

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LCA

Support person present: No.

1. My name is [REDACTED] LCA [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. When you turn eight years old in the Catholic Church you pick a saint's name for your middle name. They call it your confirmation name. I picked [REDACTED] I have seen the initial [REDACTED] feature in my name in correspondence sent to me but I don't use it. I don't have that middle name on my birth certificate. It is possible that the initial may appear in some of my records.

Background and life before care

3. My mother was called [REDACTED] She was a devout Catholic. She was going to get married in [REDACTED] 1956 to a man called [REDACTED] My mother was pregnant with me at the time. [REDACTED] was my dad. My mother thought the world of my dad. By all accounts he was a clever man. He [REDACTED] so he wasn't stupid. However, my Dad was a bit of a womaniser. It didn't work out between my mother and my dad. My mother caught him one night with a woman in the Grassmarket. That's why they didn't marry. I never properly met my father at all. I've been told he saw me when I was born and that was it.
4. My mother worked in hotels as a domestic. She was seemingly very good at her job. She was staying with friends when she had me. She had been moving about. She realised that she couldn't work and look after me at the same time. That's when my

mother contacted a woman called Ms Sinclair. Ms Sinclair was involved with the social work department. Ms Sinclair pressurised my mother into putting me into a home. She said that if I was put into care my mother could get on with her "work life". That is what ultimately happened.

5. I was placed into care in [REDACTED] 1958. That was when I was placed in Nazareth House in Lasswade. I was fifteen months old at the time. I think the Catholic Church were the people who became responsible for me at that point.

Nazareth House, Lasswade

6. Nazareth House had boys and girls but the girls were kept separate. The girls had separate dormitories. We only integrated together when we were out playing together in the summer-time.
7. There were two sides to Nazareth House. There was the small side, which was the nursery, and the big side, which was for the older kids. Both sides were on the same grounds. There was maybe a five minute walk between the two sides.
8. I was originally in the small side. I don't remember really much from the time I was in the nursery. I can't remember anything untoward happening. I can't remember being abused there. I can't remember any badness there. I went to the big side when I was four or five. That's when I went to school. That's when things started to change.

Staff

9. There were two or three young nuns at Nazareth House. I don't remember the names of any of the nuns other than Sister [REDACTED] LFJ. The other nuns looked after the other kids. They dealt with the lassies. Nazareth House used to have other nuns from abroad working in the home during the summer time. I think they were Spanish. There was also a mother superior. The only time we saw her was on a

Sunday at mass. Some of the nuns you had to be wary of. Others were very nice. They weren't all bad. There were ones who were really good to you and would ask you how you were getting on.

10. Sister **LFJ** was the nun who was in charge of everything. She had a lot to do with the girls as well as the boys. Sister **LFJ** was the one who looked after us the most. I don't think she was Scottish. I think she was foreign. I think she came from some part of Europe. She was a very unhappy looking woman. She never smiled. She was an old woman. I reckon she would have been at least in her sixties, and maybe in her seventies, when I was in Nazareth House.
11. There was a woman called **LFK** She used to watch us whilst the nuns were away in the evening. She was a member of staff. She wasn't a nun. **LFK** had her own room somewhere in the building. I can't remember what part of the building it was in.

Routine at Nazareth House

12. You got up at about six thirty on school days. You had to get washed and cleaned. Then you had to pull on your clothes before having breakfast and going to school. After school you would get changed and washed and have your tea. We had our tea between four thirty and five. The nuns would go away after we had our tea at about six thirty. I don't know whether the nuns went away to mass or something but the next time they were about was at nine or ten when they came into the dormitories to go to bed. It was Sister **LFJ** who slept in the cell in our dormitory.

Sleeping arrangements

13. It was small rooms in the nursery. It wasn't big rooms. We slept in a dormitory. There were about half a dozen kids in there. We had our own beds. They were smaller beds.

14. The big side also had dormitories. There was something like fifteen to twenty kids in the dormitory I was in. All the kids were much the same age. Sister [LFJ] had a cell in the dormitory. The cell was a space for the nun's own bed. It was partitioned off from the rest of the dormitory. In our dormitory it was on the right hand side as you went in. Nobody was allowed to go into the cell. If someone had gone in there they would have got half killed. The only time you went into the cell was when Sister [LFJ] asked you to get something.

15. We weren't locked into the dormitories at night. The door was left open so that we could go to the toilet. You didn't have to ask permission to go to the toilet or anything like that at night time. You did during the day though.

Bath time

16. Saturday and Sunday was when you had your bath. Bath time was at about six in the evening. It was just before you went to bed. Half of the boys would have their bath on a Saturday and the other half would have theirs on a Sunday. There was a great big old-fashioned bath. I was so small I could have swam in it.

17. [LFK] used to help out with bathing the kids when the nuns weren't there. She used to make one of the kids stand at the door to the bathroom to watch for the nuns coming back. She would then get the laddies to rub her legs and feet. She used to sit back and make them do that. It went on for an hour to maybe a couple of hours. She obviously knew she was doing something wrong because she made one of the laddies stand and keep a lookout. I don't know whether it was sexual or whatever. It never went any further than massaging her feet or legs. It passed through my mind at the time that it was wrong. I think [LFK] might have been booted out the door if the nuns had found out what she was doing.

Food

18. You went down to the dining room for your breakfast. I remember fighting over what coloured plastic mug you got. During the week you would get a bit of toast and porridge. Saturday was a bit better because you got a boiled egg with toast, tea and cereal. If you were at school you got school dinners for your lunch. You also got your milk at school.
19. We had tea at the home. Tea-time was between four thirty and five in the evening. There was a kitchen there. All the food was cooked in the place. We used to get an idea of what we were going to get from the smells coming from the kitchen. If you didn't eat your vegetables at tea-time you wouldn't get a sweet. I couldn't stand vegetables as a laddie. A lot of the food was steamed.
20. There was a little farm at the back of the home where they kept pigs and chickens. I don't know whether the bacon came from the pigs but I remember that the bacon we got was more fat than meat. It was all gristle. It was horrible. You couldn't eat it. I do remember getting a boiled egg once. When I cracked it open there was a chicken inside. Sister LFJ tried to make me eat it. She told me there was nothing wrong with it. I refused to eat it though. That put me off eggs for a while.

Clothes

21. We didn't have a uniform at school or in the home. I think a lot of the clothes we wore came from charity. They were clothes that people had handed in. The kids were never dressed the same. I remember we all had different shoes.

School

22. I went to St Mary's Primary School in Bonnyrigg. The school was just down from Lasswade. School was alright. School was school. When you went to and from school you walked in a line with one nun at the front and one nun at the back. There would be maybe twenty kids being marched back and forth. I always remember the

hill we went down past the clock tower. When you were marched back and forth to school you would feel as if you were different. You would feel as if there was something wrong but you didn't know what it was. It was awful. I found it quite humiliating.

23. The other kids ridiculed us when we went to school. Kids can be cruel. It's not their fault. You would be called names because you were from the home. Not all the kids were like that though. I had one or two pals in the area.
24. When I went to school in Bonnyrigg I thought that this must just be what life is like. I would get the belt at school. I was getting abuse both at Nazareth House and at school. I would think to myself "What am I supposed to do? I'm doing everything that I'm told to do and I'm still getting hit".
25. When I came out of St Mary's and Nazareth House I couldn't read or write properly. That was partly because we weren't allowed to do homework at the home. The nuns weren't interested. They never bothered about giving us time to do homework. When we got back to Nazareth House they just fed us and put us straight to bed. That used to annoy the teachers at our school. I remember that the headmaster of St Mary's went up to Nazareth House and asked why we weren't getting to do our homework. After that we got help to do our homework at Nazareth House for a bit. However, after a while that just sort of faded off. Nobody bothered helping us do our homework again.

Religious instruction

26. You had to go to confession on a Saturday. You had to tell the priests what you had done, and all this sort of carry on. You were only seven years old. What can you tell a priest that you had done wrong at that age? You were just a boy. You would tell him that you had broken a window, or whatever, and he would say that you had to say ten "Hail Marys".

27. You had to go to church on a Sunday. If it was a saints' day during the week you also went to church. St Patrick's day was big. You all got given a shamrock to wear. They would give you a pin with the colours of the Irish flag to put onto your clothes.

Birthdays and Christmas

28. You never got anything like a cake or anything for your birthday.
29. My mother's sister was in Nazareth House in the 1940s. She didn't even know what day her birthday was. She only found out her real birthday when she left and got her birth certificate.
30. Christmas time wasn't too bad. They put up a beautiful big tree and decorations. There was fruit made available. You got a good meal.
31. My mother, granddad and other relatives used to give me presents. I remember that Sister LFJ would watch as the presents were given to me by my mum and granddad. As soon as my mum and granddad were out the door Sister LFJ would take the presents off me and give them to another kid. She would say "You don't need that because you've got your mum coming to visit you. You don't deserve them. You've got enough as it is." I ended up not getting any presents because Sister LFJ had given them all away. When I told my granddad what was happening he went berserk. He got angry with the home. When he went away, I got another doing. It was terrible. It was really bad.

Visits and Inspections

32. My mum and granddad visited on a Saturday. My mother used to take me out to a café in Bonnyrigg to get egg and chips and treats. She also used to take me to the park. My granddad used do that as well. My granddad used to travel to see me from Armadale. He used to visit me when my mother was away. They would be with me for maybe three or four hours. One or two of the other kids had people visit

them like me. As far as I am aware none of the kids at Nazareth House went home at the weekend.

33. I would clam up when I was taken out. I wouldn't speak. I later found out that my mother was saying at the time that I wasn't the same, that I used to be a right chatty laddie and that I didn't want to talk or nothing. My granddad was saying the same thing.
34. I think Ms Sinclair of the social work department did come to see me during my time in Nazareth House. I don't have clear memories but I think she might have seen me two or three times.

Leisure time

35. I don't remember anything like a sports day or anything like that. In the playroom you had hula hoops for the lassies. The laddies had a ball. You weren't allowed to throw it. You had to keep it on the ground in case you hit the walls. If you did throw it you would get punished. Sometimes the nuns let you read a comic or something if you were lucky. That wasn't very often.
36. The summer-time was hellish because you were off school. It would be long summer days and it would be warm. We would be in our beds by the back of six. You would be in bed wanting to go out and play. It was awful. You missed out on playing.
37. When we did get to play in the summer-time, during the day, the nuns needed to know what part of the building or the grounds we were playing in. The kids had their own little groups. Some of the kids played in the woods at the back. There was a football area. There were a couple of swings and a roundabout. I remember that a lot of the kids would take their frustration out by battering the swings.

Healthcare

38. There was next to nothing in terms of healthcare. There wasn't a matron or anything like that. If you got the flu you just had to get on with it. I don't remember there being regular check-ups from doctors. I never went to the dentist.
39. The only time I actually remember seeing a doctor was when I was five or six. I had stuck a piece of string up my nose. I couldn't get it out. A doctor was called for that. He managed to pull all the string out.
40. One time, when I was six or seven, I went down for breakfast in the morning. I remember that I hadn't been feeling well through the night. I felt as if I was giddy and my legs were going to give way. I had no energy. No sooner had I sat down on my chair in the dining room than did I pass out and fall on the floor. One of the other laddies told me that, after I had passed out on the floor, Sister [LFJ] started hitting me with a stick. She thought I was kidding her on.
41. I later found out that I was taken to my bed and a doctor was called to see me. I was kept in the home. I wasn't taken to the hospital or anything. The nuns looked after me. I can't remember all of this because I was unconscious at the time. I found out about it all later on from the other boys. I woke up after what seemed like a couple of days later in Nazareth House. It wasn't though. It was weeks later. I knew it was much later because the trees were starting to bud and the daffodils were out. I couldn't stand. Daylight, or any type of light, made my head sore, irritable and throbbing. I wanted to be in the dark or have something over my head.
42. Whilst I was recovering I never got to see a doctor. Sister [LFJ] used to make me drink salt water until I was sick. She did that every day for about a week. She gave me it because she thought it would help me get better. She told me that it would clear my system.
43. After I left Nazareth House and went to the new home in Tranent, I talked about my illness and symptoms with Mrs Reid. She said she thought it could have been

meningitis. I told her about the salt water. Mrs Reid wondered whether Sister [REDACTED] LFJ was giving me the water to be cruel rather than trying to help me.

44. Years later I had a heart attack. I managed to get my medical records. I looked through them. There wasn't any mention of what happened to me. There was nothing written down about the illness I had at Nazareth House or the incident with the piece of string.

Abuse at Nazareth House

Physical abuse by Sister [REDACTED] LFJ

45. The punishments were sometimes handed out daily at Nazareth House. Weekends were the worst because you were about more. Sister [REDACTED] LFJ used to carry a cane with her. It was about a yard long. She used to hit you with that on the back of your legs or on your backside. Sometimes she would hit you on the hand with the cane. She also used to hit you round the back of the head with her hand. She would hit you for no reason. You would say to yourself "What have I done? I haven't done anything!" when it happened.
46. Another punishment that Sister [REDACTED] LFJ gave you was that she used to put old bits of cloth around your feet and ankles and make you polish the corridors. You had to stand shuffling your feet for hours on end. You would do that for two or three hours. I know it was for punishment, rather than part of the routine, because the home had one of those big round things to polish the floors. They could have used that instead.
47. When I was about seven I was playing in the playroom. There were a couple of statues up on the wall in there. I'd made a lasso. I was having a laugh and the lasso went over one of the statues. I pulled on it and the statue fell down and smashed. That was a nightmare. I got caned for that by Sister [REDACTED] LFJ

48. Sister [LFJ] used to get us up at night and annoy us. A few times she came to my bed, woke me up and took my pyjama top off. She then scratched my back with her nails. She would say to me "Don't tell your mother about me or things will get worse for you".
49. Sister [LFJ] would say things at other times like "Your mother's away to London and she doesn't want anything to do with you". She would say "Your mother hates you and she's told me that. She'll not be coming back and you'll be stuck here". She used to say that sort of thing very regularly. Sister [LFJ] was very cruel.
50. I did notice that when my mum and granddad left Sister [LFJ] would start hitting me with her cane more. She would also ask me why I was telling lies. You couldn't say anything because she would just hit you more.
51. Bath time was really hellish. Sister [LFJ] used to duck you under the water. When she ducked you under the water she would hold you down for a wee while. It would seem like forever. You would come up gasping for air. She would put pepper on your gums until they bled. She would then put carbolic soap in your mouth. She also put soap in your eyes. I don't know why she did that. All this was a regular thing. It wasn't just a one off. It was part of the routine. It went on for all the time I was there to me and to the other kids.
52. The nuns who were Spanish and came to help in the summertime were just as bad. They would hit you as well. They would hit you over the head.

Bed-wetting

53. Kids would wet the beds because they were nervous wrecks. I never wet the bed myself. They used to put these rubber sheets on the beds of the kids who wet the bed. Then the kid would have to go to the laundry with the sheets. Sister [LFJ] used to then hit the kid. It wasn't the kid's fault that they wet the bed. It was probably just a nervous reaction.

54. On a Saturday it was quite common that those who had wet the bed were made to walk up and down the corridor with the sheets wrapped around their face. Both the boys and the girls were made to do that. All the other kids were made to laugh and ridicule the kids. We were made to do that.

Physical abuse to other kids

55. There was a laddie who had his head smashed on a coat hook in the cloakroom by one of the nuns. I don't know what nun did it. The kid's name was [REDACTED] I don't know what he did wrong to get hit. He was left with a hole in his head. The first I was aware of the incident was when we were walking to school. One of the other boys said that he didn't think [REDACTED] looked very well. He said that [REDACTED] looked as if he was going to fall over. The boy told me what had happened. You could see the puss inside [REDACTED] head.
56. There was nothing done about it. The boy was just left like that and he was sent to school. When we got to class one of the teachers saw [REDACTED] He was slumped over. He was very white, like a white sheet of paper. The teacher told him to get up. When he didn't the teacher went across. The teacher saw the head wound. She went and got the headmaster. The headmaster was called Mr Carney. He looked at [REDACTED] injury and asked what had happened. They must have called for an ambulance. [REDACTED] was then taken away.
57. We didn't see him for about a month after that. Then [REDACTED] came back. He was alright. He was healed. I never saw any police getting involved. [REDACTED] just went away and came back.

Staff awareness of abuse

58. I think the other nuns at Nazareth House knew what was going on with Sister [REDACTED] LFK
There were other adults floating about also. I know [REDACTED] LFK knew of the abuse because she and Sister [REDACTED] LFK communicated together. [REDACTED] LFK must have seen what was happening to the kids. She was there when the kids were getting bathed.

Fights between kids

59. Sometimes there was fights between the kids. I remember seeing one boy getting his ear bitten by one of the other laddies. It wasn't bitten off but it was pretty bad.

Leaving Nazareth House, Lasswade

60. One day, in ██████████ 1965, Mr ██████████ and Mrs ██████████ visited Nazareth House. They wanted to take two or three kids out of the home. They picked me as the person they might want to take out of the home. A couple of weeks later they came to see me. They took me out for the day. We went to a café and the pictures. When I came back from the day out, and Mr and Mrs ██████████ had left, Sister ██████████ LFJ told me that I didn't deserve to be adopted because I had been bad all my life. However, Mrs ██████████ had told me that they were going to take me to a house in Tranent. They said that I would be living with them and have my own room. I was told by Mrs ██████████ that she had spoken with Ms Sinclair (at the social work department) and I wasn't going to be left at Nazareth House. Mrs ██████████ also said that the reason I was being taken out of Nazareth House was because I wasn't settling in.
61. Later on, after I had left, I did ask Mrs ██████████ again why I was taken out of Nazareth House. She told me that it was because the homes were getting broken up. She told me that abuse was going on not just in Nazareth House but in convents in other parts of Scotland. She also said that it wasn't just nuns who were abusing kids, it was priests also. Mrs ██████████ said that things were changing and that they were doing away with the big homes. She said that they were doing away with the big homes because it was too easy for people to get away with doing these sorts of things.
62. I wasn't the only child taken out of Nazareth House. Mrs ██████████ went back and took out ██████████ They later came to stay with me when I moved to Penicuik.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Visits and inspections

74. The last time I saw Ms Sinclair from the social work department was when I was twelve. Ms Sinclair had retired by then. She visited me at Windsor Square. I had just come home from school. She asked me whether I was happy and I said I was.
75. I had a social worker by the name of Mr Ian Smith. He was based in Tranent. He used to visit me in Penicuik. He was a nice guy. You could sit and talk with him. He would ask you about things. Mr Smith knew from my records what had happened at Nazareth House. He knew my history. He knew I had had a hard time there. I didn't talk to him about Nazareth House. Nazareth House was all in the past. Mr Smith left in 1972 when I was just about to leave school.
76. After Mr Smith I had another guy. I only saw him half a dozen times. By that time I was staying with my mother in Edinburgh. He didn't seem all that interested because he knew I was going to be leaving Penicuik when I turned sixteen. I got the impression from social services that when you were gone it was 'out of sight out of mind'. I remember that Mrs Connoboy recognised that it was quite young to be put out into the world. She told me that she wouldn't be able to do that to her own son if she had had kids.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House

77. When I was six or seven my granddad asked about what was happening to me. He said that if something was going on he would tell the authorities and take me out of the home. I told him what Sister **LFJ** was doing. He said that he wasn't having that. He then tried to see the Mother Superior. The home told my granddad that she

wasn't well and couldn't see him. My granddad did see Sister [LFJ] though. Sister [LFJ] said that everything was fine, I was a well behaved boy and that I was being looked after. My granddad spoke to Sister [LFJ] when I wasn't there.

78. When I moved out of Nazareth House I told Mrs [redacted] in Tranent what had gone on. She was the only person I properly discussed Nazareth House with. She was the one who asked the questions. I could see that she was trying to form a picture in her mind about what had happened. When I told Mrs [redacted] about the abuse she said that she knew there was something going on but they couldn't prove it. I also told a young woman who became my social worker in Tranent.
79. I first told my mum about what had happened when I went to stay with her at the age of sixteen. I told her the things that had happened. She just couldn't believe me. She said "Nuns don't do that. Nuns wouldn't do that, [redacted] She said that I was making up lies. I told her that I wasn't. She does believe me now. She's seen all the media coverage of all of the abuse at Catholic homes around the world.
80. In the late 1990s I went to see a lawyer. He was costing me money and I couldn't afford it. He was charging me £150 a session. He told me that there was a law that meant that you had to make a complaint within three years of coming out of care to be able to take them to court. He also said that nobody would've known about that law at the time. He said that the lawyers who were protecting Nazareth House were using that law as a shield. Nazareth House's lawyers were saying that a lot of the nuns were dead, or had dementia, and it had happened a long time ago so nobody would remember.

Life after care

81. I had kept in touch with my mum throughout my time in care. My mother came back to Edinburgh from London in 1968. When she came back I started seeing her. In 1972 she had a job in a place [redacted] Edinburgh. It was a student hall. My mum lived there and worked as cleaner. She also helped

out in the kitchens. By the time I was sixteen she had been there three or four years. When [REDACTED] was closed down my mother got a house [REDACTED] Edinburgh. She got that in January 1973.

82. The last social worker I had knew that my mother had a house [REDACTED] I knew that I had to move out of Penicuik when I turned sixteen. I knew that because Mrs Connorboy had sat me down and told me that. The Connorboys let me stay on for a couple more months after I turned sixteen. They did that to allow me to save money from a job I had in a paper mill at that time. I got that job after I left school at the age of fifteen.
83. I moved in with my mother in May 1973. I'd only really known my mother for a few hours every fortnight when she had visited me. I didn't know her. I think that's why I couldn't get on with her. I couldn't relate to her. I didn't really know her ways. It was difficult because I was young, I had pals and I wanted to go into town and all that. I had to get another job because I was too far away from the paper mill. I got a job doing the shelves at a cash and carry [REDACTED] It was better than nothing.
84. I went to London when I was eighteen. Me and a couple of pals saved up to go down there. When we got down there we hung about Piccadilly Circus for a few days. A manager of a hotel approached us and offered us a job. That's how I got my first job in a hotel. We did the dishes and got a meal. The manager got us a house in Camberwell. The house was dilapidated but it was liveable. I then got a job up at [REDACTED] Upper Thames Street in the City of London. That's where I got into the cheffing. I wasn't sure about it at the time because I'd always wanted to be a joiner since I left school. I gave it a go. I worked in London for about four years. I enjoyed London. It was good. I enjoyed the freedom. I grew up there. It was like a new lease of life for me.
85. I came back to Edinburgh when I was twenty four. I got a job as a chef in [REDACTED] Hotel. I worked there with a [REDACTED] guy called [REDACTED] I was the veg chef. I also went to Telford College on a day release to get my cheffing qualifications. I then

went and did a bit of Italian stuff for the Corollas. At the moment I'm not doing the cheffing. I am between jobs. I was working with Tesco's doing their bakery up until a month ago. I didn't like it though. It was repetitive. I felt like I was robot.

Impact

86. It's hard to say now but I actually cried to go back to Nazareth House after I left it. I had been institutionalised. I only knew about Nazareth House. I hadn't known anything else. It was all strange for me coming out. In a way it was like getting out of prison. I was dubious of people. I didn't trust people. I found it very hard to get on with people. I was always worried that I would get more abuse. After leaving Nazareth House it was hard to deal with the pupils and the teachers in the schools I went to.
87. I used to raise my hands to protect myself when people were near me. It took me a long time to get out of that habit. Mrs [REDACTED] said to me that she had never known anyone to be so nervous. She used to keep telling me that no one was going to hit me. I was so frightened after leaving Nazareth House. I was frightened to do anything in case I got hit. I was always wary. As time went by I got better but it took me a long time to stop walking around with my hands down. I was used to doing it and it took me a long time to get out of the habit.
88. It took me a while to get used to the way of things. Nazareth House was gradually getting out of my system. My mind took a while to get a bit healthier. I started to be able to think about myself a bit better. I didn't have to worry about looking at the clock or being told what to do all the time. It was all starting to unravel for me. Mrs [REDACTED] and Tranent started to make me feel a bit better.
89. It's been harder for some other folk who went to the home. They couldn't go through life. They gave up. They turned to drink and drugs. I've heard that some of them have committed suicide.

90. In my late teens I used to get a feeling that I didn't want to go out. I knew I had to be somewhere but I just couldn't go out. I would end up not going out. I would just sit in the house. I would get washed, shaved, put on clean clothes and put my jacket on. I would be all ready to go but I just couldn't open the door. I would put it off. I would just get changed, sit down and watch the telly. I'd put it all into the back of my mind.
91. When I didn't go out I would feel terrible because I would have let someone down by not going down. I would feel as if I had let myself down too. I was just worried about being out in the open. I wanted to bust the door down but I just couldn't do it. I felt like I was a fish out of water when I went out. I wouldn't feel safe
92. I always felt better when the dark nights came back. I always felt better when it was dark. It felt like a cover. At times I didn't leave the house for a couple of months at a time. I lost a few jobs because of that.
93. I'm better at it now. I don't feel that way so much now. I still have that terrible fear of open spaces in me though. It's there. I don't what it was. It must have been anxiety. When I had it I was younger. I was confused. I thought I was off my head. I didn't speak to anybody about it. I didn't know where to go or who to speak to. By the time it was happening all my social workers had gone because I had turned sixteen. I think maybe that's why I ended up going to London. I wanted to go somewhere and achieve something for myself. It's strange because when I went down to London the crowds didn't bother me. I remember going to Hyde Park and seeing concerts and it didn't affect me.
94. I do now get worried sometimes. I get frightened when I'm in huge crowds. I get a wee bit giddy in my stomach when I'm in places like on Princes Street on a Saturday. I don't know what that is or whether it is just a natural thing. You can be walking down the street and it all just hits you. It never leaves you. It never leaves you at all. You think you have put it back to history and its gone but it's still there. I haven't had that for ages. It's a long time since that has occurred.

Support

95. Open Secret sent me a letter about a year ago. They must have got my details from when I had applied for something in the past. I had previously spoken to a woman in Edinburgh about something. My details must have been passed on by her to Open Secret. I checked them out online. A few weeks later I phoned them.
96. They put me in touch with [REDACTED]. I went to see him and he has organised some counselling for me. [REDACTED] said to me that he thinks I need to get what happened to me over to someone and get it out. After meeting [REDACTED] things have got a lot better. He has put me in touch with Future Pathways who are also helping.

Records

97. I originally tried to get my records after speaking to the lawyer. It was costing too much money though. Open Secret are now helping me to get my records. I've been told that the Catholic Church will play tricks. I know that. In my opinion the Catholic Church are corrupt.
98. I want to find out from my records why all the social workers I saw were writing down notes when I talked to them. I don't know what was going on there. The social workers never told me why they were taking notes. They just sat there and wrote things down. I was told by Mrs [REDACTED] that I was being spoken to by social workers because my emotions were upside down and that Nazareth had screwed me up.

Hopes for the Inquiry

99. The reason I picked up the phone to the Inquiry was that I felt I had to tell somebody about what had happened. It had all been building up for years. I hope that the outcome of this Inquiry is that there is no more abuse in the future. Kids have rights

the same as adults. The people who commit these crimes should be punished. They deserve what they get. Nobody has a right to treat people like that. Especially children.

100. I don't have hatred or revenge against the people at Nazareth House. That wouldn't achieve anything. There's no point. What will achieve something is things like this Inquiry. Hopefully it will prevent the things that happened to me happening to others.
101. It was horrendous behaviour for adults to treat kids like the way they did at Nazareth House. They used to hurt me and I would say to myself "Is this what the world is?". I wasn't sure whether this was what was the same for everybody because Nazareth House was all I knew.
102. I think these nuns, especially Sister [LFJ] were out to destroy everybody's lives. I think that Sister [LFJ] wanted to prolong things so that it would affect you when you were older. Things like not teaching you to read and write were part of that. That's the impression I got. That's what happened to me. It affected me when I got older.
103. I can't think of anything I was actually doing wrong in Nazareth House. Yes I broke that statue but it wasn't deliberate. I was just being a boy. I couldn't see what I was doing wrong to these people but they took it out on me. I always got the impression that it was our fault we were there. We were getting punished for being in the home.
104. Nazareth House made people act or think oddly because of what was done to them. People were told what life was like and wasn't. You were told that people who stayed in their own houses were good and that you were being punished because you were bad. This was the sort of theme that they had. It wasn't until I spoke with Mrs [] that I was told it wasn't my fault that I ended up in care.

105. 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.

LCA
[Redacted Signature]

Signed.....

Dated *15/8/17*.....