

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LWC

Support person present: No

1. My name is **LWC** My maiden name was **LWC** My married name was **LWC** When I got divorced I didn't like my name so I just chose **LWC** The only reason I picked **LWC** was because I thought it sounded good. My date of birth is **1941**. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I worked in Nazareth House in Lasswade. My brother, **LXP** was in Nazareth House, Lasswade, under their care while I was there as an employee. He continued to stay there after I left.
3. **LXP** isn't able to speak to the Inquiry. He wouldn't be able to. I wish he could. He talks about what happened with me. Sometimes he just suddenly remembers something and tells me. I do try to talk with him as much as I can about what happened. When I discovered that the Inquiry wanted to speak to former employees of Nazareth House I decided to come forward to speak about both my experiences as an employee and about my brother's experiences as a resident.
4. The weekend before I provided this statement to the Inquiry I phoned my brother. I asked him whether he could sit quiet and think about things that happened to him. I asked him whether he could think about the people that were in Nazareth House. He told me things that I didn't know. All those things feature in this statement. **LXP** is delighted that I am speaking to the Inquiry. In his mind I'm sticking up for him. He knows that I will tell the Inquiry everything that he has ever told me.

Life before working at Nazareth House and LXP going into care

5. My mother and my auntie [REDACTED] were both brought up in Nazareth House, Belfast. They went into Nazareth House, Belfast when they were young because their mother fell ill and went into hospital. I think they were both there until they were old enough to go to work. My auntie was much younger than my mother.
6. I remember talking to my mother about her experiences in Nazareth House, Belfast. Being Irish she was a good story teller. She would tell me all the stories of her and my auntie's time there. From what I heard my auntie wasn't loved in Nazareth House, Belfast. I think she was cheeky, had a bit of spirit or something like that. I know that my auntie wet the bed when she was a resident there. That was apparently something you just didn't do. My mother talked about my auntie wetting the bed and being stuck in an ice cold bath in the middle of the night as punishment. She talked of a nun called Sister LPX as the nun who did that.
7. When my mother left Nazareth House and went to Catterick in Yorkshire. She worked for a major in the army. My auntie ran away from Nazareth House. I don't know where she ran away to. She later on ended up back in Belfast.
8. I didn't see much of my auntie when I was younger because she was in Belfast. We were living Whitburn. My auntie had two boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is the same age as me. [REDACTED] is younger. I remember that my auntie got cancer in her leg. She had her leg amputated. I think it was suggested by doctors at that point that she shouldn't have any more babies. However, she was catholic.
9. In those days you could get messages sent over the radio. One day in 1953 my mother received a message requesting she make her way to the Mater Hospital in Belfast because her sister was seriously ill. My mother didn't have the money to get to Belfast so she went to the British Legion. She could go to them because my father was ex-army. She got some money and went over to Belfast. When my mother got to the hospital she discovered that my auntie was seven months pregnant. She also discovered that my auntie wasn't going to live another week.

LXP ended up being born by caesarean section. My auntie asked my mother whether she would take him. She agreed to that. Babies were just passed on like bundles in those days. LXP brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to stay with their father in Ireland. LXP came back to Whitburn with my mother.

10. When my mother arrived home with LXP I just fell in love with him. I hadn't had any brothers or sisters. He became my little brother. My mother ended up working at night. Because of that I used to stay at home and look after LXP. Looking back, LXP was really mine when I think about it.
11. I left school at fourteen and a half. I went straight into work. My first job was as a live in maid at a private boarding school [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. It was older girls there. They were nice kids. I did the cleaning and the cooking. My only real involvement with the girls was filling their hot water bottles at night. The other place I worked was the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That was also in Edinburgh. I worked where the students lived. I cleaned and served afternoon tea and things like that.
12. I then got a live-in in job in Edinburgh with a family called [REDACTED]. The house was a beautiful house with multiple stories. The mother broadcasted [REDACTED] and the father was an actor and a writer. They were really kind lovely people. It was a really good job. My job was to look after their little boy. I would take him on walks and things like that. I think I ended up working with the [REDACTED] for between six and seven months.
13. My mother and father split up when LXP was just coming up for four years old. My mother left the family home. When she left she put my brother into Nazareth House, Lasswade. I can't remember whether or not I was with my mother when she took him in. I do, however, remember early on my little brother saying that if we left him there he would "break his little pinky." Hearing LXP say that broke my heart.
14. I have no idea, given her own experiences of Nazareth House, why my mother put my brother in there. That rankles with me. LXP had a huge extended family in

Ireland. He could have gone and stayed with any of them when he was a baby. Any one of his extended family would have taken him and loved him. If he had been taken in by any one of those family members he would have avoided being in Nazareth House.

15. Sometime later my mother came to the [REDACTED] house and spoke with them. My mother told the [REDACTED] that there was a vacancy in Nazareth House in Lasswade. She said that she would like me to go and work there. She wanted me to work there so I could help to look after my brother. I remember thinking at that time that that would be lovely. I would have access to my brother. I would be able to be hands on with looking after him. I then handed in my notice to the [REDACTED]
16. I remember the grandmother in the [REDACTED] family warning me what Nazareth House would be like before I went. She told me to be careful. She told me that I wouldn't get nice food like we were having in their house. My mother, however, said that because [REDACTED] LXP [REDACTED] mother and her had been in Nazareth House the nuns would be really nice to him. She said that that would be the case with me as well. She was wrong. The grandmother of the [REDACTED] family was right. I guess, in hindsight, all my mother really wanted at that time was her freedom.

Nazareth House, Lasswade

17. It was all boys in Nazareth House. There were two parts. There was the babies unit. That part was also known as the nursery. In the nursery there were children from nothing up to the age of five. There would have been in excess of thirty children in the nursery. The other part was what they called the 'big boys bit'. The boys went there when they were five. I don't know what age the boys went up to in the other bit. I wouldn't know how many boys were there.
18. I remember the long corridors in the 'big boys bit'. It was dark. It was big. I think it had high ceilings. I remember the smell. Looking back I realise that the smell was of

unwashed boys. It was worse than an army barracks. It was like a world of its own in there.

Time spent at Nazareth House

19. I started work in Nazareth House in either 1957 or 1958. I worked there for about six or seven months. I think I left shortly after [REDACTED] of one of those years. The people in Nazareth House knew that [REDACTED] LXP was my brother.
20. [REDACTED] LXP went to Nazareth House in either 1957 or 1958. He was four when he went into Nazareth House. He ended up being there for either four or five years. I think he left in 1961. I could be wrong about that date. During his time there, my brother got moved over from the nursery to the 'big boys bit'. He was moved when he was five. Although I worked in the nursery and later the kitchens after my brother moved, I was able to go over to the 'big boys bit' to visit him and say goodnight. I didn't go over to that part of Nazareth House until after my brother moved.

Staff - nuns

21. There was a Mother Superior but I can't remember her name.
22. There were only two nuns in the nursery. Those nuns had the most to do with the children when I was there. Sister [REDACTED] LGC was one of the nuns I remember. She was really kind. She was young. I don't remember the name of the other Sister. She was also young. I think that both those nuns did the best they could under the circumstances. They were really kind and caring. I think that those two nuns hadn't been spoiled. I would say that those two nuns wouldn't have let me do anything to harm the children. I never had any experience of them stopping me doing anything but I think they would have. Those two nuns loved those children.
23. There was another Sister called Sister [REDACTED] LFJ. She was older. She didn't work in the nursery. I don't remember what she did or where she worked. She might have worked in the church. I don't know why I remember her.

24. Sister [LPX] worked in the 'big boys bit'. I'd assume she was Irish but I can't say that for certain. It was hard to tell her age because of the robes she wore. She wasn't young. She would have probably been at least in her forties. She was very tall. She had great big feet. She had a scowl. She was really scary. I was scared of her when I was working there so I can only imagine what the boys felt like. She wore a crucifix around her waist. I personally didn't have any interaction with Sister [LPX] myself during my time at Nazareth House. However, I did see her around the place.
25. Sister [LPX] was the same nun that looked after my mother and auntie at Nazareth House, Belfast. My mother was quite graphic in her descriptions of her and my auntie's experiences with Sister [LPX]. My brother thinks that Sister [LPX] took a dislike to him because she knew my auntie and didn't like her.
26. I remember they had what they called begging nuns. They used to go out and collect money for the Sisters of Nazareth. They also sometimes brought back food which was donated.

Staff – other staff

27. I think Nazareth House normally employed people who had been brought up by them. I would say that the ones who I worked with who had been brought up there were maybe a bit damaged. I didn't realise that when I was working there but I can see that now looking back. There were another two girls in the nursery that did the same job as me. I can't remember their names. I think they were a bit backward. The way I would describe them is as being 'not of this world'.
28. There was a staff member called [REDACTED] I think she had been in the system all her life. I think the nuns kept her on after she was a child in Nazareth House. She would have been in her sixties. Her only job was to accompany children outside of the home if they had any appointments. She took the children to things like the

hospital to see specialists. She did that for all the boys in the nursery and in the 'big boys bit'.

29. Mary ran the kitchen. She was in her thirties. She was a friendly woman. For some reason I think she was quite friendly with my mother. I don't know why I think that.
30. There was a foreign man who lived in the gatehouse. I think his wife had died. He lived in the gatehouse with his two children. He was the handyman. I remember that we were warned by the nuns not to speak to him because he was a man.

My role and working conditions at Nazareth House

31. I didn't have an official title for my jobs at Nazareth House. I would describe my role as 'general dogsbody'. I honestly don't remember what sort of things I did as part of my job in the nursery. I didn't report to anyone. I just went in and kind of got absorbed in the place.
32. My role changed after [LXP] got sent to the 'big boys bit'. I don't know why but I was moved to the kitchen. It could've been because I might have made a fuss after witnessing an incident between Sister [LPX] and my brother. I can't say that for certain though. I was also a 'general dogsbody' in the kitchen. I did things like washing the dishes and cleaning up. I also fed the hens which I really enjoyed. It was all menial things. I wasn't all that long in the kitchen. Most of my time spent working in Nazareth House was spent with [LXP] in the nursery.
33. I can't ever remember being paid whilst I worked at Nazareth House. It could be that I was just working for my board. I do remember getting paid in jobs previous to Nazareth House but not during my time at Nazareth House. It could be that they gave my pay to my mother. I can't say that for certain though. I remember that you could have one half day off a week but you had to be in bed by nine o'clock in the evening. I don't remember what I did with my time off.

Training and qualifications

34. I had no formal training in childcare before I went into Nazareth House. My first proper job in childcare was with the [REDACTED]. I had also looked after [LXP] from when he came across from Belfast.
35. The nuns didn't look after me as an employee in the way that they should have done. They didn't teach me how to look after myself or the children. There was no one who guided me as to how to look after the children. I remember the [REDACTED] teaching me things but nobody did that at Nazareth House.

Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade*First day*

36. I caught the bus to Nazareth House. I arrived about ten o'clock at night. The place was all in darkness. It was really spooky. I remember the statues everywhere. I was shown to my accommodation. I remember that the following day at about 8:30am a girl, who was a staff member, brought me up my breakfast in bed. The girl was so sweet. The breakfast was a taste of things to come. There were two ashets on top of one another. The ashets were those white plates with blue rims. They were all chipped. When I pulled off the top ashet I found two slices of white bread with burnt black crusts and bacon that was pretty much all fat. When I look back now that girl must have thought that she was giving me an enormous treat. I don't remember much else from that day other than just being in the nursery. I don't remember what we did.

Sleeping arrangements

37. The nursery was separate from the 'big boys bit'. It had a big room which was quite light. There were separate rooms with six little beds for the babies in each room. My accommodation was in the same dormitory as the babies. A nun also slept in the

same dormitory. She had a cell. There was a curtained window which she looked through to check up on the babies through the night.

38. The babies used to run around in the big room during the day. They never went outside. I don't remember how the children in the nursery were got up in the mornings. I don't remember putting the children in the nursery to bed.
39. The dormitories in the 'big boys bit' were big long rooms. There were iron beds up each side of the rooms. It was one boy to each bed. All of the beds were always full. I would often go over in the evenings to say goodnight to my brother. I remember seeing all the boys sitting up in their beds with their hands together as if in prayer. They were like statues. Their beds were pristine. There wasn't a wrinkle in their sheets. I remember seeing the nun who was supervising them parading up and down as the boys sat there praying.

Washing and bathing

40. I think there was a real shortage of baths in Nazareth House. The boys had baths on Saturdays. I think that was the only time they had baths. I think that they had their baths on a Saturday because it was church on a Sunday. I remember seeing the boys queuing up for their baths down the corridor. The boys all wore robes similar to the ones you wear at the hairdressers. The robes covered the boys at the front. They were tied up at the back. The boys had to wear those robes whilst they were getting bathed. Looking back those boys were made to feel as if their bodies should be hidden. I think that sort of treatment was unnatural.
41. I remember seeing a nun supervising the bathing. She would send two or three of the boys into the bath at a time. When those children were finished two or three more children would in turn get into the same bath in their place. My brother has told me that he remembers there being two inches of scum on the top part of the water. I couldn't say whether the water in baths was warm or cold. It was that dirty it was probably cold.

Mealtimes and food

42. There was one kitchen that was central to the whole house. Nearly all the food came from the kitchen. The food went out on trolleys. I don't know where the big boys ate.
43. I remember Mary saying that certain things were for the nuns. The best food was kept for the nuns. The kids got the junk that was leftover. The children were fed muck really. It was things like stale bread. I remember trying to make the food look nice for the children in the nursery but it was difficult. I have asked my brother what he remembers about the food. He has said the food was worse than school dinners.
44. I remember that the begging nuns used to bring back food. I remember one Sister bringing back 'broken kippers'. We used to feed those broken kippers to the children in the nursery. I remember Sister LGC used to get milk from somewhere. I have no idea where she got it from. She had a one ring cooker which she used to heat up the milk to make custard with. She fed that to the children.

Clothing

45. The nuns used to get gifts of clothes from shops. I remember C&A, the department store, gifting a lot of the clothes. The nuns would distribute the clothes to the children. They also used to distribute the clothes to some of the girls that worked there. I got a really nice blue taffeta frock one time. The boys wore grey jumpers. There was a laundry. I went to work there on a Monday. I remember the rollers. The nuns fed the laundry through the rollers. I also remember that they washed the sanitary towels in the laundry. They weren't disposable.

Chores

46. The boys did all the cleaning. They did that as part of their day. I saw them doing that. They did all the polishing. The boys were made to scrub the floors of the corridors with big scrubbing brushes. The boys would be down on their hands and

knees staring down. All they would see is Sister [LXP] feet plodding by. She would stand watching them. [LXP] has told me that he was made to scrub the floors. I never saw him do that. He also said he had to polish other parts of the building with big bumpers.

School

47. I remember seeing the children 'walking crocodile' in two lines to school. I can't remember who took them in. I don't remember the name of the school that they went to. It was just the local primary school. [LXP] would have started going to school whilst he was in Nazareth House. Looking back that must have been hellish. Your first day at school is a big day in your life.
48. [LXP] has told me that the boys never got to do any homework when they came back from school.

Religious instruction

49. The children were filed in and out to chapel. They had to go on a Sunday. They didn't have a choice. Looking back, the way that they did things probably put the children off church forever.
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50. The only time I saw children praying was when I went to see my brother at bedtime in the 'big boys bit'. I think all they managed to do with my brother is put him off praying.
51. I wasn't around at mealtimes so I didn't see the boys saying grace. They probably did say grace. I say that because my mother told me that she said it in Nazareth House in Belfast. She told me that the children would say after meals "thank you god for what we had" and then under their breaths "if I had've had more I would've been glad." I think that sums it up really. I can well imagine that being the same at Nazareth House, Lasswade.

Trips and holidays

52. I don't remember the children getting taken on any trips or holidays during my time in Nazareth House. However, a long time later on in life I took my children on a week's caravan holiday to Coldingham. It would have been in about 1972. My mother must have still been in touch with Nazareth House at that time because she got this wee boy from the home for me to take on holiday with us. I don't know how my mother got in contact or how that wee boy came into our lives.
53. The boy was called [REDACTED]. He was such a nice funny wee boy. I used to give him money to go for a shower in the evenings. I found out at the end of the week that he hadn't had a single shower. He had kept all the money for himself. Looking back it was a dangerous thing that Nazareth House were doing. That child was under their care. Nobody knew that I had that child with me on holiday. Nobody knew who I was. Anything could have happened to that child.

Leisure time

54. I don't ever remember playing with the children. Years later I started up a nursery in my house and garden in [REDACTED]. I remember singing and playing games with the children. I have no memories of anything like that happening in Nazareth House. I don't remember toys or anything. I just sort of remember us 'being there' in a big room. It was as if the boys were just 'existing' and nothing else.
55. I couldn't remember whether there was a play area for the bigger boys so I asked my brother. My brother has told me that the boys only got out to play on Saturdays if they had finished all of their work. He said that was the only time that they got out to play. The rest of the time was spent cleaning.
56. I do remember that there was a TV room in the 'big boys bit'. TV was quite new back then. It was black and white. My brother has told me that he never saw the TV so they must have had a particular age for the boys when they were allowed to see it. I went into the room a few times. I remember the smell coming off of the boys.

Sister [LPX] was standing up next to the TV with a white cloth. If there was something that came on the TV that she thought the boys shouldn't see she would hold the cloth over the screen.

Birthdays and Christmas

57. I never saw any children having their birthday celebrated or anything being done for them. I asked my brother about birthdays. He said that he never knew what day his birthday was until he left Nazareth House. Birthdays were just kind of passed over.
58. I wasn't in Nazareth House during Christmas time. My brother has told me that every Christmas every child was given a toy. He told me that on Boxing Day the nuns took the toy back again.

Pocket money

59. I can't ever remember the children getting given pocket money.

Visits and visitors

60. I do know that they had a room for when visitors came. It was at the front of the building. The visitors passed through the entrance hall to get to that room. The bit that the visitors saw was all in the beautiful part of the house. I remember visitors being shown into this room. They were served afternoon tea during their visit. I only have one fuzzy recollection of a visit made to a set of twins we had in the nursery. Their mum came to visit. I don't remember anything more than that.
61. I don't remember [LXP] having visitors other than me whilst I was at Nazareth House. He hasn't talked to me about any visitors he may have had. I visited [LXP] only once in Nazareth House after I left. I went with a friend and her boyfriend. We were allowed to take [LXP] out into the grounds. We took him to a hut they had in their gardens. We sat in the hut. I don't remember what we spoke about. I do remember that it was cold. [LXP] mustn't have said anything to me because I don't

remember anything. LXP has told me recently that he remembers me visiting and us sitting in the hut.

Inspections

62. I don't remember there being inspections or inspectors coming in. I never saw anything like that. Inspections could have happened and I didn't see them. However, if that was what happened then surely there would have been some changes? I never saw any changes.

Healthcare

63. I don't remember there being a matron or anybody like that. [REDACTED] took the boys to see specialists if they needed to go. I remember a little boy who was probably about three. He was in my room in the nursery. His hair was very thin. [REDACTED] took him to see a specialist about his hair. When she came back she told the nuns to use a softer hairbrush. I don't remember seeing anything else other than that surrounding healthcare.
64. LXP was born with a cast in his eye when he was born. He must have been operated on whilst he was in Nazareth House because I know he wore an eye patch for a while whilst he was in there.
65. My brother has told me that one time the nuns made him wear wellingtons to school. He says that the wellingtons were too tight. I think they must have been too big because he describes ending up with suppurating sores around his legs. He told me that nobody would pay attention to the sores.

Bed-wetting

66. I didn't see anything surrounding bed-wetting. I do know that Sister LPX used to drag my auntie out of bed and put her in a cold bath in Nazareth House, Belfast. I

was told that by my mother. LXP hasn't talked with me about bed-wetting. I haven't asked him about that.

Discipline

67. It was different days back then. Children were literally expected to be seen and not heard. It was like that in Nazareth House. It was a regime. None of the nuns and staff spoke to the boys as individuals. It was as if the boys were just numbers.
68. My brother has told me that in all the time he was in Nazareth House he never once had a conversation with any of the other boys. The boys weren't allowed to talk to one another. He also told me that he never spoke once to the nuns or the staff members because he wasn't allowed. I should have realised that was the case. I remember being in Nazareth House and it being silent. You never heard children chatting. Even the wee ones were quiet. I don't ever remember hearing a baby screaming or crying. However, that could just be because the nuns in the nursery were so good.
69. There was just an air of discipline all of the time. The children were frogmarched everywhere. I saw whole corridors of boys scrubbing floors in silence. Experience has shown me that whenever you have a group of boys there is always one boy who is the joker. There were never any jokers in Nazareth House. That told me that the boys were scared. It tells me that the boys wanted to keep in the background and not be known. I know from LXP that boys did that. Remaining in the background was all about self-preservation.
70. The only way the nuns could have achieved the way that the boys behaved was through harsh discipline. The children were just scared of the nuns. I don't know what happened on a one to one basis when I wasn't there. I just know what I saw happening to LXP and what he has told me happened.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade*Abuse witnessed by me involving Sister [LXP]*

71. One particular night after May 1957 or 1958 I was walking up to [LXP] bed to say goodnight to him. Just before I got there I saw Sister [LXP] lifting her hand and giving my brother a slap across his face. She saw that I saw her slap my brother. She knew I saw it happening. I don't know what makes me think that she noticed me. I think it might be because I more or less high tailed it out of there after seeing the incident. There must have been a reason that I ran away so quickly. I feel guilty about running away. I never got the chance to comfort my brother.
72. My brother has told me the reason why Sister [LXP] slapped him that day. That day [LXP] had gone to school and discovered that they had mince for lunch. He didn't like mince so he stuffed it down his jumper. That afternoon he went back to Nazareth House. In the evening he got dressed for bed. It was then that Sister [LXP] found out what [LXP] had done. She saw his shirt and jumper. [LXP] said that Sister [LXP] slapped him as punishment.

Abuse reported to me by [LXP] involving Sister [LXP]

73. I remember one time running after [LXP] He was going to school. I gave him a shilling. I remember hoping nobody would notice. When I went to see him that night he told me that he had got into trouble for having that shilling. He was caught when he was in bed sitting praying. The shilling had been hidden in his hands. I don't know what happened but I remember him telling me that.
74. My brother has told me about an incident he remembers very clearly. He was upset when he told me about it. I remember him shouting down the phone. The incident occurred about the time he had a patch on his eye. He said that the boys were queuing up for their dinner. The meal that night was haggis. He said that he didn't want the haggis because he didn't like it. He said that Sister [LXP] then caught him unawares. He couldn't see her approaching because of the patch over his left

eye. He said she gave him a big enormous slap across his face. He said he never saw it coming and it was "a real stinger".

75. I'm not a violent person but I wish I could have five minutes with Sister [LPX] She was a bully. I don't know how marks weren't left after Sister [LPX] hit the children. I don't know how people didn't notice. The other nuns must have seen things.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade

76. I cannot remember what I did after seeing Sister [LPX] hitting my brother. I remember seeing the incident but I don't remember what I did next. I can remember wanting to report seeing Sister [LPX] hit my brother.
77. Looking back now, I was young and didn't have any self-esteem. Nobody ever told me who to speak to or what to do if I saw something like what I did happen. I wouldn't have been able to find out who to report it to and who to speak to back then. I don't know whether I was scared because they were adults or I just accepted it because it was a convent. I couldn't have spoken to the two nice nuns in the nursery because I had been moved by the time I saw Sister [LPX] hitting my brother. I have a lot of guilt that I never did anything about it. I should have. I've tried to rationalise things but it just doesn't work.
78. I don't think that my brother ever told my mother about what happened in Nazareth House. My mother certainly kept in contact with Nazareth House after he left. That makes me think that she didn't know what happened. If I am honest my mother wasn't the brightest of people so she may not have been able to work things out herself.

Leaving Nazareth House, Lasswade

79. I was called in to see the Mother Superior. [REDACTED] was there. I was told that my father had committed suicide and that his body had been found in a van. I then went to see my mother. At that time she was living in the basement of a home that she was cleaning for the owners. I then went to see my father's body. I don't know whether my brother was told about my father's death. My brother loved my father. I don't know if he knows that my father committed suicide. I would tell him if he asked. I think I left Nazareth House not long after my father passing away.
80. At some point after 1959 my mother was working as a live-in housekeeper for a man who was a widower. He was a pit manager of a big colliery. He was a lovely guy. Looking back I think my mother was in a relationship with him. It was during this time that my mother took in my brother to live with them as well. [REDACTED] LXP would have been about eight. I thank god that my brother got out of Nazareth House when he did because I know some people spent all of their lives in there.

Life after leaving Nazareth House

81. After I left Nazareth House I went up to Ayrshire to stay with my Irish uncle and my cousins. I had spent a lot of my childhood up there so I knew them quite well. I got a job in the Royal Hotel as a waitress. I then joined the army in 1959. I was seventeen and a half.
82. I met my husband whilst I was posted in [REDACTED]. He was in the army also. He was an Aberdonian. We married and started a family. When we came out the army we moved to Broughty Ferry.. My husband ended up running off with a eighteen year old. I then moved down with my children [REDACTED] near Livingston. I moved there to be near my mother so she could help out with the children. I ended up being a receptionist in Edinburgh. I then took my husband back. We got a flat in Wester Hailes in Edinburgh.

83. We then came up to Aberdeen. My ex-husband was working for [REDACTED] at that time. He was an insurance broker. I helped him out making appointments and cold calling potential customers. I was overheard on the phone by a manager. The manager said I should train to be a saleswoman. I did that. I then started out on my own as an insurance consultant. I was [REDACTED] insurance consultant in Aberdeen. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
84. I split up with my husband. The children were grown up then so I decided to move down to Edinburgh to set up [REDACTED] business. Unfortunately, I recruited a few crooked salesmen and it cost me my business. I think it was at this point that I went to pieces. Everything was all mixed in – my marriage breakdown, my business failing and what happened in Lasswade. I ended up in the Royal Edinburgh because I was suicidal. I tried to hide it all from my family, who were living in Aberdeen, but they caught on. I ended up moving up to Aberdeen to be near them. I have lived in Aberdeenshire ever since.
85. My brother and mother stayed with the man who was a pit manager for a while. The man was so nice to [LXP] He had a Wolesley car. He used to take [LXP] and my mother out for long drives in it. They used to go for high tea and things like that. I also remember that the man and my mother took [LXP] across to Belfast to meet his brothers. In the end my brother started calling the man 'Uncle'.
86. My mother bought a house round the corner from the man and moved there with my brother. I remember that my mother had my brother doing all sorts of things during this time. I remember him doing things like delivering milk and the papers. When he was old enough he started working in the pits.
87. [LXP] then met a girl called [REDACTED]. She already had a baby to another man. They got married and moved in together in Livingston. The marriage only lasted about six months to a year. The breakdown of the marriage was sad. It was all the more sad because [LXP] had grown to love the baby. That was the last relationship [LXP] ever had.

88. LXP emigrated to Australia in about 1972. He was there two years at the most. He did all sorts of manual work over there. He was a worker. He spent his whole time in Australia working hard to save the money to come back home. Because of that he missed out on all the experiences he could have had in Australia.
89. When LXP came home he moved in with my mother. He worked in the pits again. Latterly he became unwell. He got, and still has, spondylitis. He hasn't worked for a good few years.
90. LXP is now sixty-five. He lives on his own in a flat with his wee dog. He only really has two friends now. He watches a lot of television. He lives through that TV. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] That's his own wee world. He's very content to be there.

Impact

91. There was never any physical abuse directed towards me. However, I have to say that indirectly, the way that my brother was treated, has affected me hugely in my life. Witnessing what happened to my brother and those children has been really damaging. To this day I still hate long corridors because of my time at Nazareth House. I can still hear Sister LPX feet plodding around that home.
92. I have spoken to psychiatrists in the past but I never mention Nazareth House. I think that was because I thought it hadn't affected me and that it had only affected LXP. I now realise that seeing what happened to my brother, and hearing what happened to him, has affected me. It has affected my self-esteem because I couldn't do anything about the way that my brother was being treated. In a way it has made me feel less of a person.
93. My brother's time in Nazareth House has left him unable to form proper relationships with people. He was a really handsome man. Women would have been attracted to

him. I think that when women went out with him he just didn't know how to behave or what to say. I think that was because of the effect of Lasswade.

94. LXP eventually became an alcoholic. Nobody in my family would have much to do with him because of his alcoholism. He only stopped drinking about ten years ago. I think the drinking was due to his time in Nazareth House.
95. Now that my brother has explained to me that he wasn't allowed to speak in Nazareth House I understand why he speaks the way he does now. He is very quiet for a long time before this intelligent brain spouts forth. He then speaks really fast. He then stops and goes back inside himself again. The way he speaks is all because of Nazareth House. I found it hard when I was told that.
96. LXP just hasn't had a life. Without a doubt I would say that is because of what happened in Lasswade. He wouldn't say it but I can see from the way he acts that he has no conception of what life is about. I don't think he has ever allowed himself to think about the future.
97. When my brother talks to me over the phone about the bad things that happened at Nazareth House he shouts down the phone in anger. There is such a hate in him about Sister LPX I'd love it if that anger went away. When I hear him speak he speaks to me as if it all happened yesterday. LXP has never had any treatment. He talks about what happened with me though. I am not sure whether he has talked about it with his brothers.
98. They took my brother's life away in that place. They made him unable to have a normal life. He is a lovely man. He didn't deserve to suffer the way he did and does. I wish I could turn the clock back and make sure that these things hadn't happened. I wish I could have made sure my brother had been given a life.

Reporting of abuse after leaving Nazareth House

99. I have never spoken to the police or social services about what I saw. I wish I had. I think that was because I thought it wasn't to do with me. I have looked upon it all as something to do with LXP and not me. Now, when I look back, I realise I should have reported what I saw.
100. As far as I know LXP has never spoken to anyone like the police or social services about what happened. Knowing him he probably didn't even talk about it with his wife. The only person he speaks to about Nazareth House is myself.

Records

101. I don't expect LXP has looked to get hold of any records.

Final thoughts

102. Someone once said to me that Catholicism was a religion of fear. That's how I would describe what I saw in Nazareth House. It was a place of fear. My brother has told me that you learnt very quickly to stay in the background and not make any noise. I think that's quite something for a child to be like and to remember.
103. I don't want to be misunderstood. There are good nuns out there. I know that. However, what I can say is that when you get a bad nun you really get a bad nun. The bad nuns coloured everything when they did all those horrible things. Nuns in general believe that they are doing god's will. What those children needed was love. Some of those nuns didn't provide that love. That was god's will and none of those boys got the love that they needed.
104. It's the injustice of it all that gets to me. People looked upon those boys as if they were nameless numbers. I don't see that. I still see today those wee boys in the

corridor. Nobody ever cuddled those boys. They were deprived of human contact. God only knows what happened to them when they went out into the wide world. I hate to think.

105. In later life I ended up working with the Prison Fellowship [REDACTED]. I befriended the prisoners. It was the most amazing experience. I was told by the prisoners that they looked upon me as their grandma. A lot of those men would have been in care themselves. In a way I felt like I was looking after all those little boys who I had seen scrubbing the corridors in Nazareth House. I remember speaking to a preacher who was part of the Prison Fellowship. I asked him what I should do with the prisoners. He told me "just love them [REDACTED] LW". Nobody would ever have said that to me in Nazareth House. The only time the word love was mentioned was when it was being read out of the bible.
106. At least nowadays people are more aware about reporting. I wish there had been policies and procedures in place back then for reporting things that you saw. I think it would have stopped things happening if they had. I am sure that those sorts of things are about now and thank god that they are.
107. I've sometimes felt like standing on a mountain and screaming so everybody can hear. Speaking to the Inquiry is my mountain. When I think about things now, all I want is justice and closure. I want the things that happened to never ever happen in any shape or form or again.
108. 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.

LWC

Signed.....

Dated.....

28/5/18