

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Paula CHAMBERS

Support person present: No

1. My name is Paula Chambers. My name as a child in care was Paula Reilly. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My family came to Scotland from Ireland in 1979. My mother and father split up quite soon after they arrived. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. I lived in Dunlop Terrace in Maybole, Ayrshire with my mum, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My mum didn't work, she stayed at home with me [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Life was good until dad left. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5. My dad left home when I was seven years old. My mum started to verbally abuse me
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Everything that happened, I got
battered for it.

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I got leathered for silly things. My mum spent most of her time in
bed. She was always saying she wasn't well.

8. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I felt hated and unloved. I didn't
understand why I was the one that had to suffer. I didn't know if there was something
wrong with me because I'd had meningitis. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I was terrified to come home from in

school because I knew I'd either be put to bed at 6 pm or I'd be getting hit. It happened all the time.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

10.

11.

12.

13. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

15. I went to quite a few Children's Panels. My social worker during this time was Jill Evans. Jill was my social worker until I was fourteen years old.
16. My mother was saying she couldn't cope with me or my behaviour. My mum was telling social work and the Children's Panel that she thought I had some kind of mental problem and they needed to take me away. She was blaming me for splitting her marriage up.
17. I begged the Panel not to take me away from my mum. The abuse at home was bad and I wanted it to stop but I didn't want to go to people who I didn't know. I still loved my mum. I would have done anything for her. I tried to do stuff for my mum but she was having none of it.
18. I thought after I'd been at the foster carers for a few weeks, the Panel would send me home but they never. The Panel put me away into another foster place for a longer time. Then I was sent to Nazareth House.

Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

19. I went to Nazareth House when I was nine or ten years old. Jill Evans, my social worker, came and said I was getting moved to Nazareth House. She took me there that same day. I packed a wee case with the things the foster people had bought for me.
20. Sister [LHW] was in charge. The staff were Bridget and [REDACTED] Rose was the cook. Her sister, Elsie was the cleaner. Joe Duffy was a volunteer worker. Rose was always talking dirty and making dirty, sexual remarks. She always had a carry on with Joe Duffy, grabbing his bum and that sort of thing.
21. The building was a red brick bungalow. There were two parts to the bungalow with a glass corridor joining the living areas to the sleeping areas. When you went in the front door, there was a kitchen and a dining room to the left. The door to the room was a big, heavy, brown door with a wee glass window. The kitchen and dining-room was open-plan, with a serving counter. There were three or four tables in the dining room.
22. The corridor was an L shape. When you turned the corner, to the left, there was a playroom. Along the corridor on the left was the sitting-room which was all windows. Across the corridor, to the right, there was a cloakroom and toilet. There was also a meeting room. Around the corner, from the sitting-room, on the right hand side was Sister [LHW] office.
23. The bedrooms were through the glass corridor. There was a small area, almost like a cul-de-sac, with two bedrooms in it. These rooms were [REDACTED] rooms. The [REDACTED] were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] LCY [REDACTED]. Just a few feet away, across from the [REDACTED] room at the corner, was Sister [LHW] room. Along a corridor, to the left and the right, were the boys rooms. Then you went through big, double doors, where there were four girl's rooms. In Nazareth House, there were about fifteen or eighteen

kids, aged from about nine to sixteen years old. A lot of the children seemed to be brothers and sisters.

24. Nazareth House was a scary place. There were loads of trees and a main road outside. There was a big house in the grounds. Elderly people lived in it, former nuns and priests.

Routine at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

First day

25. It felt like a long journey to Nazareth House. The person in charge was Sister [LHW]. She was standing there when I arrived. There was no smile from her. I was nervous. I had never seen a nun or anybody dressed the way the nun was dressed. All you could see was her face and she had a black uniform thing on. Sister [LHW] took the bag from Jill, the social worker. They spoke for some time. I was showed into the living room and the kitchen. Jill wasn't there for long. I was very upset when Jill was leaving because I didn't know what this place was. I asked Jill if she would come and see me and she said she would.
26. There were kids in a playroom sitting watching TV. I had arrived at about tea-time. The staff were going to get me something to eat but I was upset and didn't want to eat. There was no emotion from Sister [LHW]. She looked through me. I knew I was in her care now. The realisation had set in that this was where I was going to be staying.
27. Sister [LHW] said I was to hang my coat up. She took me to a cloakroom where there were hundreds of shoes and people's jackets. Sister [LHW] said she had to look through my case and took me to her office. In the case, I had wee toiletries and the things I'd been given by the foster people. Sister [LHW] said I wouldn't be needing this and that and took most of it away. I was left with a couple of books.

28. I was given pyjamas to wear, not the nice ones the foster people had bought for me. I was given bedding and taken into a room where there were three beds. Sister LHW said I was to get ready for bed and do my prayers. Then I went to bed and the lights were put out.

Mornings and bedtime

29. I shared a bedroom with two other girls, [REDACTED] and another girl, whose name I don't remember. They were the same age as me. The three beds came out from the wall. My bed was in the middle. There was a small brown cupboard beside each bed. There were two big windows. The window frames were made of metal. They tipped out to open and rattled at night.
30. In the morning, the staff, Bridget or [REDACTED] woke us up because Sister LHW was away doing prayers. They came in and shouted that everybody was to get up and get washed. We then got ready for school.
31. There were set times to go to bed for the older and younger children. I went to bed at 8 pm and the older children stayed up. You did your prayers and went to sleep. You couldn't read a book or lie in bed and speak.

Mealtimes / Food

32. For breakfast, there was cereal or toast. You had to line up in a queue at the counter and wait your turn. The cook, Rose, served breakfast. If you didn't eat your breakfast, you went without. You would be told to sit at the table and wait for the other children to have theirs. I think we had a school lunch.
33. There was no snack when we came in from school. The next meal was at tea-time. The food was horrible. There was egg custard with a cheesecake base and big, spicy, scotch eggs with breadcrumbs on them. They served fat, watery chips. There was fish and peas.

Washing / bathing

34. We were given plain soap and "Vosene" shampoo. It was nothing like what we use today. Bath night was twice a week, on Wednesday and Sunday. The staff were there to check that there was no carry on. You had your bath on your own. Sister LHW didn't help out at bath-time. I think two children shared the water but I'd done that at home. It was not unusual to me.

Clothing / uniform

35. The first morning I was at Nazareth House, Sister LHW said I'd be starting school at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School. She said she had clothes for me to wear. I thought I would have been taken out for clothes. Sister LHW said the clothes had been handed over from the big house. There were jackets, shoes and things that the retired nuns in the big house had worn.
36. Sister LHW gave me shoes and a jacket. The shoes were worn. They were white, with an old-fashioned square toe, tiny pin holes on them with a strap and a brown wooden heel. The jacket was blue with fur around the collar. They were different to the clothes that I had worn before I went to Nazareth House. They were old woman's clothes.
37. I had bad eyesight because of the meningitis. I couldn't see without my glasses. My mum couldn't afford to get me nice glasses so I had to wear National Health glasses. The glasses were ugly. They were either pink or blue with big wings. You never got a choice. I had to go to school with this hideous coat on, the shoes and the ugly glasses. I didn't feel normal.
38. I assume I was given a skirt and a blouse for school but I can't remember that. I remember the coat and the shoes because they were unusual and I'd never had to wear clothes like that before. I had to wear the coat and shoes all of the time when I was out of Nazareth House.

School

39. I went to Our Lady of Rosary Primary School in Cardonald. I don't remember much about school. My mind wasn't on school. I wasn't concentrating and I didn't have much liking for school. I never had any friends. The other children slagged children from Nazareth House because they knew we were from the home. They laughed at my shoes, my jacket and the ugly glasses. The only friend I had was a boy from another home at Ibrox. He was in the class above me.
40. I found it difficult to cope and understand things because I'd missed a lot of school. I don't think I was at the same level as the other kids in my class. I didn't get any extra help at school or with my homework. At Nazareth House, you had to do your homework on your own, in your room.
41. I was in the school choir.

Leisure Time

42. There was a big playroom. The toys were all shabby, baby toys. There was a big, silly lion you could lie on the floor with. There were some books and a TV. You had to watch whatever the older children were watching on TV. You couldn't complain and say you wanted to watch something else. Joe Duffy, a volunteer worker, bought a fish tank. It had big, ugly fish in it.

Chores

43. You had to do chores every day after tea. I would be sent to tidy up the cloakroom and I had to polish and shine the shoes. I was given a box with brushes in it. You vacuumed and tidied the rooms. You put toilet rolls in the toilet and cleaned out the toilets and the bath using heavy, powdery "Vim". You brought your clothes down to the kitchen laundry.

44. Sometimes you had to go over to the big house and do chores. I was sent to the kitchens to help Sister Philip. Sister Philip was very good to me. I would have done anything to get over into the kitchen to be with Sister Philip. She was very nice. The children had to go the big house to collect the trays of food that were to be served to us. We had to take the slops of leftover food around to the bins. We helped go around with the food trolleys in the big house. After you finished your chores, you would get ready for bed and do your prayers.
45. When Sister [LHW] discovered I could sing, she made me go over to the big house to sing to the old people. At Christmas time, we went over and sang to them. I loved that. The old people gave you sweeties. I thought that was great. We didn't get sweeties at Nazareth House.
46. She bought two rabbits and we had to clean out their cages at the weekend.

Trips / Holidays

47. Joe Duffy took us to the swimming baths. I went every second weekend when I wasn't on a home visit. We didn't go anywhere else. There were no other organised activities.
48. We went to Loch Lomond and to a house in Girvan for a holiday in the summer. We went with other nuns, Sister [LHW] wasn't there. The nuns let us go out and run about. There was no supervision or organisation. I was on my own most of the time. You could run around the whole of Girvan.

Birthdays and Christmas

49. At Christmas we were handed a black bin bag with some things in it. That wasn't from Sister [LHW] it came from Scottish Television Studios, STV. The bags were given to Sister Philip. I took my things home [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

50. I don't remember ever getting anything for my birthday. There was never a card or a cake. My mother might have got me something.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

51. Jill Evans, my social worker, was brilliant when I was in Nazareth House. She was so good to me, I wanted so much for her to be my mum. Jill took me to her house and to her mum's house to see her wee dogs. Jill was with me for most of my young life. She was really kind and nice, one of the good people in life.
52. Jill came to Nazareth House every two weeks, to collect me to take me to my mum's for a home visit. Every time Jill came, I'd get really excited to see her. On the journey back to Nazareth House, I knew she would take me to Largs for an ice-cream or she would have some Diet Coke and a mars bar in the car. Jill always brought sweeties, that was brilliant because you never got that in the home.
53. Jill also came to Nazareth House for review meetings. Sister [LHW] and the staff would talk at the meeting. I'd just have to sit and listen. I never had a review meeting without Sister [LHW] being there. I didn't tell Jill about what Sister [LHW] was doing to me. I was scared Jill would tell Sister [LHW] and that I'd get it worse.
54. When I went into Nazareth House, I asked Jill if anyone else would come and see me. I was meaning my mum. I never saw any of my family for a long time. One time, Sister [LHW] came to the playroom and said I had a visitor. It was my father. He took me out for the day. He never came back again. I was heartbroken because I thought he was going to take me out of Nazareth House.
55. I only went to the Children's Panel when I went into Nazareth House and when I was going out of it.

Healthcare

56. I was taken to the Notre Dame Clinic in Glasgow to see a psychiatrist. My mum was still trying to say there was something wrong with me. The psychiatrist said there was nothing wrong with me. He said I was a normal child and there was no psychiatric problem at all. The psychiatrist said he felt my mum blamed me for breaking up her marriage and that she was fixated on thinking that, from the age of two, I was a handful because of the meningitis.
57. I don't remember seeing any other doctor or dentist when I was at Nazareth House. I went to see the optician once to get glasses when my glasses either got broken or needed upgraded.

Religious Instruction

58. You had to go to the chapel every Sunday. You did your prayers. I couldn't understand the Catholic religion because we'd been moved out of the Catholic school into the Protestant school. It was confusing for me. Sister LHW had me praying all the time. I hated it.

Bed Wetting

59. I had never wet the bed before I went to Nazareth House but I started to wet the bed there. You had to strip your sheets and walk past everyone and give your sheets to Rose in the kitchen where the washing machines were. Everyone would see you because they'd be having their breakfast.

Punishments

60. Punishments included being stopped from going on a home visit. You would be put down to your room and excluded from anything that was going on.

Contact with Family

61. After I'd been in Nazareth House for a while, I started to go home every second weekend. The majority of the time, Jill would come and get me to take me home. It was a relief to get home. I would get excited when I got to the outskirts of Maybole. I felt I was going into a normal life. To me, the life at Nazareth House was old-fashioned. It didn't feel normal.
62. I wouldn't say I was treated better at home. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Most of the time I went out playing to a tree swing [REDACTED] I didn't get hit much because they knew I was going back to Nazareth House on the Sunday.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

63. From the day I arrived at Nazareth House, Sister [REDACTED] LHW was not nice to me. There was no smile, no welcome. You didn't feel she was a loving or nice person. I had expected that I'd be treated well because I'd come out of a really bad life where I was used to getting beatings all of the time. I thought Sister [REDACTED] LHW was there to look after kids like me. You could see Sister [REDACTED] LHW didn't like kids. She didn't have a soft side at all. She was a cold, horrible woman.
64. I felt like I'd gone from the frying pan into the fire. The abuse at home was bad enough. Sister [REDACTED] LHW made me feel worthless, like I should never have been born. Her face was like the witch from the film The Wizard of Oz. She looked like she had no eyebrows. She had an old haggard face and she never smiled.
65. The way I was treated was completely the opposite of my expectations. Sister [REDACTED] LHW couldn't stand the sight of me from day one. If you spoke to her, you never got a nice answer. It was always a growl. Sister [REDACTED] LHW made me wear those awful old women's clothes and shoes. I had answered her back about that and she didn't like that either.

66. I hadn't been in Nazareth House for long when Sister [LHW] came in when I was polishing the shoes. She was telling me off for something, I can't remember what but it was something trivial. Sister [LHW] slapped me across the face. I was crying and upset. I said to her that I was going to tell on her. Sister [LHW] said no-one would believe me and she said they knew I was a bad child who made stories up and that my mother couldn't control me. She said that was why I was at Nazareth House and that I was to understand that. She told me to go to my room.
67. From then on, anything I asked for, she said no. Sister [LHW] was negative towards me all of the time. She was always telling me that I was a bad child and my mother couldn't cope with me. After I told the review meeting that Sister [LHW] had slapped me, she hated me. She made my life difficult. She was on my case the whole time. I could never do right for doing wrong. Sister [LHW] would pull you about. She would tell you to get out of her way.
68. Sister [LHW] made me eat the horrible food that was served up at tea-time. I hated the food. I can taste it in my mouth just talking about it. When I told Sister [LHW] that I didn't like what I was eating, she told me to swallow it. I would sit, with the food in my mouth, not wanting to chew it, until I could build up the courage to swallow it.
69. Sister [LHW] knew I didn't like the egg custard and the scotch eggs but she made me keep eating them. She could have said to leave what I didn't like and eat the chips, peas and bread but she forced me to eat those things, knowing I absolutely hated them. I was scared of Sister [LHW]. She used threats to make me eat the food. I can't remember everything she said but I knew I had to eat it. She would say you had better eat it or you'd be sorry, there was to be no wasting food, there were people out there starving. Sometimes I was sick. Sister [LHW] shouted at me to clean it up. I had to sit in the dining room until everyone else left and then tidy up.
70. When I was nine years old, I was helping with the food trolleys in the big house. Sister [LJS] took me round. I had to help her carry the trays into the rooms. I had to go into an old man's room. He was probably a former priest. He had a shirt on but

nothing on underneath. I saw his bits and I didn't like that. I'd never seen that anywhere else. Sister [LJS] could see that he had nothing on. I don't know whether she thought there was no harm in it because he was old.

71. When I was ten years old, Sister [LHW] took me into her office and said I had to go on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. I was to go with other children who were to be cured of different things that were wrong with them. I asked Sister [LHW] what was wrong with me. She said to me I was a bad child, I was in Nazareth House because I was a bad child and my mum couldn't cope with me. She said the things I did were evil and bad so I needed to go to this holy shrine in France to be cured. I didn't understand this. I didn't want to answer back or say that I didn't want to go because you just didn't do that.
72. I was to go to France with a woman from Dunoon who would be taking care of me. My mum got me wee socks with pom-poms on the back of them. Sister [LHW] wanted to see what I was taking to Lourdes. I showed her the socks. She said I wasn't to take them and I had to wear long socks. Sister [LHW] gave me the clothes that were to be worn at Lourdes. Again, it was the coat and the old woman's white shoes. There was a pair of ugly red velvet shorts. Sister [LHW] had the same ones on her feet, with a square toe and a block heel. The shoes I was given weren't new, they were scuffed and had been worn. Sister [LHW] made it clear that it was stuff the nuns had sent across from the big house. I was nine and ten but I was wearing the clothes of a sixty year old. The only thing I liked about the shoes was that the heels made a noise when you walked.
73. When I went to Lourdes, I was in with all these people who had something wrong with them. They were all disabled and I thought, why am I here with these people? I had to strip and go naked into a big marble bath. I had to go under the water and kiss a statue in an alcove. I had to go to all these prayer meetings and candlelight processions. I didn't understand why I had to do all this but I did it.

74. [REDACTED]

████████████████████ My mum had an official photo that was taken at Lourdes. I was in the front row with all these people with disabilities. ██████████

- ████████████████████
75. I never felt like a bonny child when I was wee. I always wondered why I was singled out to wear those clothes and shoes. I felt, because I was on my own, I had to wear any old stuff. ██████████ and the other children in Nazareth House didn't have to wear those kind of clothes. They could wear their own clothes. ██████████ were two or three years older than me. I knew ██████████ were in Nazareth House all the time. They didn't go home at weekends and I don't remember people visiting them. I don't know where their clothes came from. They seemed very modern. I envied ██████████ because of the things they had.
76. ██████████ rooms were lovely. They were homely. Their rooms were all done up with posters ██████████ were allowed to play music on a wee stereo they had. ██████████ and I never had anything like that. Our room was bare, with a cross on the wall.
77. The day my dad visited me at Nazareth House, he took me to a shop and bought me new shoes. When I got back, Sister ██████████ LHW took the shoes away from me. She said I wasn't to have them. I don't know who got my shoes.
78. Most of the shoes I had to clean belonged to ██████████ They had lovely cowboy boots. I had to go to a school party. I had nothing to wear and thought I couldn't go wearing the horrible clothes Sister ██████████ LHW gave me. I'd be a laughing stock. ██████████ LCY ██████████ was so kind. She gave me a beautiful blouse to wear, jeans and the cowboy boots. I was so happy. I thought I was lovely going to this school party.
79. I used to go with Sister Philip in the minibus to Marks and Spencer to get food for the big house. Sister Philip would give me wee presents. She gave me wee plant pots with flowers in them. When I was ten years old, she gave me a bag with makeup in

it. I thought this was amazing. I loved the wee bag of stuff. I was so excited, I ran over to the bungalow to show everyone. Sister [LHW] asked me what I had. She took me into her office. I said to Sister [LHW] that the bag was given to me as a present because I helped Sister Philip. She said she didn't care, I was a bad child and I wasn't to be rewarded. Sister [LHW] took the bag from me and said I wasn't allowed to have it. I never saw it again. I was broken hearted. I soon learned and, if I got sweeties for singing to the old people, I hid them from Sister [LHW]

80. After a while, my room-mate [REDACTED] left to go home. I was in the room on my own. I felt all the other kids were at the other end of the building and I was on my own. There was no-one else sleeping round about where I was. At night the window rattled and I would hide under the covers, I was terrified. I thought someone was going to come in and get me. The bungalow was beside hundreds of trees, there was a secondary school and high flats.
81. When I looked up, I would see Sister [LHW] go slowly by the room, stop and then go slowly back again. She didn't say a word. I was petrified because I thought it was a ghost. I knew it was Sister [LHW] because of her black uniform that she wore. I think she did that to scare me. I wet the bed and had nightmares.

Peer Abuse

82. Before [REDACTED] left the home, when I was nine or ten, there was an older boy called [REDACTED] who was fifteen or sixteen. He took [REDACTED] and I into the wee side toilet. He took out his parts and told us to hold it. It was quite frightening because we didn't know what he was doing or what he was going to do to us. We were lucky there was two of us. [REDACTED] and I told the staff about it, not Sister [LHW] [REDACTED] was moved away after that.
83. [REDACTED] was nasty to me. She hated everybody. She didn't want to be near me. [REDACTED] told me to get away and wouldn't talk to me. She threatened to hit me. I felt she was bullying me. [REDACTED] would say, "What are you looking at?"

and tell me to get away, that I was an ugly creature. I hadn't done anything to her and I couldn't understand why she disliked me so much. I didn't tell anyone about [REDACTED] because I was terrified she'd leather me if she found out. Later, I found out that [REDACTED] was being abused by Joe Duffy.

84. [REDACTED] one of the boys at Nazareth House, wasn't nice. He was always angry and stomping about. If you looked at him sideways, he'd get argumentative with you. I found out later he was being abused by Joe Duffy too.

Abuse of Others at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

85. Joe Duffy was a volunteer worker at Nazareth House. For being a volunteer worker, he seemed a very big part of the home. Nazareth House seemed like it was his home. He had full run of the place. Joe Duffy had a front door key and he would be at Nazareth House after school. You mostly saw him at the weekends. He was there constantly. I used to think he was related to Sister [REDACTED] LHW
86. There was nothing else to do at Nazareth House so I was always watching and observing Joe Duffy. I wanted to understand what was going on because I couldn't ask anyone why he was doing what he was doing. Joe Duffy wore loads of gold jewellery, he was always stinking of aftershave and he wore the best of clothes. Joe Duffy was too involved with the children. He wasn't involved with me. I used to wish he treated me the way he treated the others. I thought he was really nice.
87. On a Friday me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] LCY and maybe another couple of kids were taken to the swimming baths by Joe Duffy. In the swimming pool and in the home, Joe Duffy was kissing [REDACTED] LCY on the mouth and touching her breasts in front of us all. He put her legs around his waist. I saw him doing things I'd never seen adults doing before. I didn't think it was right. [REDACTED] LCY was about twelve years old but she looked about eight or nine. She was a tiny, petite girl. Joe Duffy was a grown man with a hairy chest.

88. Joe Duffy kissed and touched [LCY] in the home as well. When I saw him kissing and cuddling [LCY] I wished it was me. I thought, if that's what love's like, it's nice. At the same time, when he touched her private bits, I thought, I wouldn't want that. I didn't think that looked right. He regularly did this. Joe Duffy and [LCY] sat in the living-room holding hands, rubbing and kissing.
89. I never said anything because I didn't want to get on the wrong side of [REDACTED] I didn't want to do anything to offend [LCY] because I felt I'd made a friend after she loaned me the clothes for the party. I thought of the consequences of saying something, that I'd maybe get [LCY] into trouble and she'd put out of the home like [REDACTED] had been and I'd get blamed for that. So I just kept my mouth shut.
90. I found out later that Joe Duffy abused [REDACTED] He was taking [REDACTED] to football training two or three times a week but abusing him. When [REDACTED] came back, you knew he'd come in the bungalow because he stomped at a hundred miles an hour to his bedroom. If you looked at him, he'd say, "What are you looking at?" [REDACTED] and I looked after the rabbits. I couldn't get a nice conversation out of him at all. He wanted to fight and argue with me all the time.
91. The bungalow was open-plan. Sister [LHW] bedroom was near the living-room, the girls bedroom and the boys bedroom. She went away to bed and left us children in the care of that man. I believe that Sister [LHW] knew what Joe Duffy was doing to [LCY] and [REDACTED] and she didn't do anything about it. I think the other staff saw it as well, as us kids did, and didn't report it.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

92. I attended a review meeting soon after I'd gone into Nazareth House. My mum, my social worker, Sister [LHW] were there and there was someone else who took notes. I told them that Sister [LHW] had slapped me across the face. I thought it was going to be good if I told the meeting what she'd done. I thought I'd be taken away from Nazareth House. Sister [LHW] denied it. She said they'd had a problem with

me telling lies and made me out to be as bad as possible. Sister [REDACTED] LHW said I was making it up.

Leaving Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

93. Nazareth House was closing down and there was a review meeting. The decision was that I should go home to my mother. I was sent home but it didn't last long.

Returning Home, Maybole, Ayrshire

94. I did my first year and the beginning of second year at Carrick Academy in Maybole. At home, things were worse than before because I had been put away into care. That was thrown at me all the time. My family would say I'd already been in one loony place and I needed to go back in. My family said they didn't want me at home and they wanted me put away. It was the same scenario, being hit.
95. When I was twelve or thirteen years old. I received a bad beating [REDACTED] and staggered up to the Picture House at the back of where we stayed. I sat there and thought, do I go back down into that house or do I go to the social work? I went to the social work and I was taken back into care again. The social work took me to hospital first. I had bite marks on me. Then I was taken to Coynton Children's Home.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

96. [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

138. My father had a new wife and four children under the age of five. At first, it was great. My father was giving me some attention. My father and his wife were drinking all the time. My father was battering her. They went out all the time to the bingo and I was looking after the wee kids. I'd never looked after kids before.
139. Then my father's wife started to get jealous. She was very abusive. I'd been staying there for six months when she gave my dad an ultimatum, he had to choose between me and her. My dad said I had to leave. My dad's wife's parents came to the house. Her parents said they were going to get me locked up in a mental institution and I'd never be seen again by anybody. I panicked and ran round to a phone box and I phoned my mother.
140. My mother came and got me from Carstairs. I went back to stay with her in Maybole. Again, things didn't work out. After a couple of months, things started happening again, worse than the first three times. I was fifteen, nearly sixteen, so I left home and started staying with friends of the family. People felt sorry for me and took me in. I stayed in a lot of homeless places.
141. Eventually, I got a place to stay that was a private let. I got a job in a wee shop across the road. After a wee while, my mum let me go back home because I would

give her money. Things didn't go right again. My mum had a knife at my throat. I knew I would getting put out of the house again. From the ages of 16 to 22 years old, I was back home, then out of the house, over and over again. If I had money, it was alright but if I didn't, I would be put out.

142. I met my first husband, [REDACTED] I was 22 years old. I met him one month and married him two months later. I thought, this is my ticket away. [REDACTED] stayed in Falkirk and I moved there. I asked my mum if I could come back. [REDACTED] and I moved back to my mum's. We were giving my mum £60 a week. The marriage didn't last very long.
143. [REDACTED] couldn't cope with all the arguing and fighting that my family were doing. He said I was getting involved in other peoples arguments. [REDACTED] got up one morning and left. He never came back. I was looking after [REDACTED] my eldest son. I had had a difficult pregnancy with [REDACTED] and had a caesarean section. Afterwards, I had post-natal depression.
144. A couple of weeks after [REDACTED] left, I wouldn't do something my mother wanted me to do. My mother hit me and I had the baby in my arms. I left and went to a bed and breakfast. I spent time in Landsborough House and homeless places. I got in touch with Barnado's. They got me a flat in Ayr.
145. I was on my own for a few years with my son [REDACTED] I went to college for a short time to do a hairdressing course. In 1998 I met the father of my children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I was with him, on and off, for about nine years. The relationship was more off than it was on. I had my own place and he came to stay with me. I didn't really want to be with him. From day one, it was a very violent relationship. I had a collapsed lung because of him. He broke my nose four times, stabbed me in the arm, bit me, hit me with bottles over the head and he strangled me. I had a lot of hospital admissions with the beatings. I lost a baby just before I had my son [REDACTED] I moved about a lot of Women's Aid hostels. I took an overdose when I was pregnant with [REDACTED]
146. I couldn't cope with the beatings any more. Judy Smith was my social worker and I was scared she was going to take the kids away from me. I would never have let him

do the things he did to me to the kids. I love my kids too much. Finally, in 2004, I made the break away from him and I moved to where I stay now.

147. I was single for about three years. I met [REDACTED] my husband, in 2008. I've been with him since then. It's been a completely different life. It was a rocky start to the relationship, [REDACTED] is younger than me and I had three children. [REDACTED] was going out drinking, then [REDACTED] settled down. He wanted a child. I had been sterilised because I didn't want any more children when I was in the violent relationship.

148. I enquired about having a baby and was told about In vitro fertilisation, IVF treatment. [REDACTED] and I saved up the money and in 2010 went for treatment. The treatment worked the first time. I had my baby [REDACTED] by caesarean section. [REDACTED] was born with a twisted gut. We both had to be taken straight to Yorkhill Children's Hospital for [REDACTED] to have an operation. The operation took five hours. My caesarean section scar became infected and I was in a lot of pain. I had to go to the Royal Hospital in Glasgow. [REDACTED] stayed in Yorkhill for three or four weeks.

149. The doctors thought that I had post-natal depression because of my past history. It wasn't that, it was the stress of everything that had happened since [REDACTED] birth. [REDACTED] and I were arguing because I was agitated with the pain and looking after [REDACTED]

Impact

150. I feel my time in care has had a big impact on me. I feel as though my life has been stolen from me. I haven't been able to lead a normal life. I haven't coped with things. Minor things are too much to cope with. I have anxiety most days. Some days I just hide behind the blinds in my pyjamas. I have other days where I cry most of the day.

151. Sometimes I feel very low, that I'm not worth anything. I feel I'm no good. I feel that I can't do right for doing wrong. Sister [REDACTED] LHW drummed into me from a young age that

I was no good and that I was a bad child. I thought because she was saying that, she was right. I think that is why I feel like a I do today.

152. I don't have any contact with my family. For some reason, my family are scared of me. I don't understand why. I'm not a bad person. My family act as if I'm a crazy person. I wish they weren't like that with me but it's too late for that now. Even if I showed them the psychiatric report that said I was normal and it was all in mum's head, they would still believe that they had every right to abuse me as a child. They believe I deserved it. Jill Evans told me ours was a dysfunctional family. If you were in my mum's good books, it was fine. If you weren't, you got her wrath.

153. I'm [REDACTED] loyal to my mum today. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My mum had no love for me but she loved my daughter, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was her favourite.

154. I was determined to do the opposite of what my family assumed I would do. I wouldn't be that bad person that they portrayed me to be. I'm against drugs and alcohol. A lot of people who come out of care use drugs and alcohol to cope. I don't want my kids to see that and think it's normal. I've never hit my kids. I don't want them to see violence.

155. I have nightmares and sleep paralysis. I don't get a break from the nightmares. I dream that my kids are getting taken away or I'm arguing with [REDACTED] I dream about my mum. She is pushing me away while she has everyone else around her. I dream about Joe Duffy coming after me. My doctor changed my medication to try to stop the nightmares but I had side effects from the new medication. I'm back taking the original medication. I have flashbacks to the nightmares. The flashbacks are so real, I believe the nightmare is actually happening.

156. I've not been able to work as I'm not able to be around people. When I see people graduating or working, I think, I wish that was me. I have panic attacks. I don't have

a social life. I don't go out with friends. I have to be in my house all the time as I feel safer in my house. Life's been a hard struggle. I'm lonely but I get anxious if I have to see people.

157. I've had hospital admissions quite a few times. From when I was sixteen years old, I started a pattern of self-harming and attempting suicide. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I've done that kind of thing up until about four years ago. I had a breakdown in 2009. I was taken to my mum's funeral by the staff from the psychiatric hospital. I was quite sedated. I got a look of disgust from my family.
158. In 2012, I had another breakdown when I saw the news reports about the two girls from a Glasgow home who killed themselves. [REDACTED] I thought, I can truly understand why they did that, if the staff were allowing the things to go on that went on with me. I felt the girls lives could've been saved. I could understand what those wee girls were feeling because I wanted to do the same thing myself.
159. At Nazareth House I felt alone, I had no-one. I was always doing things to get on the right side of people, like offering to help at the big house. I sat and talked to the old people to get out and speak to someone.
160. I missed a lot of school, being moved around foster care and care homes. When I was nine or ten years old, I didn't know the things they taught in primary one at school. When I was twelve, I still couldn't tell the time. I didn't sit any exams at school, so I don't have those qualifications. I still don't understand or know a lot of stuff. I can't help my youngest daughter with her homework as I don't understand it.
161. I went to school each day from Nazareth House but I was never happy. I felt sick thinking about what was going to happen at school that day. I never had any friends. I sat on my own all of the time as I wasn't included in anything. The clothes Sister [REDACTED] LHW made me wear, made me stick out. The other kids were all turned out lovely and I was like a down and out.

162. After my marriage to [REDACTED] ended, I went to college in Irvine to do a hairdressing course. I always wanted to be a hairdresser. I couldn't cope with college. There were a lot of girls there who were like the girls in the Good Shepherd. They were loud and there was bullying. I left the course before I finished all the modules.
163. I hate the social work. They have used my past in care against me. My greatest fear was always having my kids taken from me and them being put into care. When [REDACTED] was born, I was suffering from stress because of the circumstances. The social work phoned up my GP and asked about my mental health. I had had three children and that had never been done. I knew the social work were checking out to see if I was mentally fit to look after my child. I wasn't daft. Social work had their own doctors coming in to speak to me, asking questions.
164. My GP is great, he said to the social work that I was 100% fit to take my baby home. He said I'd brought three other children up, on my own. My GP told the social work that they shouldn't be doing what they were doing and they were going the wrong way about it. I was allowed to take [REDACTED] home but I had to go to a social work meeting.
165. At the meeting, they were reading reports that had nothing to do with my ability to look after my children. They were asking me questions about my time in care that had nothing to do with the here and now. The people at the meeting were saying that I was brought up in violence as a child. I told them that just because that had happened to me, it didn't mean I was going to do that to my kids. I said I never had been violent to my kids and I never would be. The people at the meeting had in their mind, because I had been a child in care who had been abused, that I was going to take this wee baby home and do the same. I had never done that to any of my other kids.
166. The power was out of my hands. When you have been a child in care, social work have a hold over your life, you can't disagree with them. They have control over you and then over your children. Social work can ask you nicely to volunteer to do something but you really don't have a choice in the matter. If you don't do what you

are told, social work can put bad reports in against you. If you say you're not volunteering, it's taken to court and a judge gives an order. I've always complied with social work because I was scared they would take my children from me.

167. I don't trust social workers. I feel the system is all wrong. I couldn't believe what they were putting me through after I had [REDACTED]. They were mentally torturing me. My past as a child in care was out of my control. Social work were holding my past against me, in the present.
168. Three of my children are adults now, so social work can't take them from me. I know they still have a hold of my youngest child, [REDACTED]. Being in care has taught me how to be one step ahead of the social work. Knowing what they're looking for, knowing what they're going to use against you.
169. My children are the light of my life. I'm proud of them and they're a pleasure to have. [REDACTED] is a plasterer and got an award for apprentice of the year in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is becoming a policewoman. [REDACTED] has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. I won't give up on him. I'll support him. He can be difficult at times but that is what a mother's there to do. [REDACTED] is getting on great. She won a junior [REDACTED] competition.
170. I haven't cuddled my children as much as I maybe should have but I give them everything I can, materially. I would go without myself to give them what they needed. I am very protective of my children. I don't let [REDACTED] go on sleepovers to other children's houses.
171. I have been in trouble with the police a couple of times. It's been over sticking up for my children. Again, my past was dragged up in social work background reports. My time in care has never left me. It's come at me from all angles. It will until the day I leave this earth.
172. To look at egg custard and scotch eggs today, churns my stomach. It makes me ill. You see them all the time in supermarket and a lot of people eat them as a snack

food. I know I'm an adult now but I'm terrified of witches. It makes me cringe from head to foot. It's the same as people who have a fear of spiders.

173. Knowing what I know now, about what [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were going through at Nazareth House, maybe that explains why [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] treated me like they did. Maybe they were taking out the way they felt on me. They were being abused and they couldn't tell anybody. When I went to court, I could talk to [REDACTED] LCY I couldn't look at [REDACTED] because I remembered her being not nice to me. It felt good that I went to court. I wanted to help [REDACTED] LCY. Despite everything, I still have it in me that I want to help other people.

174. Nazareth House and the Good Shepherd were really damaging for my mental health. I am diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, anxiety and Borderline Personality Disorder Type B. I have panic attacks. I have to take three different types of medication. I was battered at home and battered at the Good Shepherd. At the Good Shepherd, I went from being wild and out of control to being very into myself. Later, I asked my social worker, Jill Evans, why she didn't help me get out but she didn't have an answer. Now, I find it difficult to bring it all out.

175. I am still a good singer. It doesn't matter how bad my health is, I can get up and sing in front of a roomful people. I can switch off.

Counselling and Support

176. I see a Community Psychiatric Nurse regularly once a month. I've also seen occupational therapists. My psychiatrist is very good, he has had me admitted to hospital a few times. I have a really good relationship with my GP. He is brilliant. My GP understands me.

177. Knowing you have these people who support you and understand you, who can tell you you've done a good thing by opening up and talking, makes a big difference. I feel I've done something right. They can tell you that things shouldn't have happened to you, that you can pat yourself on the back for things you've done.

Reporting of Abuse

178. In 1996, I gave a statement to the Police about Joe Duffy. [REDACTED] had made allegations that Joe Duffy had abused him. The police came to ask me what I'd seen. I hadn't seen anything with [REDACTED]. The police asked why I hadn't seen anything. I told the police that Joe Duffy was going with [REDACTED] LCY and I'd seen him kissing her. The police did nothing about it and I wonder why? I don't know if there was a cover-up by the police because that happened about the same time as Joe Duffy started to work for them.
179. When I had a breakdown in 2009, I told the psychiatrist a bit about what had happened. He told me to write it down. I did that. I decided I wouldn't bother with the police then, I was thinking, what can they do now and what would I have to go through? I was afraid.
180. When I had a second breakdown in 2012, I told a support worker what had happened. She suggested reporting it to the police. Again, I thought about it and decided against it.
181. In 2016, the police from Dalmarnock police station in Glasgow came to my door. They wanted to ask me about what I'd seen concerning [REDACTED] LCY and Joe Duffy. I gave the police a statement and told them what I'd seen. After the interview, I got quite upset. I was thinking, what about me? I went to see a lawyer who said, why not make a formal complaint to the police about what happened to you. I decided I would.
182. I made the complaint to the police about Nazareth House and the Good Shepherd in 2017. They were sympathetic and noted my statement. A few days later they said they couldn't take it any further because of their boss. The prosecutor wouldn't take the case to court because that was how kids were treated at that time. I was very upset by this. I was mentally tortured by Sister [REDACTED] LHW and I wanted something done about it. Like everything else, I buried it and forgot about it. I didn't feel the police

believed me. I didn't think what had happened to me was serious enough for the police to take action. Unless you said you were sexually abused or battered in the homes, the police weren't interested.

183. In January 2018, I was contacted to give evidence at the High Court in Glasgow in the case against Joe Duffy, on behalf of [REDACTED] LCY [REDACTED]. I had to go to court the following week. No-one asked if I was well enough to go to court or thought about how damaging it was to me, to have to go through it all again. I didn't meet anyone official before the court date to discuss what would happen.
184. I felt it was abuse in itself that I had to go and stand in court and see Joe Duffy. The police were only interested in getting a conviction against Joe Duffy. I went to court and gave my evidence. I was cross-examined by Donald Finlay, the defence lawyer. He couldn't get the better of me. I was scared giving evidence. I was hoping Joe Duffy would come clean and put his hands up but he didn't. I can't understand that. He was convicted and he still won't put his hands up and say he did it.

Lessons to be Learned

185. Children in care need someone to talk to. They should have a support worker that they feel comfortable enough to talk to and tell anything that's happening. The children should feel safe enough to tell about bullying and abuse. They shouldn't feel that, if they do tell, things are going to be worse. It shouldn't be done in a way that will make the situation worse or make the child feel they've done something wrong by telling.
186. Staff should see the signs that things are not right. People working with kids should be looked into in more detail. They should have the knowledge about how to treat kids well. They should listen to and understand the children.

187. There should be support for children leaving care, so that they don't have to go back to the homes where they came from. There should be aftercare in the community for kids who have left care. They should be able to go somewhere for help and advice if they ever get stuck or find that life is getting too much for them.

Other information

188. The nuns have moved from looking after vulnerable children to looking after vulnerable elderly people. I don't think the nuns should be allowed to continue to be care providers for the vulnerable.

189. I feel Sister [LHW] has caused a lot of pain and suffering to a lot of people. I was told by [LKB] who worked at Nazareth House, that she is now a Mother Superior. I think she should be removed from that position. She should hang her head in shame. I don't feel sorry for her. Sister [LHW] should say sorry to all the children who are still suffering because of her.

190. I hope children in care will be treated more humanely. I hope they will be safe, loved, listened to and looked after. I hope children don't suffer in silence. I hope life is good for children in care and that no-one has to go through what I went through.

191. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... [Redacted Signature]

Dated.. 28/5/2018