

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of [REDACTED] MCQ

[REDACTED] MCQ

Support person present: Yes, [REDACTED] (daughter)

1. My name is [REDACTED] MCQ. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was born in Bangour Hospital near Uphall, West Lothian. My mum's name was [REDACTED]. She was a housewife and a waitress. My dad's name was [REDACTED]. He was a plasterer. I am the youngest boy. My sister, [REDACTED], was three years younger than me. I have four older brothers. [REDACTED] is a year older than me. [REDACTED] is about three years older than me. [REDACTED] is about eight years older than me. [REDACTED] is probably about ten years older than me. We all lived together in [REDACTED] in West Lothian.
3. Apart from the occasional missed meal my childhood was alright. My dad was a heavy drinker. Sometimes my mum got the wages off my dad on a Friday and sometimes she didn't. I went to [REDACTED] Primary School in [REDACTED].
4. My mother had tuberculosis and mental health problems. My father was drunk all the time. There was basically nobody to look after us. I don't know whose idea it was to put us into care. I don't know who made that decision. All I remember was the social worker coming to the house in her car. That was in about 1967. I think it was in the summer. The social worker's name was Miss Heron. That was the first and last time I saw a social worker. The police were also there. [REDACTED] and I

were physically dragged out of the house. The police stopped my mother from trying to stop social services from taking us. We were then taken away in Miss Heron's car. Our parents didn't come with us.

### **Nazareth House, Lasswade**

5. The Sisters of Nazareth were in charge of Nazareth House. The home was run by nuns. There were more than fifty children there. There were boys and girls there. The boys were only allowed to stay there until they were about twelve. The girls could stay until they were about fifteen. The youngest children there could have been about one or two. The children were split up into dorms. There weren't specific areas, houses or sections there.
6. I was ten years old when I went to Nazareth House. I went there with my sister, [REDACTED] and my older brother, [REDACTED]. They were about seven and eleven at the time. [REDACTED] stayed with my father because they were old enough to look after themselves. I stayed in Nazareth House for about seven months. Looking back, the only thing that was good about Nazareth House was getting out of it.

### *Staff*

7. There was a Mother Superior but she didn't have much to do with the children. I don't remember her name.
8. I think Sister [REDACTED] LFJ was the nun who was in charge of my dormitory. She was probably about seventy. She was definitely over sixty. Wherever she went she had her cane with her. She was very small. Looking back, I think she was superior to the other nuns. She was certainly one of the oldest. It could be that the other nuns just gave her respect because she was older.
9. Sister [REDACTED] LFD was only young. She was maybe in her mid-twenties. Believe it or not she actually looked a bit like Julie Andrews out of The Sound of Music. She had an

angelic face but she was completely different to how she looked. She seemed to be the one who dished out the discipline more than all the others. I think she might have been more involved with the girls side.

10. Sister [LKH] was probably sixty or seventy. She was quite a heavy, tall, formidable looking woman. She would have been younger than Sister [LFJ]. Sister [LKH] seemed to be more to do with the chapel than any other part of Nazareth House.
11. There were other nuns floating about Nazareth House. You would see them in the corners praying and things like that. However, they had nothing to do with the "everyday looking after" of the children. I think there was a private school or home nearby that they might have been involved with.
12. There were also civilian staff but I don't remember their names. We didn't have much contact with them. I don't know what they did.

*Siblings and relatives*

13. They tried as much as they could to keep me apart from my brother and sister. I don't know why they did that. We were all in the same building but they kept us in different dormitories. The girls were separated from the boys. We could be together when we were at school but most of the time back at Nazareth House we were kept separate. I can't remember ever really seeing [redacted] much after school in the home. I don't remember [redacted] playing with me.
14. I remember that one of my cousins, [redacted], was there at the same time as us. She was probably four years older than me. I think she was there before we got there and she was there after we left.

*Other children*

15. There were two brothers who were in my dorm. One was called [REDACTED]. I don't remember the other brother's name. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who was from Falkirk. Those are about the only other children that I remember other than my relatives.

**Routine at Nazareth House***Daily routine*

16. We were probably up at about seven o'clock. I don't remember how we were woken. We then got washed and then we then went to breakfast. After we ate our breakfast they marched us to school. We were taken in lines down to the street to the school in Bonnyrigg. There were a couple of nuns who went with us. It was probably only a fifteen to twenty minute walk. Dinner was at school. We finished school at about four o'clock. We were then marched back up to Lasswade. Tea was more or less as soon as we got back. After tea we read or watched TV. We went to bed at seven or eight o'clock.
17. They took us to the pictures every Saturday morning. It was like a matinee full of children. In the afternoon some people got visitors on Saturdays. In our case we didn't get any. Sunday was chapel and all that sort of thing in the morning. In the afternoon we could play in the grounds. We weren't allowed out of the grounds.

*Sleeping arrangements*

18. In the dorm I was staying in there was probably another ten boys. They were all about the same age as me. My brother was never ever in the same dorm that I was in.

*Washing facilities*

19. Washing facilities was a wash hand basin and a bar of carbolic soap. You did get a bath or a shower but that wasn't every day. Baths and showers were probably supervised. I don't remember there being any incidents surrounding bath time.

*Mealtimes / food*

20. We had meals in the dinner hall. Sister [LFJ] was never far away. Breakfast wasn't anything substantial. The food in general was horrible. If they found out something that you didn't like they tended to give you more of it. When we arrived at Nazareth House they gave us a meal. I remember there were piles and piles of cabbage on the plate. None of us were used to eating cabbage. We were force fed it. That happened only within an hour or two of us arriving. Sister [LFJ] was the one who force fed you. If you vomited she force fed you that as well.

*Clothing / uniform*

21. I think they took your clothes off of you when you went in. They gave you those back when you left. Whilst you were in there they gave you their own clothes. There was a school uniform and clothes which we could play in.

*Pocket money / leisure time / tuck shop*

22. I can't remember ever getting pocket money. There were not many toys, books or comics or anything like that. There was a wooden hut within the building in one of the dining rooms which was the tuck shop. I think it opened on a Saturday morning. There was always a queue. You were given sweets out of the tuck shop. You didn't have to give any money for the sweets. More often than not I didn't get anything. If you wet the bed or did something wrong you got less or no sweets

*School*

23. We went to school in Bonnyrigg. I can't remember the name of it but it was a catholic school. The school was just a normal public primary school. The nuns dropped us off there then left. [REDACTED] was in a different class. School was alright. Discipline was just the same as any other school back then. You got the belt if you did something wrong. I can't remember who my teacher was. I think it was a woman. There were never any problems with the other children in the school. I suppose there was a bit of safety in numbers.

*Religious instruction*

24. They didn't shove religion down your throat. You just did it because it was easier to do it than not. You had to go to mass often and benediction on a Sunday. You had to say your prayers kneeling at your bed before you went to bed.

*Chores*

25. I didn't have any chores to do but the girls had chores. I remember seeing them doing cleaning. I remember seeing my cousin [REDACTED] cleaning the floors with a mop and bucket. The floors were all just lino.

*Trips / holidays*

26. The only trips I remember is being taken out to the cinema on Saturday mornings. That, and school, was the only time we left the home.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

27. I don't think I was there at Christmas. I wasn't there for my birthday. I don't remember seeing any of the other children having their birthdays celebrated. I don't remember seeing any children unwrapping a present.

*Visits / inspections*

28. We never ever got any visitors. Our mother told us after we got out that she tried quite a few times to come out to visit us. She told us that she was turned away at the door. She was told that she couldn't visit us because we had been misbehaving. It probably would have taken our mother an hour and two or three buses to get to Lasswade. Looking back I can't understand why Nazareth House didn't let us see our mother whilst we were there. There was no other way that we could communicate with her.
29. We never saw a social worker at all during the time that we were in there. Nobody came to check up on us throughout the whole time that we were there. I don't remember any official visitors coming to the home at all. People might have come out to see the nuns but nobody came to see us.

*Healthcare*

30. I don't remember seeing a doctor whilst I was there. I never saw any dentists in Nazareth House. There was a sick bay there. I know that because my brother [REDACTED] ended up there after receiving quite a bad beating from Sister LFD. They couldn't take him to hospital so they put him there. [REDACTED] was there for five or six days. I wasn't allowed in to visit him. None of the children were allowed to visit him. There must have been someone attending to him. I don't know whether it was just the nuns or a doctor came in.

*Running away*

31. I never ran away from Nazareth House. I don't remember anyone else running away.

*Bed-wetting*

32. They checked your beds when you got up in the night. If you wet the bed you generally had to stand in the corridor, naked or in your pyjamas, with the wet sheets over your head for hours on end. Anybody could be passing whilst you were standing there. Other kids were treated exactly the same way. Every morning there was always someone standing in the corridor. Sometimes there could be two or three children standing there. Sister [LFJ] would also hit you with the cane if you wet the bed. How many times she hit you depended on what mood she was in.
33. The bed-wetting treatment only happened once or twice with me. [redacted] told me that it happened more often to him. He was more often out in the corridor than I was. Looking back, the way you felt was embarrassed. Obviously you didn't really know what embarrassment was when you were that age.

**Abuse at Nazareth House**

34. It was a regime of cruelty and neglect. That's just the way it was. You wouldn't expect love off strangers but there wasn't even compassion there. They were just cruel. You lived in an atmosphere of fear.

Sister [LFJ]

35. The only thing I got hit with was the cane. It could happen any time. Sister [LFJ] was the only one who caned me. It could be for not eating your dinner, wetting the bed or anything that she felt she could punish you for. It could be for something as stupid as just not getting into your bed quick enough or getting into your bed too soon.
36. Sister [LFJ] would hit you anywhere. She would hit you on your arms, your legs or your head. She would hit you wherever her cane landed. She would continue hitting you if you fell over. She might hit you up to two dozen times. You would be left with

red welts all over you. I saw that happening to other children. It wasn't something that she did in private. She did it on the spot wherever she felt.

37. There was never really any medical treatment. They might give you germaline or whatever. I now know why they couldn't take you to a doctor or hospital because they would have been discovered.

Sister LFD

38. Sister LFD gave my brother [REDACTED] quite a bad beating. It took place in one of the dining rooms. I was there when that happened. She used a cane and she also used her hands and feet. She punched him and stood on him. [REDACTED] was in a bad way after the beating. He was physically injured but he was conscious.

39. After the beating [REDACTED] went missing for five or six days. [REDACTED] and I didn't know where he was or what had happened to him. I asked one of the nuns where [REDACTED] was. It could only have been Sister LFJ that I asked. I got a beating with a cane for asking. I later found out that [REDACTED] had been taken to the sick bay. When we met [REDACTED] after he came out he never explained what it was like whilst he had been in the sick bay.

*Other abuse*

40. I remember on numerous occasions hearing kids screaming in the night. I remember the children screaming and shouting whilst they were getting beaten up. I don't remember the names of the children I heard. The following morning those kids wouldn't be there. When you asked the nuns where the child you had heard had gone you were told by them that their parents had come and taken them home. Your parents don't come and collect you at one o'clock in the morning. Even if they did you wouldn't be shouting and screaming when they collected you. I remember [REDACTED] was friendly with a wee Irish girl who was one of the children who went missing. I can't remember the girl's name. It wouldn't surprise me, and I hope I'm wrong, if they found human remains in the grounds of Nazareth House if they looked.

41. On two or three occasions in Nazareth House nuns died. I remember the dead nuns being laid out in the chapel in a coffin with the lid off. All the children were made to file past the coffin and kiss the dead nun. I had to do that. The first time I did it was the first time I ever saw a dead body. You just had to do it. The first time you saw the nun was when they were lying in the coffin. You didn't know the nun you were kissing. I think it was Sister [REDACTED] LKH who organised that. I think I remember her filing the children into the chapel.

### **Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House**

42. There was nobody we could go and speak to about what was going on. I imagine if you had said something you would have just got beaten up again. I think if you went to speak to, say, your teacher they would speak to one of the nuns and you would just get beaten up again. I think that was why you tended to not say anything.

### **Leaving Nazareth House**

43. All of a sudden one of my brothers, [REDACTED] turned up out of the blue one Saturday morning. We didn't know he was coming. [REDACTED] and I thought he was taking us out for the day in Edinburgh. None of the nuns said anything when we were taken out. We walked out of the home and towards Lasswade village itself. We then discovered [REDACTED] had brought his car with him. It wasn't until we were in [REDACTED] car that we found out that we were being taken home to [REDACTED]. The three of us were happily shocked.

### **Time spent back home in [REDACTED] West Lothian**

44. When we got back to [REDACTED] things were very much the same. My father was still drinking. My mother was in and out of mental institutions. It wasn't that long

until I ended up back in care. I was probably only back home until I was about eleven and a half.

45. One day my brother [REDACTED] and I were out swimming in Bathgate. We came away from that and went into a fruit shop. [REDACTED] gave me some money to go and get an orange or an apple or something. Whilst I was getting that [REDACTED] stole a charity box from the shop. We both ended up in front of a children's panel. I would imagine there was a social worker there but I don't remember whether there was one there or not. I remember my mother being there. I ended up getting sent by the panel to Wallhouse. I can't remember if I was told I had a sentence. [REDACTED] ended up getting sent to St Mary's Approved School in Bishopbriggs. I was taken straight from the hearing to Wallhouse.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

46.

47.

48.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

49.

50.

### **St Ninian's, Falkland, Fife**

51. St Ninian's was run by monks. I don't remember the name of the order who ran the place. There was maybe as many as eighty boys there. The age range was twelve until fifteen. I was there for approximately three years between the ages of twelve and fifteen.
52. They split up the boys into specific houses. I think they only did that for sporting reasons. The houses used to play against one another. There were houses called Ramsay and Stewart. I was in [REDACTED] To begin with I thought that St Ninian's was alright. It had every kind of sport you could imagine. There was football, hockey, rugby, and athletics. In time I discovered what St Ninian's was really like.

### *Staff*

53. The [REDACTED] when I was there was a Brother called Brother [REDACTED] LHC I think Brother [REDACTED] LHC reached retirement age and decided to step down. He continued to stay in St Ninian's but no longer had that role.

54. Brother [BHD] was another monk who was in St Ninian's. Whilst I was there Brother [BHD] took over from Brother [LHC] as the [REDACTED]. He might have been about sixty. He was a dead ringer for the football manager Martin O'Neill.
55. Brother [LNA] was probably about fifty. He had grey hair and glasses. The first person I met at St Ninian's was probably Brother [LNA]. Brother [LMZ] was one of the teachers in the school at St Ninian's. He taught [REDACTED].
56. There were civilian staff at St Ninian's. There was a guy called [MCS]. [MCS] [MCS] was probably about thirty or forty. He wasn't tall. He was just a wee skinny guy. He stayed within St Ninian's. He wasn't a teacher. I don't remember him in the classroom. Thinking back I don't know what position he held. He didn't take sports, didn't teach and didn't do maintenance or anything like that. He always had his camera with him. He would take photos of sports events and things like that. He was taking pictures all the time.
57. Mr [BHB] was the [REDACTED]. He stayed in Falkland. He was very heavy built and bald. He cut all the lawns and the football pitches in the grounds. He took quite a lot of the [REDACTED].

### **Routine at St Ninian's**

#### *Daily routine*

58. You probably got up about seven thirty in the morning. You then got washed followed by your breakfast. Then you went to school. It was normal school hours. There were more classes after lunch and at about four you played whatever sport it was that day. It could be football, rugby, hockey or athletics. At night there were things to do. Everybody would then go back to their dormitories for bed.

59. On a Saturday, during the day, you might have a game of football against some other school. You would either go to that or play a match against one of the other houses in St Ninian's. I don't think you played sports on Sundays. I think you just wandered about. We used to sneak out and go to Falkland or Auchtermuchty. We had to make sure we were back for our meals.

*Sleeping arrangements*

60. There were three or four beds in my room. Brother LNA had a room right next to the dorm I slept in.

*Washing facilities*

61. The showers were away down past the kitchens in the basement. They were individual showers with tiled walls. There was maybe a row of about six cubicles. There were no curtains on the cubicles. You always got a shower after whatever sport you played that day at the school. It worked out about once a day. You weren't allowed in the showers unless it was after a sports event.

*Mealtimes / food*

62. The food wasn't great but it wasn't dreadful. Breakfast was a slice of toast and maybe some cereal. You were never ever force fed or anything like that. If something came up that you didn't like you could just leave it.

*Clothing / uniform*

63. They supplied the clothes. It was more or less school trousers and a top. It was just normal clothes. When I got to St Ninian's all my clothes had nametags on them. Everything that they gave me had [REDACTED] on them. I think that was because my brother [REDACTED] was supposed to be going there. He didn't end up going there though. I remember that before sport you had to all stand in a line and produce your kit.

They checked all your clothes and made sure you had everything. They made sure it was your nametags in everything.

### *School*

64. The school was in St Ninian's itself. The school was alright. I don't think the teachers were proper teachers though. The lessons were nearly all taken by the Brothers. The only [REDACTED] teacher I remember was Mr BHB. I wouldn't imagine that any of the Brothers had anything like the proper teaching qualifications. You had all your lessons in the same classroom. If you misbehaved in the classroom you got the belt. It was just like what they did in normal school.
65. The subjects were all normal subjects like English and Maths. Brother LNA did a lot of the teaching but he mainly took [REDACTED]. Mr BHB took [REDACTED] and did a lot of the sports. Brother LMZ took [REDACTED]

### *Religious instruction*

66. Prayers weren't an everyday thing. Mass was held every day. You could go every day if you wanted to. It was optional. I tried to avoid mass during the week. The only day you had to go was on a Sunday. Mass always just seemed to drag on and on to me. I was sometimes an altar boy. I basically had to ring a bell, light candles and give the priests all his chalices and stuff.

### *Chores*

67. You had to mop the floors and make beds. There weren't many chores really.

### *Sports / activities / leisure time*

68. There were quite a lot of organised sports. I think the matches and competitions between the houses in St Ninian's were to find out who were the best players for the teams against other schools at the weekends. I got games for St Ninian's now and

again. Sometimes you would get certificates or whatever for achieving things in your sport. It was usually just cups.

69. At night there was table tennis tables and things to do. There was a section where there was an allotment. If you wanted to you could have a wee plot to grow stuff. I did that sometimes. There were never any monks at the allotment. You could just go down there when you wanted to.
70. There wasn't a TV room. The only place you could watch TV was in Brother **LNA** room. The maximum number of boys who could be in there at any one time was probably about eight. Most evenings there were boys in his room watching TV. He had different boys in there on different nights.

#### *Trips / holidays*

71. They would take us to the swimming baths in Perth. That was either once a week or once a fortnight. They took us to that in a single minibus. When I went there were another fourteen boys with me in the van. There might have been other trips where the other boys went. I remember that we had to do a concert two or three times a year at Falkland Palace with Brother **LMZ**. There were locals and dignitaries at the concert.
72. Once a month, I think it was the last Saturday, they took us into Kirkcaldy. They'd drop us off at about noon. They picked us up at the same spot at about five o'clock.

#### *Christmas and Birthdays*

73. I got home for Christmas so I don't know what happened. I think St Ninian's was empty apart from two or three boys who didn't have anyone they could go home to. Birthdays weren't celebrated in any way.

*Home leave*

74. I never got home for weekends. I never ever got home to my mother's house. Most of the kids got to go home for Christmas, Easter and summer holidays. I got to go home to one of my aunties for Christmas and summer. She was called Auntie [REDACTED]. They would drop you off at Kirkcaldy train station. They would tell you when and where you had to be back. You would then make your own way to wherever you were going to. I never got home for the Easter holidays. I don't know why. I just think that my Auntie [REDACTED] couldn't take me at that particular time.

*Visits / review of detention*

75. I think my father came to visit me once. He must have got lost or something. My brother [REDACTED] came once or twice. My mum didn't come to visit. I never saw a social worker whilst I was there. That's about as much as I can remember about people visiting. I don't remember any official inspectors or anything like that.
76. I don't remember any meetings where I was present where it was talked about how I was getting on. They might have had meetings but I was never at them. I was never told that anything like that happened.

*Healthcare*

77. I don't remember having to see a doctor. I don't remember getting a jag of any description. I don't ever remember seeing a dentist at any time.
78. They had a matron of some description. I remember that you had to go and see her if you had a cold or something. She would give you some cough medicine or whatever. I can't remember anybody being taken to hospital or anything like that.
79. When I was about thirteen or fourteen Brother [REDACTED] LNA gave me the job of nailing hard wood down onto a floor. I think they were putting down new carpets in the corridors. I had two or three ring nails in my mouth ready for when I was hammering them out

into the floor. I accidentally swallowed one of the nails. They never sent me to the doctors. The way that they treated me was that they gave me a sandwich full of cotton wool. The thinking was that the cotton wool would wrap around the nail and nature would take its course. To this day I never put nails in my mouth.

80. I was sexually abused in St Ninian's and I should have received medical treatment. They weren't going to take you to a doctor though. There would've been medical evidence of what they had done.

*Running away*

81. I ran away two or three times. One time, two or three of us got to Kinross. I sold a watch I had and managed to get a bus into Edinburgh. By that time my mother had a flat in Portobello. The three of us went to my mother's for something to eat. When we got there my mother went immediately to the local police station and grassed us up. We were then all got taken back to St Ninian's. The other times a similar sort of thing happened.

*Bed-wetting*

82. I never had a bed-wetting problem there. Some of the other boys did. They dealt with it in the same way as Nazareth House. There was a big hall by the front door with a big fancy staircase. They made the boys who wet the bed stand naked in the hall with the sheets over their head for hours on end.

**Abuse at St Ninian's**

83. I never saw anybody getting beaten up in St Ninian's by the staff. You would just get the belt if you misbehaved. That was the only real kind of physical chastisement. The only form of physical abuse was being restrained before they did what they wanted to do to you. They obviously had to restrain you because you weren't just going to do what they wanted to do.

84. Quite often during the night the monks would make you get up out of your bed and go and do a cross country. It was always dark. I remember running in front of a vehicle. That happened quite often. It might have been some sort of punishment for something.

MCS

85. I don't know what role MCS had in St Ninian's but he never went anywhere without his camera. It had a lens on it. After sports he quite often took the showers. He was in the showers near enough every day. He probably was supposed to be there supervising and making sure there were no fights or "carry ons". He would parade up and down. He would ask you to turn around and he would take photographs of you. Looking back now he was there for only one thing. There was no need for him to have a camera in the shower block. I never ever saw any of the photographs. I don't know what happened to the photographs but he must have had quite a collection.

Brother BHD

86. During the course of my time at St Ninian's there was always some sort of sexual contact by Brother BHD. If it wasn't daily it was two or three times a week. There was no bad sexual abuse actually in St Ninian's itself by Brother BHD. It was just "sexual contact". However, there was bad sexual abuse elsewhere.
87. At Easter time I didn't get to go home like the other boys. I don't know why my Auntie couldn't take me at that time of the year. Brother BHD took me to other children's homes in Liverpool and Manchester that were run by other Brothers. I don't remember the names of those places. I remember I was also taken by him to a place in London. The place was his brother's house on [REDACTED]. It was a private home. Brother BHD brother wasn't a monk. He was a civilian. I don't remember his name. I was the only boy Brother BHD took away with him. There was sexual abuse by Brother BHD when I was away at

these places. There was sexual abuse by Brother [BHD] brother when I was in London. No other people were involved.

Brother [LNA]

88. When we got back after running away we were beaten up as a punishment by Brother [LNA]. He had a tawse. He would quite often use it in the classroom but he also used it on me after I came back from running away. He hit me from the waist down on my legs. It was on top of my trousers.
89. Early on in St Ninian's I remember being told that my brother [REDACTED] was going to come on Saturday morning to take me out for the weekend. I couldn't sleep on the Friday night. I chapped Brother [LNA] door and went in. I asked him whether I could go down to the kitchens to make myself a cup of tea. When I went into the room he was lying on his bed. He threw back the covers. He was lying there naked. He said to me that I would have no problem getting to sleep if I came into his bed. I just decided to go back to my bed.
90. The following morning, [REDACTED] didn't come to collect me. I have discovered since from [REDACTED] that he did come to St Ninian's but was told that my weekend had been cancelled because I had been misbehaving.
91. Brother [LNA] was more or less sexually abusive every night. It started almost immediately after I started at St Ninian's and continued throughout my time there. Every night Brother [LNA] would invite between six and eight boys into his room. You would all watch his TV. Two or three would be sitting on the floor and two or three would be lying on his bed. He would gradually send boys off to their beds. When it got to about ten o'clock one boy would be left in his room. That was sometimes myself. If it was me he would give me a cigarette. Sexual activity then took place. He would do what he did. I think you can just imagine how far he went. It was bad sexual abuse.

92. Brother [LNA] would sometimes come into the dorm and take young boys out of their bed in the middle of the night. That happened to me quite regularly. I saw other boys being taken out of their beds in the early hours. You knew what was happening was wrong. You didn't want it to happen. However, you were only twelve, thirteen or fourteen and Brother [LNA] was big and strong. There was nothing you could do about it.
93. One day Brother [LNA] took me to a place in Edinburgh called Scotus Academy. It was just along the road from the zoo. It was a place that was also run by monks. I was taken on the pretence that I was going there to do some painting. I was taken to this big house to meet the monks then taken down to an indoor annex to do the painting. I went down to the annex with Brother [LNA] and two or three of the other monks. The monks must have been part of Scotus Academy. I was never given the names of the other monks that were there.
94. Within seconds of me getting to the annex Brother [LNA] told me that he had forgotten my overalls. He said he had left them at St Ninian's. He then told me that I had to get undressed to do the painting. I then took off my clothes and did whatever painting was required in my underpants. Whiles I was doing the painting there was sexual activity. It was touching from the other monks. That involved Brother [LNA] as well.

Mr [BHB]

95. Mr [BHB] had a couple of big sheds where he kept the equipment for cutting the grass on the playing fields. Now and again he would have a go at touching you or whatever in the sheds. There wasn't any physical violence. It didn't happen all that often.

### Reporting of abuse at St Ninian's

96. There was nobody in St Ninian's that I felt I could speak to about what was going on. Who could you speak to? It was just the monks who were there. They were the only people you could speak to. There were no social workers you could speak to or anyone.
97. I told my mother what was happening during the time I ran away with the other boys and made it to Portobello. I told her everything. My mother didn't believe me. She slapped me and told me that it couldn't possibly be true. She told me that I was making it up. I didn't tell the police what happened when they came round. They didn't even ask me why I was running away. Thinking back, the police's role was just to take you back and that was it.
98. You never spoke about what was going on with the other boys. There were other boys who got left in Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] room with him. They would have gone through the same things as me but we didn't speak about it. I would say there were hundreds of boys who went through what happened to me.

### Leaving St Ninian's

99. The reason I left St Ninian's was because I was school leaving age. I left in 1972. I was lucky because 1972 was the last year in Scotland you were allowed to leave school at the age of fifteen. The following year you had to stay in school until the age of sixteen. I knew I was going to leave. When the term was finished that was it. I knew I would be going to my Auntie [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. There were no meetings or interviews before I left. There was no social work involvement. There was none of that after I left.

## Life after being in care

100. I went to stay in [REDACTED] with my Auntie [REDACTED]. I think I had to stay with my Auntie [REDACTED] to begin with because my mother was still in and out of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital with mental health stuff. When my mother wasn't there she was still staying in Portobello. I visited my mother at weekends. After about two or three months my Auntie [REDACTED] said if I wanted to stay with my mother I could do. I eventually did move in with my mother.
101. I got a job as an apprentice plumber. After three or four weeks I left because I didn't like it. I then saw an advert in the Daily Record for an apprentice joiner in Edinburgh. I got that job. I've been a joiner ever since.
102. My first marriage was when I was eighteen. Her name was [REDACTED]. She was about sixteen when we got married. I had a son to [REDACTED]. The marriage only lasted a year or so. My son has been in contact with my other children in the last five or six years but unfortunately he doesn't want anything to do with me. I have been with my current partner for over thirty years. We are not married. I have three daughters with her.

## Impact

### *Impact on siblings*

103. [REDACTED] has been more affected by Nazareth House than me. [REDACTED] whole life ended there. He has been secluded and ill ever since leaving there. I don't even know where he lives now. It is somewhere down in England. He has always had some sort of mental health problem. It is a hard thing for me to say but, in some ways, he would have been better off if he had passed away after what Sister [REDACTED] LFD did to him.

104. [REDACTED] was affected too. She saw her whole life through the bottom of a vodka bottle. Whatever happened in Nazareth House affected her for her whole life. She is dead now. She died in her late forties.

*Impact on me*

105. I put what happened on the back burner. A year turned into ten years. Then it turned into even longer. What happened goes off into the distance. I didn't think about things when I was on my own. It was just something that happened. I just had to get on with it.

106. I have been a drinker my whole life. I probably started when I was fifteen. I was drunk for thirty years. I didn't stop drinking until about 2009. I don't know whether it was to forget what happened or whether it was just because I enjoyed a drink. It could have been because I was trying to block things out. It could have been just because I loved a pint and the pub.

107. My kids went without because I spent every penny on alcohol. I think that the things that happened made it difficult with my partner and my children. Quite often there was no money because of my drinking. My children missed out on basic things when they were growing up.

108. Looking back, my children's upbringing was down to their mother. She single-handedly brought them up because I was never there. I was never going to allow what happened to me happen to my own children. I remember thinking, when I was about fifty years old, that I had achieved something because my children hadn't ended up in care. I think the fact that I thought that is a bad reflection on myself. I also think that because of the way I was as a father my daughters have achieved what they have achieved. My children must have looked at me and thought that they didn't want to turn into what I was like. I was bad with the alcohol back then.

109. I've been sacked a few times because of my drinking. It was because I went to the pub at lunchtime. It was never because I did a bad job. It was just because I went off to the pub. I've never really been unemployed for any length of time though.

*Treatment / support*

110. I've never ever had anything like counselling or anything like that. I've never been a member of any support group to do with what has happened. In the past I haven't wanted anyone to know what I have been through. My wife and children never really knew anything about what had happened to me. Its only really started coming out after speaking to the police. I am now trying to organise counselling through Future Pathways. I will go and see them when they say that I can go and see them.

**Reporting of Abuse**

*To solicitors*

111. About fifteen years ago Ross Harper solicitors got in contact with me. Out of the blue a questionnaire was sent to me by them. I don't know how they got my name. They must have seen my name in some records. The solicitor who was dealing with it all was Cameron Fyfe. The form was sent out so that I could fill out what had happened to me. There were boxes that I had to tick about what happened to me. The form was all to do with Nazareth House.
112. I ended up having to pay Ross Harper some money. I can't remember how much it was. There was quite a bit of going back and forth with them. I remember them talking about a time bar and that cases were going to the House of Lords. They were taking a dozen or so test cases through. Then, all of a sudden, Ross Harper went off the map. Nothing came of it.

*To the police*

113. The next time anything happened was when I was in hospital. The police in Livingston left a message on my house phone saying they wanted to speak to me. When I got out of hospital I called them. They told me that they wanted to take a statement from me about my time in Nazareth House. They must have got my name from some records. The police ended up coming to see me at my house in July 2018.
114. When I gave my statement I told the police about what I witnessed with Sister [LFD] assaulting my brother [REDACTED]. I also told them that I thought that if they scanned the grounds around Nazareth House, Lasswade they would find human remains. The police said to me that I wasn't the first person who had said that. I mentioned that my cousin [REDACTED] was in Nazareth House at the same time as me. They immediately recognised the name. They said it was a name that they had heard. That was strange because I hadn't seen [REDACTED] for near forty years. I interpreted it all as the police having recently spoken to [REDACTED] separately from me. I gave the police my contact details to pass on to her if possible. They said they would try to do that. I don't know what the police are doing next.

**Records**

115. I've never tried to get hold of my records. I don't think that I would like to see them. I know what happened to me. I wouldn't be interested in finding out what social services were doing in the background because I know they were doing nothing.

**Lessons to be Learned**

116. I think I've been a non-believer all of my life. I'm certainly not a believer now. To me it's been one big cover up in the Catholic church. I don't know who is to blame but I think it goes right the way to the top. The pope was in Ireland recently and he made

some sort of apology. Since then he has been implicated in things that happened forty years ago. To me an apology from the Catholic church wouldn't help because it wouldn't be genuine. Especially if the person apologising has been involved themselves. I don't think it is just the Catholic church who has been involved in these things. It's everywhere.

- 117. In my case, there were no social workers who came out. There was no one who came in from the outside. Children should never be left locked up with adults who are solely in charge of them. There should never be a situation where nobody from the outside are coming in to make sure that everything is being done correctly. There should be an outside body that comes in to make sure that everything is being run like it should be. The people who are in charge should have somebody to answer to. Why should a child go through care without someone being there to protect them?
  
- 118. I hope that the people responsible for these things are prosecuted. I hope that everybody becomes aware of what happened. I hope that someone makes sure that these things don't happen again. Personally I think it will always happen but I do hope that they don't happen on such a grand scale.
  
- 119. 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...  .....

Dated... 16/11/18 .....