

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LCC

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LCC LCC is my married name. My surname was LCC when I was a child. My date of birth is 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Nazareth House, Paisley Road West, Cardonald, Glasgow**

2. My twin sister, LBN and I were placed into Nazareth House when we were three months old. I subsequently learned from Sister Helena, a collecting nun at the Cardonald convent, that we had been left at the Salvation Army. She got us baptised at the Sacred Heart Church in Bridgton, Glasgow. I had to go there to get my baptismal certificate when I got married. The old priest there must have had something about us in his book. He told me we were taken to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. Kilmarnock wasn't for long term residents so we were moved to Nazareth House in Glasgow.
3. The sisters told us that we were born in Ballymena, County Antrim but our birth certificates stated that we were born in Robroyston in Glasgow. It's possible that we were born in Ireland but registered in Glasgow. We really know very little about our family background.
4. Nazareth House was built on three levels. When you went in through the front door, there were two parlours on either side. You went through an arched doorway and the nursery was on the right hand side. On the left hand side, you went through another

passage way and there was a third parlour, which was for entertaining when the bishop came to visit. Across the passage way from that parlour, there was a self-contained room with an en suite bathroom. Visiting priests would stay there. Next to that, was a sitting room for the green group children. Next to that was another sitting room that was used for children's visitors. Visits were once a month, but some visitors came unannounced weekly. Adjacent to the visitors' sitting room was the Mother Superior's office. Across from her office was the red group's sitting room. The blue group's sitting room was next to the formal parlour. There was another passage way that lead to the church. Just before that, there was a staircase known as the children's stairway which led to the children's bedrooms.

5. At the main entrance, there was a main passageway leading to the nun's refectory . Next to that was the kitchen and pantry for the convent. Further along, there was another passage way on the right hand side which went towards the children's section. The scullery was there along with the children's dining room and the playroom, which was shared amongst all the groups, and also had a stage. We gathered there before school because there was an area where the coats and shoes were kept. There was a doorway from the play room leading up to a gate, which opened onto the street.
6. On the first floor, there was also an area for elderly people. Sister Jarlath was in charge of the old folk. When she saw us, she would go into her wee jar and give us sweets. The elderly people were kept separate from us. It was mostly elderly women. They very rarely took elderly men. The nuns were on the same level as the elderly people and the children's bedrooms were at the top of the house.
7. Up until the age of five, my sister and I were in the nursery at Nazareth House. It was self-contained within the convent building. It was along a corridor to the right of the main door. There were doors off the corridor, which were bedrooms on one side and the bathroom, dining room and playroom on the other side. I think there were about fifty children in the nursery at one time. The numbers increased as we grew up. The ages in the nursery ranged from babies to five or six. One nun was in charge of the nursery. Sister L K J was in charge initially, and then Sister Mary Anthony arrived.

Just as we were leaving, Sister Anthony of Padua came. The sister in charge would be assisted by lay people. I think there were about six lay staff. I can't really remember their names, but I think one of them was called [REDACTED] LKL [REDACTED]. The lay staff stayed overnight as well. They had a quarter in the middle of the nursery. They worked long hours.

8. At one point, there were 200 children in Nazareth House. When we were growing up, there were probably about 150 children, excluding the nursery children. My sister and I were in the green group when we were in the junior section. Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED] was in charge of that group. There were usually more children in the green group than the other groups, as Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED] would hand pick who she wanted. There were about twenty children in the group and slightly less in the other groups. Along with the sister in charge, each group had one other person working there. Sometimes the Good Shepherd Home in Bishopton sent people to work at Nazareth House. They weren't much older than the children.
9. When the six [REDACTED] children arrived, [REDACTED] LBN [REDACTED] and I were moved to the red group. We were eight years old at that time. Sister [REDACTED] LBG [REDACTED] was in charge of the red group initially. She got the blame for helping some children to run away and then Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] arrived. She clashed with Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED]. She was more sympathetic to children and wanted to bring her group up the way she wanted. There was also a blue group at that time and Sister Angus was in charge of it. She was a lovely nun. A lay person called Miss [REDACTED] LGF [REDACTED] arrived. She was given the yellow group and some children called [REDACTED] got moved to the yellow group. We were going to get moved too but Mrs [REDACTED] LGF [REDACTED] didn't like [REDACTED] LBN [REDACTED]. It was a new group and two from each group moved there. She would also get new admissions. Each group had its own dining room and bedrooms.
10. Most of the children in the home were girls. There were some boys, but no more than half a dozen. I remember the [REDACTED] who were lovely children. There were two boys and a girl. Their mother was in Lennoxton Hospital. I think she had postnatal depression. I think the father was a teacher in Motherwell and he couldn't cope on his own. They eventually went home when they were old enough to look

after themselves. Boys wouldn't stay until secondary school age. They would be sent up to Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

11. Some children came and left after a few months. It depended on their backgrounds. There was one family that left and came back again. They had seen their mother put her head in the oven and gas herself. They were wards of the court. They would be assigned welfare people. Other girls stayed until they left school.
  
12. By the time I reached the age of sixteen, the welfare children were starting to come into the home. Sister LFS arrived and took over from Sister LFP. It was like night and day. These nuns were brought in purposefully, as the welfare people were aware that the nuns there previously weren't trained. Initially, the sisters wore black habits when I was at Nazareth House. The nuns who came in later on wore white habits, following the Second Vatican Council. The nuns that came in at that time had to go to Langside College and study child welfare. They would have homework to do so they relied upon staff and older children to run the home. It was like one extreme to the other. The regime had been so violent and strict, but the new nuns let us do what we wanted.

### **Routine at Nazareth House, Glasgow**

#### *First memories of Nazareth House*

13. When I was about two years old, my sister and I were going to a wedding. We were dancing in front of the fire. We had been taught steps that we had to do at the wedding. I tripped and fell into the fire. My dress went up in flames. I ended up in hospital, but I can't remember how long I was there for. I just remember screaming with the pain. When I came back, the nuns were quite protective of me. Sister LKJ was super. She took me everywhere with her. She dressed LBN and me in the same clothes and looked after us in the same way. She was really protective of both of us.

*Mornings and bedtime*

14. The bedrooms in the nursery had iron cots with sides on. There were about thirty children in each bedroom. The cots were quite close together. When we were in the nursery, everything was done for us when we got up. At about 10.00am, we had a nap on stretchers in the playroom for an hour or so. Sometimes, they would take us for a walk round the convent afterwards. They would then get us ready for our lunch.
15. In the evenings, we had our tea quite early at the nursery. It was probably about 4.00pm. We would then be bathed by the staff and put to bed. We would put our nightdresses on. We had to kneel and say our prayers before bed, then they would put the sides on the cot. I don't think the staff at the nursery bothered if children wet the bed.
16. When Sister **LFH** went for recreation, some of the other nuns would come up to make sure we were going to bed. They were slightly more relaxed. We were allowed to talk, although not too loudly. I remember having a pillow fight one night. I think the nun supervising was Sister **LDW**. She nearly collapsed when she saw the mess, but she realised we were only children.
17. When we first went into the junior section, there was one big long bedroom. A few years later, they divided it and there were six to eight people in each division. The nuns woke us up at 6.30am in the morning. We had to kneel down and say our prayers. We had to strip the bed. We had two or three younger charges that we had to look after. We would strip their beds for them, get them dressed and brush their hair and things like that, then go and get washed. We got dressed into our day clothes for breakfast, then had to get changed again into our school uniform after breakfast.
18. There was a dog in Nazareth House called Paddy, an Irish Setter. He was left overnight in the dining room. Every morning when we went down for breakfast, we had to clean up the dog's dirt and the urine. The red group was always the first group downstairs so we put the porridge and milk out for all of the groups, but before that

we had to clean up the dog's mess. It was vile. If we hadn't made the bedroom spick and span before breakfast, we had to do it afterwards. We had to get the younger children ready for school and we'd all go out to school together.

19. As I got older, I would have to help get the younger ones ready for bed at 7.00pm. Bedtime was no later than 8.00pm up until I left. Sister [LFH] slept in a room we called her cell just off the dormitory. It had panes of glass. The children that she wanted to watch during the night slept in the beds closest to her. I don't think she ever slept. If we got up to go to the toilet, she knew. She exacerbated the situation with bed wetters. She came out in the stupid hat she used to wear to bed to find out where the children had gone. They'd only gone to the toilet. She didn't like it. She thought children should be able to stay in bed all night. The children were terrified to get up to the toilet so they would wet the bed. If they went to the toilet, that was frowned upon but if they wet the bed, then that was worse.

### *Washing*

20. There were two baths in the nursery. I think we had a bath every evening. They would let us play with ducks and things like that. The water wasn't changed for everybody, so you were lucky if you were one of the first to go in. It would be freezing if you were one of the last. We would sit on the floor in our pants if we were waiting to be bathed.
21. In the junior section, there was one big place to get washed, even for girls up to the age of fifteen. It was quite inferior for girls who were developing. We all had to queue and wait. Sister [LFH] stood and supervised. The older girls would try and cover themselves with a towel and it would actually be pulled off them by Sister [LFH]. I don't know what the motivation behind that was.
22. I always remember [redacted] was quite well developed. She was wearing a bra. Sister [LFH] went over to her and said, "How dare you wear one of these. Who gave it to you?" The [redacted] used to go and stay with their granny in Govan so they would get things like that. By the time I got to secondary school, I was in Sister

LFP group. She made sure that the older children bathed when the younger children were away in bed. She put a curtain round the bath so we had our own time to wash.

### *Food*

23. The nursery had a separate dining room with wee tables and chairs. I've still got my wee chair with my name on it. We had porridge for breakfast. The staff would feed us if we needed to be fed, or we would feed ourselves. I always remember it was a mess. All of the food was prepared in the main convent kitchen. I think the food was fine. If you didn't like it, I don't think the food would have been allowed to go to waste but I can't remember being force fed at the nursery.
24. In the junior section, there was a big dining hall where all the children ate their meals. It was split up with a screen for each group. We had porridge for breakfast most days. When we were in Sister LFP group, we sometimes got a scone and a cup of milk when we came in from school.
25. When we were in Sister LFH group, we were often given lumpy milk. It was left to rot. We usually got that on a Saturday. It was like buttermilk. If we didn't drink it, we were forced to. If you didn't finish your dinner, your pudding was put in it and mixed round. It was absolutely vile. I think that's why I don't eat much meat. Sister LFP didn't do that. We wouldn't get any pudding if we didn't eat our dinner, but we weren't forced to eat.
26. The nuns recorded what we ate in a book. When Sister LFP was away, she'd ask me to write in the book what we had for our breakfast, dinner and tea. I think that record was kept for the welfare people.

### *Clothing*

27. I think a lot of the clothes were donated. We would wear rompers in the nursery. The nuns also made quite a few clothes. There was a woman who sewed a lot and made the costumes we wore for concerts.
28. In the junior section, we wore the same pair of pants all week. Every Friday night, we had to take them off and stand in a queue for them to be inspected. If there was a mark on the pants, we would be thrown to the side and we had to stand there with the pants on our heads. I think that stopped when we went to Sister [LFP] group. Our pants were washed in the middle of the week and we just put them in a wash basket. We could go and get clean underwear and clothes and they had our numbers sewn into them.
29. We also wore hand downs in the junior section. I remember I had an old fashioned jacket. It was for an older person. It would hang off me. Shorter skirts were starting to come into fashion. I used to have a skirt that went down to my ankles. Everybody at school called me "[REDACTED]". It hurt me but I didn't have anything else. When we went to the junior section, we all had a number. I was [REDACTED] and my sister was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. It would be used for our clothing and things like that. Sometimes they would call us by the number if things were being handed out.
30. Sister [LFP] had everything spot on. She coordinated colours. She taught me and that's the way I am. I have a wardrobe for summer and winter, day clothes and working clothes. That's exactly how I was brought up. It stayed with me.

### *School*

31. We started school from the nursery. My first day of school, I fell down a pot hole wearing my wellington boots. I had to be plastered up by the school nurse. We went to Lourdes Primary School, which was just next to Nazareth House. When we were in the nursery, one of the nuns would walk us there. When I started secondary school, Sister [LFH] would walk some of the way with us.



32. We were dressed differently from the other children. If anything went wrong in the school, the convent girls got the blame. We were segregated from the other boys and girls. At the weekend, Miss LGF used to take us to play tennis at the school. We got blamed for stealing tennis balls from the school. I went home and told Sister LFH We hadn't been there at the weekend. Sister LFH went over to the school and stood her ground and demanded an apology. She ruled with an iron hand, so I was surprised she stuck up for us.
33. I loved school. I liked learning. If I came first in the class at school, I got to go out and get a new outfit, so that was what I worked for. Some of the teachers were good. We were often in school earlier than other children. If I didn't understand something, Mrs McMurter, an English and typing teacher, would help me. I liked English, history, music and maths.
34. I attended Lourdes Secondary School. They made a door through the brick wall, from the convent to the school. I thought that was wrong. We should have been allowed to go out through the front gate and into school, just like the other children. Sister LFH didn't give us a snack for school. Every morning, Sister LFP gave our group a packet of sweets to take to school. If we didn't have sweets, we were given an apple or orange. We would give them to our friends at school to get a bit of chewing gum because we weren't allowed it.
35. When my sister left Nazareth House, I got quite rebellious. I lost interest in my schoolwork and books. Sister LFP took me in hand. She said that if I wanted to get on in life, I needed to get an education. She became my mentor. I did well in my exams at school.
36. I remember when it came to choosing subjects in third year. Sister LFL suggested I take domestic science. I said to her, "I do enough domestic science in here." She was shocked. She suggested I could look after a priest when I left school. I thought, "I'm not going to look after anyone." By this time, I was quite mature. I exchanged a lot with my friends from school and I learned a lot from them, like the

facts of life. Nothing like that was taught in the convent. Sister [REDACTED] LFP wanted me to be a primary school teacher. I'd been looking after the younger kids in the junior section and I didn't fancy doing that.

37. I thought about being a nurse. When I was in hospital, I had been speaking to a junior nurse and she stayed in the nurses' home. That's what was in my mind. I thought, "Well, at least I'd have a roof over my head." When I was about sixteen, I did voluntary work at the Western Infirmary on a Sunday. I couldn't stomach the blood and things. I excelled in maths, so I decided to study accountancy.

#### *Homework*

38. There was a big room with cages where we kept our shoes. It was supposed to be the playroom. When you came back from school, you put your outdoor shoes in that and your sandshoes on and hung up your coat. You would go out into the big main room. If we had homework, we had to do it at big tables. If you had a problem and asked Sister [REDACTED] LFH about it, she would clatter you. It depended what mood she was in. Sister [REDACTED] LFP encouraged us with homework more. I didn't always have enough time to complete my homework, especially at secondary school. I had so many chores to do. I used to ask somebody to borrow a torch and I would do my homework under the covers.

#### *Leisure time*

39. At the nursery, we had toys like rocking horses. There were books that we could read. The nursery had its own area of the grounds. There was a hut with toys in it. There were swings in the garden. If the weather was nice, we were allowed to scream, shout and run riot in the yard.
40. At the nursery, we were taught the words of different songs. They would teach us all a part for concerts. We had costumes. A lady would come in to play the piano. The nuns and the benefactors came to watch the performances. To get such young

children to pay attention wasn't easy, but if you made a mistake they didn't really bother. You couldn't make mistakes in the junior section.

41. We never really got toys in the junior section. I was a book worm and the nuns used to say I could read the contents of the cornflake box when I was small. I did get some books, but not when Sister **LFH** was there. I don't remember any leisure time when Sister **LFH** was in charge.
42. Sister **LFH** was quite musical. She encouraged music, but school work was left up to us. I started violin lessons when I was eight. I had to practice the violin when I got in from school. **LKN** . I had to do the cello as well. Somebody came in from Notre Dame School to teach that. I was glad when that stopped because I felt quite uncouth playing the cello. The violin teacher and the dance teacher would choose who should go to competitions.
43. We had a yard next to the playroom. We were allowed to go out in the yard, but we weren't allowed to play 'tig' or anything. If we were too noisy, we soon heard about it. We were taught songs or hymns. We would go round the yard with arms linked, singing these hymns.
44. My sister, **LBN** was good at the high jump. I remember being out in the yard and we were jumping over a piece of string. We had to hold it tight because if it was slack, it was cheating. **LBN** used to be able to jump over it most of the time. We were all shouting and bawling and encouraging each other to jump over this string. Sister **LFH** came out and took everything from us. She sent us to our groups.
45. There wasn't sport in the convent. When Miss **LGF** came to the convent, she took us over to the school on a Saturday morning for tennis. I was in the school relay team when I reached secondary school. I sometimes had to go to Nethercraigs at the weekend. The sisters would have to get me there if the athletics events were at the weekend.

46. After tea, we would be able to watch telly. We had a TV throughout my time at the junior section. I remember watching the Lone Ranger on Saturday morning. We weren't allowed to move whilst we watched the TV. If we moved, we would be slapped or put in the corner. Initially, there was one TV for the whole home. When we went to the red group, benefactors donated another TV.
47. When we were in the red group, on a Saturday, if we'd done all our work and had the passages washed and cleaned by dinner time, we could go out for two hours. We would go along Paisley Road West. In the summer, we would make sandwiches and take them down to Barshaw Park. We took the younger children with us.

### *Work*

48. We had to make the beds, which was understandable. We also had to brush and polish the bedroom every morning before we went to school. After school, I had to help the younger children get changed into their day clothes. If their clothes needed pressed, we had to do that as well which often didn't leave enough time to do my homework. On Saturdays, we had to wash, wax and polish the floors. We had a certain time to do that before our lunch. If we weren't finished, we didn't get pocket money. It was work and no play.
49. The nuns would check our work to ensure we'd swept or mopped the floor properly. If Sister LFH found dust or dirt, which she would always find, she would cane us. We'd then be sent up to clean the passages, which were big and long. We had to sweep and mop them with disinfectant. When we were young, some of the older children were kept off school to pick potatoes in the convent garden.

### *Holidays and trips*

50. The nursery would go on day trips to Largs. Somebody would stay behind with the younger children. When we got to the junior section, we went to stay in Nazareth House in Aberdeen for a month every summer. We travelled to Aberdeen by bus. We would go to the beach every day, rain, hail or shine. We made sandwiches which

were put in old fashioned suitcases. We took turns to carry the big containers of sandwiches. We were separated from the people who wet the bed. The trips to Aberdeen had stopped by the time Sister [LFP] arrived.

51. Every June, the taxi companies used to take the children out for the day. They would give us a big box of sweets. When we were in the green group, Sister [LFH] would take the sweets off us. She would lock them away in a cupboard and they were just left till they went rotten. When we moved to Sister [LFP] group, we were allowed to eat them. We would get them for our piece going to school.
52. From the age of about ten, we would be sent to stay in the houses of benefactors during the holidays. One of the families told me that the priest would ask parishioners from the pulpit if they could take children from Nazareth House. I went to stay with the [LGH/SPO] family at [redacted] Kirkintilloch. They had already fostered [redacted] from the convent. I was with [redacted] another girl from the convent. Mrs [redacted] used to bring another man into the house. We were only at primary school, but we thought this was hilarious. One day, she bought strawberry tarts for her man friend. She sent us to the park, with her baby, [redacted] and a sandwich. We took the strawberry tarts with us. She nearly killed us when we came back.
53. I went to stay with the [redacted] family in Johnstone. They had two sons. They put a hedgehog under a cushion to scare me. They also tried to teach me to go on a bike. We didn't have bikes in the convent. They told me to go down the hill and I'd find the pedals. I went down the hill and right across the main road. That frightened the life out of me. To this day, I've never been on a bike. The boys were devils but we had a lot of laughs.
54. When I was about thirteen, I went to stay with the [redacted] family in [redacted] for the summer. Mr [redacted] came over and chose me because I was taller than some of the other children. I worked in their shop for the summer. I loved the novelty of it and I loved meeting people. Afterwards, they asked to foster me. I realised it was purely for their own gain as they wanted me to work in the shop.

55. Later on, somebody bequeathed a cottage in Girvan to the nuns. Sometimes, we could go and stay overnight there but it was seldom. The nuns used to arrange for the red SMT buses to stop outside the convent. We'd go down to Largs for the day. That was a highlight because it was a good bit away. We were all as high as kites. I don't know how the bus conductors managed. The nuns would also take us to Elder Park in Govan. We walked all the way and it was quite far, so I'm not sure how they did it.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

56. At the nursery, our birthdays were celebrated. We had a cake and things. At the junior section, there were more children and I don't think there was time to celebrate our birthdays. We would know the date of our birthday, but they didn't make an issue about it so we wouldn't look forward to it. Sister [LFH] didn't bother with birthdays. Sister [LFP] was strict, but a bit more placid than Sister [LFH]. She was firm, but she was more motherly. She might give us something for our birthday, like a wee packet of sweets.
57. At Christmas time, businesses like Singer sewing machine and Rolls Royce held parties for us. They would also give us each a wee present. They used to ask the nuns if there was anything big that the home needed. They bought a television and a radiogram, things like that. There were lovely decorations in Nazareth House. Christmas dinner was specially made for us. It was quite rich and some of us couldn't handle it. We used to get a stocking with an apple and an orange in it. We also got a toothbrush, toothpaste and a wee bit of soap. Sometimes we got a wee toy or a hat.
58. Sister [LFP] made us red kilts at Christmas time. We wore red for the whole of Christmas. We would stick out from the other groups. She had everything spot on. However, the nuns relaxed a bit over Christmas. They would have a glass of wine or two and would be away celebrating. We could do our own thing, but we knew there was only so far we could go.

*Personal possessions*

59. I gradually acquired a few personal possessions as the years went on. I had my own underwear. We were given big bloomers by the nuns. When I was fourteen, I was at physical training at school and one of my friends asked me what I was wearing. She gave me underwear for Christmas. Sister [REDACTED] LFP wasn't too keen and said I wasn't going to wear kinky underwear. I told her that was what all my friends were wearing. I was getting to the stage where I knew I was different and that I was being brought up differently from other children at school. She let me keep the underwear. A friend at school also gave me three quarter length socks in different colours.
60. We were given pocket money around the time we moved on to secondary school. That was when the welfare came in. We were allowed to go to the shop with our pocket money.

*Religious instruction*

61. At the nursery, we said prayers in the morning and before we went to bed. We also said grace before meals. Older children would be taken to church if they were good, otherwise we didn't go to Mass. We would skip to go to church because at that time we saw it as a social thing, a treat.
62. Religion was drummed into us when we went to the junior section. The nuns told us constantly that cleanliness was next to godliness. We went to Mass every day before school. I think it was at 7.00am. There was a chapel in the convent. If we were lucky, we'd get to miss it to look after a younger child. Sometimes, on a Sunday, we had to go twice. We would go to Mass in the convent and then go out to Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes church. It depended which group you were in. I was in the red group so that's what happened to me. That was because Sister [REDACTED] LFP was keen for us to go to the family Mass, where some of our friends from school went.
63. Different priests came into the convent from Lourdes Parish to celebrate Mass. There was Father McMenammin, Father Johnston, Father Gilfedder and Father Tobin.

Sometimes, the priests would come into the bedrooms at night. They would go round the beds at around 9.00pm. Although lights out was at 8.00pm, some of us would still be awake, talking or under the covers doing homework. They would ask us how we were doing, but as I got older I wondered why they were there at that time of night. Anything could have been happening, but I never saw anything untoward. They may have been on the nun's floor for recreation. The nuns idolised the priests and they made us have similar respect for them.

### *Visits/Inspections*

64. At the weekend, parents would come to visit their children in the nursery. If they brought sweets, they would be taken off them and shared amongst all the children. I thought that was right because some children, like ourselves, had nobody. They would be put into one big box and we would share them.
65. Once a month at the junior section, the Knights of St. Columba would visit children who didn't have any family. These people would be called our Aunt and Uncle. Sometimes, they would ask if we needed anything. At first, we would be scared to say anything. The nuns would then tell us to mention that we needed a new school skirt, for example, if we were asked. It was quite good because we wore pinafores and flowery blouses to primary school so we stood out right away. The Aunt and Uncle might take us out for a week or two in the summer. I went to Whitley Bay on one occasion.
66. Social workers weren't involved when I was younger, although they did start to come in as I got older. I never had a social worker allocated to me. The nuns would introduce people to us as benefactors. We'd be skipping around saying, "The benefactors are in today." We didn't even know the meaning of the word.
67. Sometimes, people came round and they had a clipboard. They would ask us what we'd had for our dinner. The majority of the time, a nun would be present when we were asked questions. However, I remember on one occasion a lady left with the nuns but then she came back on her own. She started asking us a few questions



about different things. We were looking round to see if the nuns were coming and she told us it was okay to answer her questions. She asked us how often we went out to play and about the toys. As I got older, I realised she must have been somebody in authority and there must've been a reason for her questions. Some of the children were quite open, but some of us were conscious that the nuns might hear what we were saying. If we said something out of order, we'd pay the price later.

### *Healthcare*

68. I was quite a sickly child at the nursery. I would often be in bed. I remember a doctor coming when I was at the nursery. I think his name was Doctor Reilly. I remember being admitted to hospital at one time. Laterally, [REDACTED] took over, Doctor LKQ? and Doctor [REDACTED]. They were nice doctors [REDACTED].
69. On Saturday mornings in the junior section, we had to check one another's hair for head lice. After that, the nuns would check that we'd done it properly. If we missed something, Sister LFH would clatter us.
70. Before Sister Arthurson arrived, we would go to the nun in charge of our group if we were ill. She would make up her mind as to what was required. When we moved to the green group, Sister LFH would drag us out of bed if we were ill. We would be sent to school and the school would send us home because we were sick. It was absolutely crazy.
71. Sister LFP allowed us to stay in bed. I used to get bad colds. I remember on one occasion, when I was twelve or thirteen, I had a really heavy cold and a sore throat. Sister LFP allowed me to stay in my bed. Sister LFH came up, pulled me out of my bed and told me to get dressed for school. I went to school and I could hardly talk. The school sent me back. Sister LFP was horrified. She told Sister LFH to mind her own business. Sister LFP knew what Sister LFH was like.

72. Sister Arthurson arrived at the home later. I think the home was directed that a matron was required. I remember when Sister Arthurson arrived, she got Doctor LKQ to come in. I think it was in about 1963 and it must have been when the welfare people came in. We all had to stand on the stairs and go into the sick bay. He examined us. It was a one off rather than a regular thing.
73. If I was sick and I passed Sister Arthurson on the passage way, I'd tell her I wasn't well. She'd ask if Sister LFH or Sister LFP knew. If I replied yes, she would interfere and find out why she hadn't been notified. They should have records. I had appendicitis and when I was an adult, my doctors didn't know because there was no record of it. I have scars on my legs because of the time I was burnt when I was little. I've been asked about it umpteen times in hospital because there's nothing in my records about that either.
74. A dentist, Mr LGG, used to come in from every so often. We would see him in a room behind the nursery. He was a horrible man. He was brutal. If you had to get a tooth out, he would take pliers to it. I suffered from abscesses. I remember being given a black gas mask. After that, my head was spinning. I don't remember getting gas often because I was terrified of the dentist. I went to the same dentist in after I'd left the convent. He put his hand on my breast. I said, "Get away, you dirty old man. You've been doing that in the convent." I left. I was with my friend, She told me he did that to her the last time she went. I told her not to go back. I assumed that was what he had been doing to children in the convent.
75. When we started our periods, we were given a sanitary towel, plastic pants and a belt. We were told not to go near boys or we'd become pregnant. I thought it was ridiculous, but the schools were just as bad. They brought priests in to teach us sex education and we were taught the holy part, nothing to do with sex education.

*Discipline*

76. At the nursery, we would be given a few warnings and then sent to stand in the corner. We probably got a slap on the bum or across the back of the legs, but nothing more than that.
77. At the junior section, Sister [LFH] would give us the cane for everything. I remember a girl by the name of [REDACTED] from Kirkintilloch. Her mother had a difficult birth with the younger baby so the two older sisters were in Nazareth House. We had been hiding under the stage. Sister [LFH] came and found us and we got the cane. I was used to it but [REDACTED] wasn't. Her father came to visit and she told him what had happened. I don't know if the father challenged Sister [LFH] but eventually those children were taken out.
78. Sister [LFP] would take us by the arm and nip us. Sometimes, she wouldn't give us our pocket money or forbid us from going to Christmas parties. Other kids didn't get that kind of discipline. Everybody was treated quite differently. If children had family to listen to them, the nuns treated them differently. Not getting pocket money was worse than getting a slap.

**Abuse at Nazareth House**

Sister [LFH]

79. When we were five, we came home from school to the nursery. Sister Anthony told us we wouldn't be staying there that night and that we were going over to the junior section. We didn't want to go. Sister Anthony told us that we had to go because we were too big for the nursery, but that she'd come and see us. Two other girls, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came over with us as well. [REDACTED] went to the red group, [REDACTED] went to the blue group and we went to the green group.

80. It was just before supper. Sister [LFH] dragged us into the dining room. She said, "That's your place there." My sister was separated from me. She was seated at the other side of the dining room. Sister [LFH] said, "You won't be here to do what you want any more, running around, stupid." We had to join our hands. She came over to join my hands, quite roughly. I turned round and I was clattered over the face. She said, "You won't do that again. You'll remember what you have to do. The darling twins will be no longer. You're here now and you'll do what you're told. If you step out of line, I'll show you exactly what I mean."
81. Sister [LFH] ruled with an iron fist. She kept her cane up her long sleeves. She would cane us on our knuckles, which was the sorest part. If she didn't have her cane, she used whatever she could find. Whatever she had to hand, you got it. If it was a stick, you got it. If it was the back of a knife, you got it. If she found dirt or dust when we were cleaning, we would be caned. If we coughed in bed, Sister [LFH] would come out and cane us. We would try putting sheets down our mouths to stifle the cough, but sometimes that would make us vomit.
82. Sometimes she would leave marks on our legs. We were often left with bruises. Teachers at school would ask us what had happened. We would tell them we had got the cane. If we got the strap at school, Sister [LFH] would give us the cane at home and say we must've needed it. I think she had a personality problem. She could be moody and she'd take the mood out on the children.
83. She made us drink rotten milk. Sometimes, we would gag on it and it would come back up but she would force us to eat the sick. If we didn't eat our dinner, they'd put our pudding into the dinner plate and mix it. If it wasn't eaten by the time we had to go back to school, we'd be given it for our tea. If we didn't eat it for tea, it would still be there at breakfast.
84. Sister [LFH] used to take the choir. We would practice first thing in the morning when we hardly had a voice. We hadn't had our breakfast. At Easter time, we had to sing the Latin Mass. If we didn't reach the high notes, she would come round and knuckle us. She would say, "You didn't reach that high note. You reach it. That's

what we've been practising." She was uncouth. It would be the nearest child who got it. We all got wise so we didn't stand near to the organ.

85. We used to have orchestras and we played Irish traditional music. Sister **LFH** would be in her element. She was a completely different person. After that, she would change overnight and become like a witch.
86. I remember somebody at school gave me a yoyo. I was twisting it round and it hit the TV. Sister **LFH** dragged me from my chair. I hadn't broken the TV, but I was caned on my hands. She pulled my hair and I had to stand in the corner for a good few hours. I knew I couldn't sit down.
87. The night **LFH** and I were due to return from staying with the **LGH/SPO** in Kirkintilloch, Mrs **LFH** asked if we could stay on instead. **LBN** and **LFH** were due to stay with the **LGH/SPO** after us. Sister **LFH** said no and that two children were all ready to go. We were met at Buchanan Bus Station by **LJX** Mrs **LFH** met **LBN** and **LFH** there and took them on the bus to Kirkintilloch. We went back to Cardonald.
88. **LJX** said that Sister **LFH** was waiting for us and that we were going to get the cane because we didn't want to come back. Sister **LFH** was at the door, waiting. She asked us why we were crying about coming back. We told her we did want to come back. She said, "I'll give you something to cry about." She caned us and sent us to bed without any tea.
89. A while later, we were called to the front hall. Mother **LGE** and Sister **LFH** were there. They asked us about the **LGH/SPO** family. We told them we went to the park every day with the baby and we got a piece and jam to take to the park. We told them that sometimes we would go to Mrs **LFH**'s sister's work if it was raining. She was the manageress at **LFH** and she would give us a treat. We didn't say anything about the different men coming into the house because Mrs **LFH** had told us not to.

90. Sister [LFH] asked what Mr [LGH] was like. I said I didn't like him because he was always kissing us and asking us to sit on his knee. [ ] said she would wake up in the middle of the night and he would be between us in the bed we shared. [ ] slept next to us with the baby. [ ] asked him what he was doing. He said it was to get a heat, but it was the middle of the summer. Sister [LFH] said she was lying. She struck [ ] with a stick and told her she was lying. She said we were ungrateful and that they had to take us in because we had been found on the doorstep.
91. A few days later, we were told that [LBN] was coming back. It then came out that [LBN] and [ ] had been interfered with by Mr [LGH]. They refused to stay there. Sister [LFH] said they were lying and that they were ungrateful. They were badly beaten by Sister [LFH]. I witnessed it. They were black and blue. They couldn't move. I remember screaming. I remember Sister [LFH] screaming, "If you don't shut up, you'll get the same." Sister [LGE] shoved us through a door and we couldn't see what was happening to [LBN] and [ ] any more.
92. A short while afterwards, [LBN] started telling her friends what had happened. She told them what Sister [LFH] had done. She said it had happened. She told people at school, including our form teacher, but nothing was done. I saw a change in [LBN] after that. She had been happy go lucky before that, but then she became withdrawn. Shortly after that [LBN] was put away.
93. After Sister [LFH] left, I didn't witness any abuse. It could have happened in other groups, but I didn't see it. In my mind, the brutality was all about one person. It could spill over to the other nuns because they were taking their orders from Sister [LFH].

*Bed wetting*

94. The nuns would tell us that cleanliness was next to godliness. That was how they worked. If a child wet his or her pants, he or she was not a friend of God. Kids that came in were scared because they were away from their families. The nuns realised

they might get caught if they mistreated these children, because they might tell their parents. They were treated differently from my sister because of that. [LBN] just wasn't liked. The nuns knew what they were doing.

95. If a child wet the bed regularly, Sister [LFH] checked the bed during the night. If the bed was wet, the child would be dragged out of his or her bed early in the morning. The child would have to stand in the corridor, which was a tiled passage, with a sheet over his or her head until Sister [LFH] told him or her to move. Sometimes, they missed their breakfast. It was terrible. When they were told to move, the bath would have been filled. Disinfectant was put into the bath and they had to wash in it. I saw that happen to my sister and to other children.
96. Sister [LFP] adopted the same practice as Sister [LFH] or felt that she had to. [redacted] and [redacted] wet the bed. [redacted] slept next to Sister [LFP] room. I remember one morning she came in and put a clean sheet on [redacted] bed. I thought that was wrong because it was purely because her family was paying for her to be in the convent [redacted]. Later, when I visited Sister [LFP] in Birmingham, I talked to her about how children like us, who were long stay and had nobody to talk to, were treated differently. If you had a brain, you were also treated differently. There was a distinction.
97. The practice of forcing bed wetters to put dirty sheets and pants over their heads took place in all of the groups. Even Miss [LGF] seemed to do the same. The bed wetters were humiliated. It was incredibly cruel.

*Staff from Bishopton*

98. Some of the staff came from the Good Shepherd Home in Bishopton. Those girls could be quite vicious with us, but it was because of how they were brought up. They would pull children by the hair and bang their heads against the wall. The three [redacted] children had parents nearby. [LGI] one of the girls who came from the Good Shepherd Home, took a dislike to [redacted]. She started bashing her around. She got hurt. Sister [LFP] came in and she was horrified. She asked me

if it had happened before and I told her it happened all the time when she wasn't there. LGI disappeared after that. Those girls should never have been working with children, but they were cheap labour.

*Relationship with and separation from twin sister*

99. When we were in the nursery, LBN and I were always together. Our beds were next to each other and we sat together at meal times. We were like two peas in a pod. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- When we left the nursery, Sister LFH took over our care. I can't remember being hit in the nursery. It was great for us. Our first night in the junior section, we were saying grace before our meal. I turned around and Sister LFH clattered me. She said, "You won't get any favouritism here." We had always been together at the nursery but in the junior section, Sister LFH separated us any way she could. LBN and I didn't really know we were twins. From then on, LBN was kept away from me all the time. I was in one part of the group and she was in another.
100. I remember LBN wet the bed the night before a party. We swapped sheets so she could still go. She got to go to the party but we got caught a few nights later. Miss LGF found me trying to dry the sheets at night time. She told Sister LFH and I was clattered. I had to wash the sheets and if they weren't dry, I had to sleep in the wet sheets.
101. The day LBN was sent away, I went to school as normal. We had just started secondary school. We were eleven years old. The teacher asked me where my sister was. I said I didn't know. She went out of the classroom and returned to ask me if LBN had been with me when I left the convent. She hadn't. I thought she might be in her bed. I didn't have a clue where she was. At dinner time, I couldn't wait to get out. Instead of going to the play area to take off my shoes, I went up the back stairs and into my sister's room. Everything was gone. I went downstairs and started shouting and bawling, "Where is she?" They just ignored me. Later that night, I wouldn't go to my bed. Sister LFP was encouraging me to go to bed. I told her I



wasn't going until I knew where my sister was. She said she was going to a place where they'd help her. That was all she said.

102. I always know **LBN** left on a Thursday because I wouldn't go to school on the Friday. When I went back to school on the Monday, all my friends rallied round. When **LBN** left, I became quite rebellious. I had seen other children misbehave. I thought if I did that, I'd be sent away to the same place as **LBN**. I stopped doing my homework. **[REDACTED]** was at school with us. She was a tom boy. She had been friendly with my sister. Previously, I'd kept my distance from her because I knew she'd get me into trouble. I started tagging along with her. I was young and immature and I thought I'd be moved to the same place as my sister.
103. The school kept phoning up to say I hadn't done my homework or I was refusing to do things at school. One of the teachers understood what I was going through, but others didn't know my background. The maths teacher had seen the difference between me from first year to third year. She pulled me aside.
104. Sister **LFP** also caught on. She said I would be deprived of everything if I carried on behaving like that. I was being a stroppy teenager. She told me if I was sent away, I wouldn't go to the same place as my sister. She said if I did as I was told, she would help me in every way. I played the game with her. If I was asked to do something, she knew I would do it.
105. Sister **LFH** left and Sister **LFL** started. When I went away on holidays, the families I stayed with asked if I had any brothers or sisters. I told the **[REDACTED]** family I had a twin. When we got back to the convent, Mr **[REDACTED]** asked Sister **LFL** where my twin was. Sister **LFL** said she didn't know. Mr **[REDACTED]** asked me if it was an imaginary twin that I had. I told him I had a real twin. **[REDACTED]** parents came in when Mr **[REDACTED]** was visiting. I was friendly with her. I got her mum to tell Mr **[REDACTED]** that she knew my twin. The **[REDACTED]** family pursued it, but they didn't get very far. They were willing to foster me along with my sister. The nuns said that couldn't happen.

106. When I told Sister **LFL** that I had a twin sister, she thought I was hivering. She asked me where she was and I said, "She was here, and then she was put away." She told me she would find out where she was. She came back and told me **LBN** was in Liverpool. She said it was for her own good because her head wasn't right. I remember shouting at her, saying, "What do you mean? Are you telling me she's stupid?" I asked if she was going to school and she told me she wasn't. Later on, she told me somebody had come in to see the nuns and noticed that **LBN** was different from the other people there and that she should be at school. I didn't get any letters from my sister, but they would open letters anyway.
107. When I was about seventeen, Sister **LFL** told me that my twin wanted to come and see me. A letter had arrived from my sister, but I was told I wouldn't be allowed to see it. I asked when she was coming and she told me it would be soon, but that she wasn't allowed to stay at Nazareth House. I asked why not and she told me that she wasn't allowed to. That was all she said. A few weeks later, **LBN** came to the convent. It was amazing. We didn't hug or anything. We just looked at each other.
108. When **LBN** came to stay, I had a room of my own. They had run out of beds up the stairs when I was seventeen. I was still in a dormitory, but I had a curtain. The nuns told me that **LBN** couldn't stay. I said that I had a room of my own so she could stay with me. They told me she could go and stay in a convent in Galashiels, which belonged to Poor Sisters of the Mother God. **LJX** was a staff member who did the laundry. She was there when we were babies. We were scared of her when we were little. She was very intimidating. Even the nuns were quite scared of her. She said we could have hidden **LBN** in the laundry, but the nuns would be watching. She felt sad that **LBN** was being sent away.
109. We had no idea where Galashiels was. We thought it was just up the road. We left the convent and we asked a policeman how to get to Galashiels. He thought we were running away. It was about 8.00pm in the evening. He said, "You won't get there tonight." We waited at the bus stop. We didn't even know where we were going to go. We thought we'd go back into town. I wouldn't have known what a bed and breakfast was and I didn't frequent hotels. We met a girl that I knew from school. She

gave me money and said that she knew someone at the Mulberry Hotel. She told us how to get there and to get the number 34 bus to Shawlands. We didn't have a clue.

110. We both stayed in the hotel. [LBN] wet the bed. I told the lady who worked there that we'd had an accident. She told us not to bother and took the sheets off the bed. I went back to the convent and [LBN] went back to Liverpool. We stayed in touch on and off. We got wise to writing letters to the convent. My sister sent letters for me to my school friend, [REDACTED] instead.
111. I met the dancing teacher, Miss Docherty, after I'd left school. She asked me if I was in contact with my sister. I told her that we were in contact but that [LBN] lived in Liverpool. She said she'd known somebody who wanted to adopt us. Why the nuns didn't allow it, I don't know. I think it's possible that a relative of one of the nuns gave birth to us out of wedlock. When we were in the nursery, we went to Cardiff for six months with Sister [LKJ]. We stayed in a Nazareth House there. I don't know what happened to Sister [LKJ] but she was quite old. We came back to Glasgow. We were about four years old. When Mother [LKP] gave us photographs years later, a head had been cut out of two of the photographs. Now I wonder if that was our mother.

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

112. The teachers at the school were aware of what was happening. They used to ask us how we had got bruises. At secondary school, I remember one of the girls from the convent, [REDACTED] had a big scar. She'd had gravel in her cut and it hadn't been cleaned out properly. She also came to school with big welts on her legs. One of the teachers, Miss McCluskey, said, "This is not right. You shouldn't be coming to school like that. That's abuse." I was with [REDACTED] when she went in to see the teacher. That was the first time I'd ever heard the word abuse. Miss McCluskey said she was going to phone the convent. At first, I don't think the teacher believed us. When it was happening quite a lot and some children were disappearing, she knew

there was something that wasn't right. I don't know if anything ever came of it because the nuns wouldn't tell us things like that.

113. The only people we used to speak to were our friends. They would go home and tell their mothers. Sometimes, when we were out playing at primary school, the mothers would come to give their daughters a piece and they'd bring one for us as well. There was nobody else we could tell.
114. I don't think we would have been believed if we'd reported the abuse at the time. We had reported abuse that took place at the [REDACTED] LGH/SPO [REDACTED] home in Kirkintilloch. We were told we were ungrateful liars and beaten. No action was taken. The welfare people coming into the home knew what was going on. They didn't seem to do anything at all. The welfare people would be assigned to different kids and they might take us out for the day. We were warned before we went not to say anything. We knew the consequences if we did.
115. After I left, I never spoke to anybody about the abuse at Nazareth House until the newspaper article in 1997. I just buried it to the back of my head and got on with my life. The new regime had come in and it was more friendly and family orientated. I never made a complaint to Nazareth House or the police.
116. In 1997, Sister [REDACTED] LKC [REDACTED] called me from Nazareth House. She asked me if I'd seen the papers that morning and advised me to get the News of the World. There was an article in the middle pages about abuse at Nazareth House. I was absolutely shocked that it had all come out. I had buried it. I was embarrassed that people knew about the convent. I didn't know what to do. I phoned Sister [REDACTED] LKC [REDACTED] back and told her that these things did happen. I told her that I was horrified that it had all come out, after so many years. I told her some of it had been taken out of context. That was what she picked up on. Sister [REDACTED] LKC [REDACTED] asked me to call the newspaper and tell them that it was all fabrication and that it didn't happen. I said I couldn't do that because it was difficult to siphon out what had been taken out of context, what had happened and what was still happening. I told her it was out now and they had to

deal with it. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

117. I went out and bought every copy of News of the World that I could. I sent it to everybody I knew who had been in Nazareth House to let them see it, including my sister. I put an advert in the paper with my telephone number so that people could contact me. I just wanted to find out what people were feeling and to support people. I thought they needed to know about it in case somebody came to the door the way the police came to my door. If I hadn't already been aware of the article, I would've been absolutely shocked.
118. After the News of the World article, two CID officers came to my work to speak to me. I was quite taken aback. [REDACTED] had given the police my name, but I told them I hadn't witnessed her being abused. She was a lot younger than me. I was working for lawyers at the time. I told my boss they only wanted a statement about something that happened years ago. I did tell him eventually what they were there about. He was shocked.
119. Cameron Fyfe, a lawyer, had an advert in the paper. He was doing things behind the scenes and I think it may have been him who instigated the article. I got in touch with him and told him that my sister was abused. Cameron Fyfe got in touch with my sister. [REDACTED] had told him that I could verify everything that had happened to her. He asked me what I'd seen and I told him things that did or didn't happen. The regime had changed laterally.
120. Sister [REDACTED] LVA was a nun who taught in the convent. She knew [REDACTED] LBN and I when we were in the nursery. She was similar in age to Sister [REDACTED] LFH. She died two years ago. I had a lengthy conversation with Sister [REDACTED] LVA a few years after the News of the World article. I told her it had been terrible in Glasgow, but that it was true. Afterwards, she invited me to Nottingham. She told me that when she was in the nunnery, the young novices were terrified of Sister [REDACTED] LFH. She was able to tell me that Sister [REDACTED] LFH had worked in a boys' borstal prior to arriving at

Cardonald. Maybe she forgot that she wasn't in the borstal anymore. Sister [REDACTED] LVA [REDACTED] LVA acknowledged that there had been abuse. The nuns know it happened.

### Leaving Nazareth House

121. I did my exams. I got what I needed to get into Aberdeen University to study accountancy. One of the girls at school came from that area, but was going back. That was really why I chose Aberdeen. I thought I could go with her. Mother [REDACTED] LKG told me that I wouldn't have anywhere to stay but I could stay in the convent up there. I went up and registered in August. They showed me the room at the convent. They told me I would have a key and I could go in and out myself, but there would be restrictions on visitors and the time I was coming in. If I was staying out overnight, I had to let them know.
122. When I went back to Cardonald, I had peritonitis. There were complications. I ended up in hospital for a while and I had to go to a residential place in Largs to recuperate. I was going to have to re-register at Aberdeen the following year. I was at a loose end. In December, Mr [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] was speaking to Mother [REDACTED] LKG about my situation. He had fourteen children and every one of them went to university. He suggested I start at Stow College because I could start after Christmas. My education hadn't been broken too much. I could study for a Higher National Certificate and a Higher National Diploma. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
123. It was a four year course at college. I thought I was never going to get a degree, but I loved where I was. I was still staying in the convent. I had a room of my own. I paid £1.50 a month for my board and lodgings. I got my breakfast and evening meal at the convent. Sometimes Sister Mektil would make me sandwiches for my lunch. I didn't really have freedom, but I didn't really need it. I had a lot of studying to do. I had lost three months of work so I needed to catch up. I stayed at the convent until I

was 21. As long as I abided by the rules, there was no problem. I celebrated my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday there. I had a big, three tier cake. I got a lot of presents.

124. By that time, Sister **LFS** was at Langside College studying childcare. Sometimes, she would ask me to do essays for her. She had left home at eleven or twelve to study to be a nun so she didn't really know the outside world.
125. **LGJ** was a staff member in the red group. She was the same age as me. I got very friendly with her. When I was eighteen, I used to go out to the dancing with her on a Saturday night. We'd meet boys. I had to be in at a certain time, but in those days the dancing was early. We'd go to Joanna's or the Mayfair on Sauchiehall Street. The nun doing the night shift would be asking, "Did you meet anybody tonight?" They were young nuns and it was more relaxed by that time. Isabel was leaving just after my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. She asked if I wanted to move into a flat with her. We moved to a flat in Cecil Street in the West End.

### Life after being in care

126. Living with **LGJ** was great. She got a job in a factory. I was still at college  
 I used to help her then we'd go home and get ready and go to the dancing. I had a few boyfriends. When they wanted to know too much or it was getting too personal, I didn't want that side of things. I had been taught at the convent that it was bad to go with men. I was terrified of getting pregnant, but to be quite honest I didn't know how you got pregnant. Sex education was farcical at the convent and at school. I was quite happy on my own though. I met my husband, **LFH** when I was 25. We were engaged after a year and we got married when I was 25.
127. Sister **LFH** was in Lancaster after she left Glasgow. She used to write to me. I recognised her handwriting. I would ignore the letters. I had no feelings for the woman. Sister **LFH** asked to come to my wedding. I wrote back to her and said

there was no way I would allow it and that I didn't want my marriage to be jinxed. I have provided a copy of my letter, which is [REDACTED] 1973. I told her I didn't want any more correspondence. I never heard from her again. She ruled with an iron fist and she was allowed to do it. The mother superior at Nazareth House, Mother [REDACTED] LGE knew what she was doing.

128. After I graduated from my accountancy degree, I joined the civil service. I was getting paid a lot more than [REDACTED] I was based at [REDACTED]. Some of the people there weren't nice and I didn't want to go down that road again. I left and did a consumer credit course with the Royal Bank of Scotland. I could've stayed there. A job then came up at a car dealership in [REDACTED]. I was going to get a company car so I thought I'd go for that. I then worked for Nissan and had my own garage in [REDACTED].
129. I mostly worked in industry after that because that was where the money was. I then went to work for a double glazing company and helped to establish the business. When I retired, I was working for a building company. I was in the property section mostly. I also did contract work for the Revenue as well. I had my own business in accountancy throughout that time. I earned good money and I didn't squander it. I always had a job on the side. I still do tax returns and things like that.
130. After we got married, [REDACTED] and I went to visit Nazareth House. Sister [REDACTED] LHW said nobody had come for the [REDACTED] children. She asked us where we were going. We were going down the coast so we took them with us. Every time we went on a trip, we would go into the convent to see if any of the children wanted to come with us. They made our day enjoyable. No matter what had happened in their background or how nasty their parents had been to them, they were always so loyal to their mum and dad. If we gave them sweets, they would say that they were keeping them for their mum or dad. [REDACTED] couldn't believe it. He would give them another packet of sweets to keep.
131. We also used to take the [REDACTED] brothers out. Their father was a kleptomaniac so sometimes he wasn't allowed into the convent. The boys asked us if we could take



them out for good. Now, we wish we had done it. They went into the army. Army life wouldn't have been right for them, having been brought up in the convent. I found out recently that [REDACTED] died. [REDACTED] is in Paisley. Not having children of our own, we could've given them a home life. I felt sad that we didn't.

132. We took children from the convent off and on for quite a few years. Then there was an advert placed in the newspaper by Motherwell Diocese, asking for foster parents for four children. We applied to foster the four children and then we would be able to keep the two younger ones. They carried out the police checks and everything was going through without any difficulty. One Sunday, a social worker came out to see us. She wanted us to sign paperwork agreeing that we wouldn't have any children of our own until the older girl was ten. I told her that she had seen my medical records and that wasn't going to happen. I told her that if we did have a child and the girl was not yet ten, we would be a family. It wouldn't change anything. The baby would be brought up just like the older children.
133. We would never disregard the foster children. [REDACTED] was annoyed by this suggestion. The social worker was quite forceful and cheeky. I also felt that adopting the two younger children was wrong. They were a family. I wanted the father to be involved in their lives. The marriage had broken down. The father was working in the steel industry and he couldn't cope, but when the older ones grew up they could've looked after the younger ones with support. If we had taken them, they could've gone back to their father when they were a bit older. I thought what was best for the children was for the father to have contact with them, which he wanted. I had access to the records and there had been no abuse.
134. The children were supposed to go to a Catholic family because their father was Catholic. The only other people who could take these children were in Inverness. They weren't Catholic, but that's where they went. I feel that's where a lot of the social work system breaks down. That was the problem with a lot of what was going on when we were younger. Glasgow District Council were aware of the abuse in these homes, I don't care what they say. They turned a blind eye because it was

easier for them. They placed these children where they wanted and they couldn't have cared less.

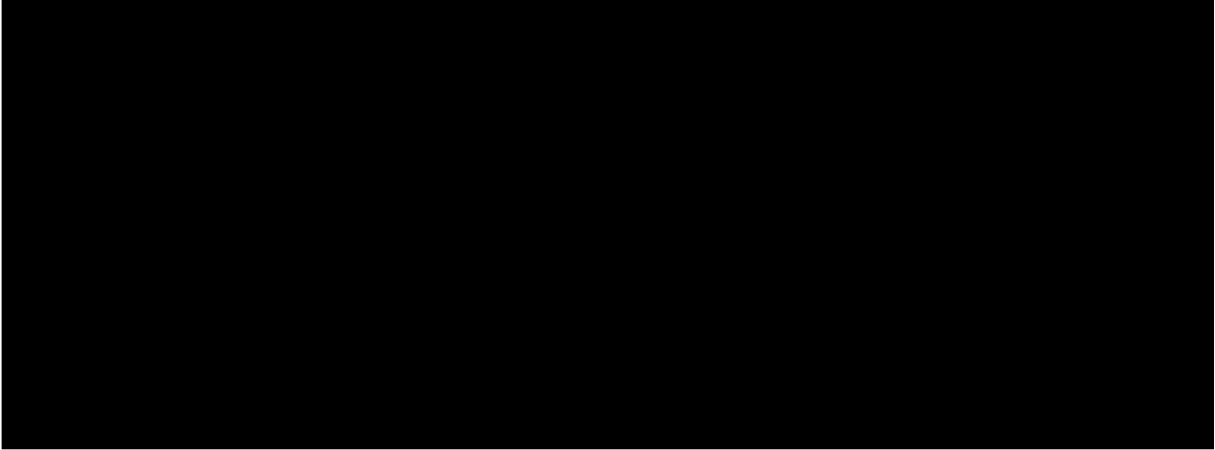
135. Later on, the social work department in Paisley contacted us. They wanted to give us two maladjusted boys. The police in Cardonald told us not to touch them. They told us we wouldn't be able to manage. We hadn't brought up any children of our own. They were prepared to let us foster them, which was crazy. They needed support and love but they also needed discipline from foster parents with experience.

136. [REDACTED] was an industrial plumber. At one time, he was going to be transferred to [REDACTED] and we were going to relocate, but he failed the medical [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I was quite happy because I don't think I could've settled in America, especially because of my sister. Every seven years, [REDACTED] tended to move jobs. He was a janitor [REDACTED] at one time.

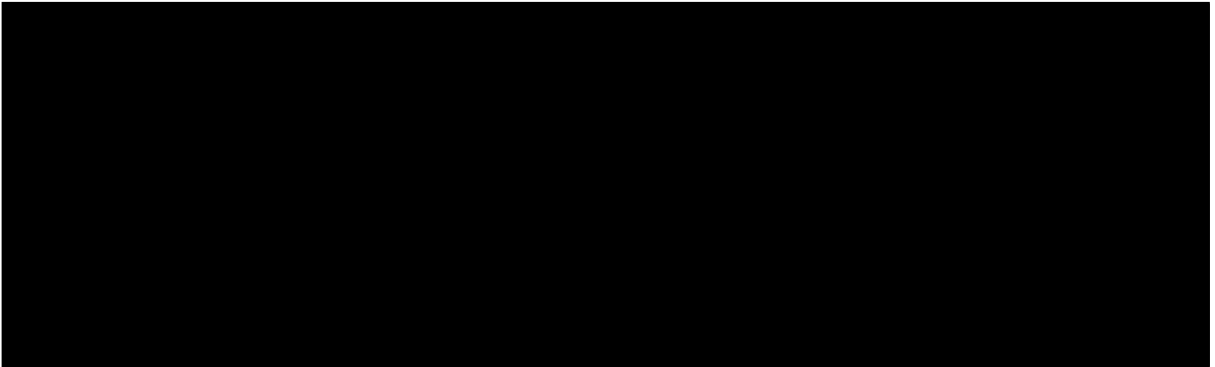
137. When Mother Mary started at Nazareth House, she was adorable. She was a late vocation and she knew the outside world. She was the type of person we needed when we were growing up. When I told her what had happened to [REDACTED] she was livid. I would've done anything for her. In 1991, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Sister Mary took a shine to the [REDACTED] family. Some of the nuns became jealous.

138. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
When Mother Mary left, Sister [REDACTED] LKC came in. She was a bulldog. Sister [REDACTED] LFP had moved to Nottingham. We used to go and visit her and we would stay in the convent there. We would give them a donation. When Sister [REDACTED] LKC was in Nottingham, every time I phoned she'd say we couldn't visit. Out of the blue, she called to say we could visit one weekend. She said Sister [REDACTED] LFP would love to see us. Actually, it was because she knew we had a Range Rover and she wanted us to take her three cases up to Glasgow. That was the only time we were allowed to visit Sister [REDACTED] LFP when Sister [REDACTED] LKC was in charge.


139.



140.



### **Records**

141. Nazareth House had virtually no records of me and my sister at all. Before I got married, I went in to Nazareth House to try and get my birth certificate but I was told they didn't have it. They had some kind of register with lots of names of children who had been at the convent. Mother Mary showed me the page and said we had come from Ireland and that there was mention of a farmer. She thought he might have been our father. I queried why they didn't have our birth certificates. She didn't know. I asked how we got registered for school without any birth certificates. They must've taken the nuns at face value.
142. I then phoned the District Council offices. I had to make an appointment. They told me they could only give me an abbreviated birth certificate. I asked why and was told that there was a note to say they couldn't give me the full certificate. The abbreviated certificate said that we were twins, born fifteen minutes apart  in Glasgow. When we were little, Sister Helena told us that we had been born in

Ireland. I got the impression she had been quite involved with us coming into Nazareth House.

143. The nuns were very poor at keeping records. The lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, commented on that. My medical records don't tie up with my medical history. When I was at Nazareth House I had appendicitis and a tonsillectomy. I also discovered that I had Crohn's disease. None of these things are in my medical records. Sister Arthurson was quite particular about keeping records, so I don't know what happened to them.
144. In about 1988, I went to visit Sister [LFP] in Birmingham. She said she had a surprise for me and we were going to Cheltenham to meet somebody. Mother [LKP] was on her death bed. She gave me a big bag of photos. The photos were from our time at the nursery. A lot of them were taken away by people at the reunion. The photos are the only record we have of our time in Nazareth House.

### Impact

145. Being separated from my sister put a real strain on our relationship. It remains a strain. We're too different. When we first met when we were eighteen, we didn't hug. We just looked at each other. Over the years, we've got to know each other but it's still strained because we've never lived with each other for any length of time. [LBN] would come and stay with us and [ ] and I would go to stay with her at Christmas time. We would go on cruises and pay for [LBN] to come with us. We do entirely different things to each other. I phone my sister every night, but sometimes she can be depressed so she doesn't answer the phone. I tear my hair out because I can't get hold of her. The separation forced on us at the age of eleven is still there. I don't know if we could live with each other long term because we have been brought up entirely differently.
146. I have a lot of medical problems. They may have stemmed from my time in Nazareth House. I wasn't rebellious. I kept things to myself. That affects the stomach and may

be why I had the ulcers and had to have part of my stomach taken away. I would lie in bed thinking about LBN and what she was doing.

147. Nazareth House affected my relationships. Men knew I was different. They knew I wasn't experienced in any way. They would call me names in drink that were detrimental to me. I didn't know what prostitution was. We were scared because it was drummed into us not to mess about with boys. I never wanted to go further than a kiss or a cuddle. If it was going to get more serious, I backed off. One guy I met was very experienced. I wasn't mature enough and I told him I couldn't handle him. It was difficult for me to get close to my husband, but I was lucky in a way because I don't think he was experienced either. The build-up was slower. When we got married, LBN was my bridesmaid.
148. I didn't think about Nazareth House when I first left. It was a novelty, it was great and I could do what I liked and I was my own boss. Since the story in the paper broke, it brought everything back to me. It's made me quite bitter when I think about how we were treated. I have seen another side to the sisters and I've maintained continuity with them, but I can never forgive them for what they did to us and to my sister. It was utterly wrong. They were brought up in their own families, they had their own siblings and they wouldn't have liked that themselves. I try not to let the anger affect me. I got on with my life and I've been lucky enough to be able to do that. I've had good support from a lot of friends from school. They know the situation.
149. I had to read the article in the News of the World three times for it to sink in. I had buried everything to the back of my mind. I stood back and thought that I couldn't deny it, it had happened. LBN had to write a report about what had happened to her for her solicitor. She was worried he wouldn't be able to read her handwriting. I told her I'd type it up for her. When I read LBN report for Cameron Fyfe, the barbaric nature of the abuse struck me. When I was a child, I was used to it at the time. I saw it every day in life, so it was a continuation. I had asked her to send it to my work. I couldn't believe it. There were about ten pages. I burst out crying. I had to take the rest of the day off work. My boss told me to go home and said I was pure white. There was no way I could type it up. I phoned the solicitors and told them it was

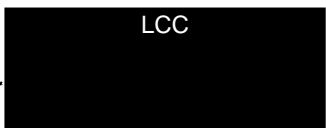
harrowing and it would be difficult to type up. They told me to pass it to them, so I dropped it off.

150. The BBC programme, Frontline, took up the story. They organised a reunion of girls from Nazareth House in 1997 and 1998. It took place in Partick Burgh Hall. It was lovely seeing everybody, but it was harrowing as well. I remember one of the girls saying to me that I had been the pet and that I never had anything done to me. I said to her that I got my sister taken away from me.
151. In around 2000, Bishop Conti published something in the papers denying that there had been abuse in Catholic institutions. He said that the children in the institutions were delinquents. That really angered me. He was pre-judging everybody when he didn't know the actual facts. I felt so strongly about that I phoned office of the archdiocese of Glasgow. They wouldn't allow me to speak to Bishops Conti. I spoke to the housekeeper. I told her he didn't know all of the facts. When I was taken into Nazareth House, I was three months old and I was no delinquent. I told her that the majority of children that I knew at Nazareth House weren't delinquents either. I asked her to pass that on to Bishop Conti, but I don't know if she ever did it.
152. My husband are still practising Catholics. I question my faith because the abuse was allowed. I question the priests who should have been showing an example. Why was it allowed? I've read about abuse by the priests and I remember some scandal when I was at school, although being young I didn't know the full story. We looked upon the priests as like God. We thought they wouldn't do anything like that, but it's coming out as being quite different. It was like that at the convent. We thought what the nuns were doing was right but now I realise that what they were doing wasn't right. I do question God for answers, but I don't get them. There was no love. We were dragged up. If any staff did show love, they were put down.

## Final Thoughts

153. There should be rules and regulations that are followed properly. There also need to be staff trained for every eventuality, because every child is unique. When the nuns knew we were getting a visit, we were dressed up to the hilt. The minute people left, the clothes were taken off us. These places shouldn't know when they're being inspected. I don't think giving evidence to the Inquiry will solve all the problems, but at least we're being listened to.
154. Children might have a stable background being in care because they've had meals, a clean bed and a roof over their head, but when they come of age they need hostels or somewhere they can call their own. Places like student accommodation could be made available, with an adult on call that they could call upon if they need to. They need somewhere they can cook, clean and entertain friends until they're mature enough to handle the outside world. They need continued support from people trained in dealing with adolescents. These people need to know the consequences if children stray in different directions.
155. A lot of the children brought up in care are not here today because they've been murdered, taken drugs, you name it. They were never put on the right path when they left. They were thrown out and they had nowhere to go. They would live with any Tom, Dick or Harry. I know that happened in our time. I've met girls whose lives have been unbelievable. I've been one of the lucky ones. I married well and I've never had any trouble with money, but there are a lot of people who aren't so lucky.
156. When the News of the World story was published in 1997, I think the lawyers were feeding things to the media. The abuse was put to one side. People were just trying to get whatever they could out of it. The only people that benefitted out of it were the lawyers. When compensation was spoken about, it was attractive to a lot of people. There was an influx of people coming forward and I know that not all of them had been abused. I think that it should have been a private matter, dealt with between clients and their lawyers.

- 157. I think the whole thing was handled badly. At that time, lawyers were putting some people forward for Criminal Injuries Compensation, but not others because they had been abused prior to 1964. If they could only give some people compensation and not others, I feel that nothing should have been given out at all. Pre 1964 was the era when people were more badly affected by the abuse in institutions. So much broke down for those people when they left the homes. More had been put in place to support people leaving care by the late 1960s.
  
- 158. I hope that the Sisters of Nazareth listen to what everyone has said and not continue with the propaganda that has been going on for years and then nothing gets done. I do feel sorry for the nuns that have been left to carry the can. Not all of them knew what was going on and some of them were kind, but there were a few bad apples. However, they have to do something and acknowledge that these children were normal human beings who needed help. Through no fault of their own, they'd been born. They never asked to be born. If children can't get guidance at home, they need to get it somewhere else rather than being left in limbo. Changes need to be recorded and introduced, otherwise it will continue. The children who need the help are the ones who are slipping through.
  
- 159. 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..... 17/01/2018 .....