side to go anywhere near the girls' side, and that in LFB the first few weeks he regularly tried to get to see his sisters but Sister wouldn't let him. That does accord with the rules that I remember in Nazareth House LCF in Aberdeen. I am told that says there were occasions where he tried to sneak down the stairs through the night, but that he was caught by a nun on the girls' side, that sometimes Sister LFB would drag him by the hair along the floor, or she would slap him on the face and body, that she pulled him by the hair on the back of his neck up three flights of the marble staircase and bundled him into a dark cupboard which, wasn't much bigger than a phone box, where he was left was hours. I don't know about any of that. He has said about being separated from his sisters that "I became more and more out of control and as this increased so did LFB level of violence against me. She would hit me on the hands with a Sister short wooden stick. She would grab my wrist then strike me on the open hand with it.

If I clenched my hand she would just hit my knuckles. Getting hit by the stick happened occasionally and wasn't the usual method of punishment from Sister

- 105. I am told that **LCF** describes Sister **LFB** as a devious and nasty woman who enjoyed inflicting suffering and has also said of her that *"Sister* **LFB** *took great pleasure in being able to hit me when it was least expected. She stood over me with her hands hidden under her robes and told me what it was I had done wrong. If at any point I turned away or lost eye contact with her she would quickly bring her hand out and slap me on the face."* I didn't witness or hear about that. He has also said that Sister **LFB** taught him fear, paranoia and violence. That doesn't resonate with me.
- 106. I am told there is information which says that **LCF** remembers a nun had died, that all of the children had to queue up at the chapel and, that he had to kiss the dead nun's hand. I don't know. I am told that he remembers that if anyone wet their bed they had to wrap the wet sheet around them and queue up for the bathroom in the freezing cold corridor. He has said that they would have to get into a big industrial type sized bath that was either filled with freezing cold or boiling hot water and, that he was frightened. I can't remember the size of the baths.
- 107. I am told that he has a memory of sitting on someone's knee in the TV room and the person who was an older boy or an adult male was fondling him. I don't know anything about that.
- 108. I am asked if my memory has been affected by the passage of time. I can say that it has not. I have told you honestly what I can remember about my time there. I would expect to be able to remember these things if they had occurred. I am asked if I consider that punishments for wetting the bed, being force fed, removing of possessions and the beatings that have been alleged would constitute abuse? I would classify them as abuse. If I saw or heard any of the things that have been read to me now then I would report it. I didn't see or hear about any of these things. I am

not aware of any other police investigations I relation to any other events in Aberdeen or Lasswade.

#### Records

109. I wouldn't have a clue about records.

#### **Final thoughts**

- 110. I am unable to offer any explanation as to why so many different accounts of abuse have been made to the Inquiry. I don't wish to say anything else.
- 111. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence By me LFZ to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

LFZ	11
Signed	
Dated	