

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Sister [REDACTED] LNV

Support person present: No

Others present: Ailis McKeown, Donnelly & Wall, Solicitor for the witness

1. My name is [REDACTED] LNV I have also been known as Sister [REDACTED] LNV. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1934. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before joining the Sisters of Nazareth

2. In 1959 I joined the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth. Before I joined I had been working with the sisters in [REDACTED] in Devon. The Order had a children's nursery there and I was employed as an assistant, earning a wage. On joining the Order I was first sent to Hammersmith for training.

### Career

3. After Hammersmith I went to help a sister who was working with babies at Bexhill in Sussex. I was there for three or four years before I was sent back to [REDACTED] to work with the babies there again. Unfortunately I was only there for a year before I went up to Newcastle. I started off working with babies there too and then, after about five or six years, I took a group of older children. The sister superior at Newcastle asked if I would do so because there was nobody with them at the time.

4. In [REDACTED] 1973 I was moved up to Nazareth House at Cardonald in Glasgow. I was there for about eighteen months and left in [REDACTED] 1974.
5. I was sent back to Hammersmith for about a year after that and then I was in Lancaster for thirteen or fourteen years. After Lancaster I was moved back to Bexhill for a couple of years and then I was in Isleworth for about ten years. I retired after that and moved to Nazareth House in Cheltenham, [REDACTED]

### **Childcare qualifications and training**

6. While I was working with the sisters in [REDACTED], before I joined the order, I trained as a nursery nurse and gained a qualification through the Nursery Nurses Examination Board. Along with a few others, again before I joined, I went on to do further training at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital in London. That qualified me to work with very small babies.
7. When I was in Newcastle, after I joined the Order, I did a further day release course for working with older children.

### **Nazareth House, Cardonald**

8. I think I was told about a week before I went to Cardonald that I was going. I had been there before because we used to go up there on retreat. Sometimes I would meet the children when I'd gone up on retreat, although it would only be to say hello or to watch them kicking a ball around. Occasionally we would go over to Bellahouston Park with the children and the sisters that looked after them. The children loved the park where they could play and we could watch them. Other than that, I didn't have any involvement with the children at that time.
9. I missed the children from Newcastle an awful lot when I first arrived at Cardonald. It was hard to adjust.

*Layout at Nazareth House, Cardonald*

10. The sitting room and dining room of my house were on the ground floor, the bedrooms were on the top floor. I slept on the same floor, beside the children, with just a partition around my bed. It was pretty basic, there was just a chest of drawers and a chair beside each bed. The washrooms were just along the corridor from the bedrooms and there were two showers and one bath.

*My role at Nazareth House, Cardonald*

11. I was allocated a group of about twelve or fourteen children to look after as a house mother. It wasn't a very big group. All the groups of children were simply referred to by the name of the sister that looked after them. My group, for example were just known as 'Sister [REDACTED] LNV group'.
12. I replaced Sister [REDACTED] LHA and I think my group of children had been without a sister for a while. I wasn't given any sort of induction, I was straight in.

*The children at Nazareth House, Cardonald*

13. Brothers and sisters were kept together in the same groups at Nazareth House in Cardonald, though not in the same bedrooms. All of my children had either a brother or sister in the group as well. I had one family of two girls and a boy.
14. I wasn't at Cardonald for very long and the children remained pretty much the same throughout my time. There wasn't a big turnover at all. Two girls, [REDACTED] LCT and [REDACTED] LDI left at one time to be fostered, but it didn't work out and they came back. It was unfortunate really. Two little ones did join my group, but that was all.

*Sisters at Nazareth House, Cardonald*

15. There were four sisters working with the children at Cardonald. There was Sister [REDACTED] LNU who was very good with them, although unfortunately she has since

died. There was also Sister [LGS] who is now known as Sister [LGS] Sister Gerard, who is now known as Sister Elizabeth and Sister [LFR] who has since left the order.

#### *Management structure*

16. I think the sister superior when I arrived was Mother Mary of Carmen. She left and I think it was Mother McCarten that took over.
17. Sister [LNU] was in charge of the children overall, but it was the sister superior that kept all the notes and information about the children.

#### *Staff at Nazareth House, Cardonald*

18. I had a cleaner and two ladies to help me at Cardonald. The only one whose name I can remember is Maria. They all came in from outside, they didn't live on the premises.
19. There was also a man called [LTS] who used to take us out sometimes in the van. He wasn't with the children as such though.

#### *Volunteers*

20. People would come in from outside Nazareth House to teach the children Scottish and Irish dancing and also the violin. That was well established before I arrived. As well as those people, there were a number of friends of Nazareth House from the local parish. They would take the children out for day trips or for shopping and such like. There were no checks on their backgrounds or anything like that.

#### *Priests and trainee priests*

21. Priests and trainee priests would come to Nazareth House in Cardonald on retreat, as did other sisters, but none of them worked with the children. The priests that

were on retreat had rooms on the ground floor, beside our sitting and dining rooms. Occasionally one of them would come in and sit with the children to watch television. I don't think there was a television in the priests' rooms.

### **Routine and life at Nazareth House, Cardonald**

#### *Admission*

22. I'm not sure what the procedure for admitting a child was. I think the superior had to fill out a form, but I had nothing to do with that.
23. I introduced the two little ones that joined my group to everyone when they arrived. I showed them around and I got the older ones to try and make a fuss of them. It was hard for them.

#### *Sleeping arrangements*

24. Boys and girls slept in different rooms on the top floor that had about five beds in each. Beside the beds the children had a little chest of drawers and a locker to keep their things in. They would to keep their toys in there.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

25. The children were supposed to get up by eight at the latest, because they had to be at school at nine. The older ones were a bit difficult sometimes and would even go without breakfast to stay in bed a bit longer.
26. Once they got up, if they were able, the children would make their own beds. Then they would wash and brush their teeth and get dressed before having breakfast. Sometimes we would bring breakfast upstairs for the children to eat it there. There was quite a wide corridor and it was a little difficult to keep an eye on everybody if we were having to hurry up the bigger ones while getting the little ones ready.

27. At bedtime, we would take the little ones up while the bigger ones watched the television. That was usually between seven or eight o'clock at night. We tried to get the older ones in their beds by half-past-nine, although it was often later. I didn't mind so much at the weekends, but on weekdays they needed to get off earlier.
28. There were no staff on duty during the night, the children would just wake me up if they needed anything. On the whole it seemed to be the boys that might need to get up in the night, the girls seemed to be alright. The boys were big enough to go to the toilet themselves though, it was just along the passage.

#### *Bedwetting*

29. There was the occasional child that wet the bed. It usually occurred after something had happened during the day. If one of them had, we had a little washing machine that I could wash a few things in. Otherwise the sheets would have to go to the laundry. I never punished any child that had wet the bed.

#### *Washing and bathing*

30. There were a couple of showers that the bigger children used. The showers had curtains up for a bit of privacy. There was also a bath that we could wash the little ones in. There was always fresh water. I think the only children that bathed together were two sisters who liked to get in with each other.
31. I can't remember how often the children would bath or shower. If they needed it, if they'd been out and got mucky, they might get an extra bath.

#### *Food*

32. Some of the children liked porridge for breakfast, some liked a cooked breakfast. Others might have cereal, they had a choice. The cooks weren't keen on children being in the kitchen so they wouldn't be able to make themselves supper or

anything. Most of my children were primary school age so it would have been a bit risky them making any food for themselves. We would take things up from the dining room for supper or snacks.

33. Sister LNW was in the kitchen and she was very good. She used to make the children birthday cakes in the shape of a train or whatever the children liked.
34. The way I dealt with children not eating was to tell them they had to stay at the table until they had finished. One of my boys, didn't like quite a few things. I told him he would have to stay until it was finished, but I knew I would have to give in. I would leave him on his own while I went to do some washing up or something. When I came back his plate would be clean and I would give him a bit of praise. After he left the room I would have to check the cutlery drawer or wherever to find where he'd put the food. I never let on.

#### *Clothes*

35. The children wore a uniform to school and on a Sunday they would wear white shirts and nice trousers or skirts. I would wash their white shirts in the washing machine that we had, rather than send them down to the laundry.
36. There was no sharing of clothes, all the children had their own. As they grew up the bigger children could go out to buy clothes themselves. It was the same as in a family I suppose. As children grew out of their clothes they were passed down to the smaller ones. We did make sure the smaller children got some new things as well though. It wouldn't be fair otherwise.

#### *Chores*

37. There were no chores for the children to do really, except tidy their own area. I don't think they'd be very keen on doing anything else, such as polishing their shoes or whatever.

*Leisure time*

38. As well as the Scottish and Irish dancing, quite a few of the children got violin lessons and the boys went to Scouts. None of the girls wanted to go to Brownies or Girl Guides for some reason.
39. Each different sister's group had their own television. I would go up with the little ones when the bigger children were watching the television. They would sit and watch films like "The Birds" or "Doctor Who" and I don't like things like that. Strangely enough, even though they watched such things on the television, when we had some people in to act "Little Red Riding Hood", I think it was, the children were terrified.
40. There were books round about and the children would buy comics with their own money if they wanted. What the children liked doing most of all though was dressing up, especially if it was wet outside. We had a box with bits and pieces that they could put on.
41. There wasn't much of a garden outside, but there was enough space for them to play football and there were swings and a slide. If it was a nice evening, we often took them over to Bellahouston Park where they could play. Sometimes there would be a band playing in the park, there was often something on. The older children also liked to meet up with their friends from school.
42. It would have been good if the children had learned swimming, but I don't remember us taking them. I don't think there were any swimming baths around the home.
43. At the weekends people who were friends of the house would take the children out for the day.

*Possessions and pocket money*



44. The children got pocket money every week that they could spend as they wanted at the local shop.
45. Most of the toys belonged to all the children. Sometimes the little ones would take the bigger ones toys.

#### *Holidays*

46. We tried to make sure that the children went away for a summer break. We felt that they needed a holiday and we took the little ones to Fairlie in Ayrshire. The bigger children didn't want to go there. Archbishop Winning was very good and told us that if there was nowhere for them to go he would see if he could find something.

#### *Trips*

47. There used to be a taxi outing every year, sometimes twice a year. The taxi drivers were marvellous. All the taxis would come and they would be hooting their horns and be all dressed up. They would take the children out for the day and also took them to the pantomime.
48. My brother would occasionally come up for a holiday and we would take two or three of the children out to Loch Lomond or the Trossachs for a trip.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

49. The children loved putting up decorations at Christmas and we would have a nice Christmas dinner. They would all get presents, which were probably things that had been donated. If any of the children got presents from their families we would have to give whatever it was to them straight away.
50. Birthdays were celebrated as well, there would be a little party and Sister LNW would bake them a cake.

## Schooling

51. Most of the children went to Our Lady of Lourdes primary school, which was just around the corner. I can't remember what school the bigger children went to. The headmaster would usually phone up if there was something he needed to speak to me about.
52. I would go to the parents' evenings for the little ones, but as the children got older they weren't so keen. I could understand that and I would see if one of the staff could go instead.
53. They didn't have a lot of homework to do, but if they did I would have them do it as soon as they came in from school. They could do their homework in the dining room.
54. At the end of term the children would get reports from the school, which I would get to see. Some of the reports were good, some were a little bit of a problem.

## Healthcare

55. The doctor [REDACTED] would come in regularly. The children needed to have a medical every year. I don't remember the name of the doctor, [REDACTED]. None of my children were seriously ill at any time, they were quite healthy.
56. A nurse would go into the school quite a bit and she would say if any of the children needed dental care. I can't remember any of them going to the dentist, although I do remember some of the children losing their first teeth.
57. One of the things the children did get was nits. I would get a phone call from the school to let me know that nits had been found on some of them. It wasn't only our

children though, some children from outside would get them too. The doctor was very good and used to give us some stuff for that.

### **Deaths**

58. There were no deaths of children while I was at Nazareth House in Cardonald.

### **Religious instruction**

59. We sisters went to Mass very early in the morning. None of the children were expected to go to morning Mass. The only time the children were expected to attend Mass was on a Sunday and they would often go across to the parish church, because it was later there. We didn't mind which Mass they went to, as long as they attended one.
60. Religious instruction was mostly done by the school. We would say night prayers and morning prayers and Grace before eating, but I don't think we did much else. We had picture books of the different parables of the Gospel, but that was about it.

### **Visitors**

#### *Visits from friends and family*

61. Very few family members came to visit the children. There was no set visitor's day, families could come when they wanted, but there wasn't much contact with families. It was very sad. Even if they sent birthday cards, that would have been something. I think maybe two of the little ones got a birthday card, but the older ones didn't get any.

62. There was one little girl whose father always promised he would come and visit, but he just wouldn't turn up. She used to tell me she hated her father and then one of the staff found all these letters in the little girl's drawer when they were putting something in. They were all addressed "darling daddy" and "dear daddy", it was very sad. It was damaging every time he would say he would come and then didn't.

*Visits from social workers*

63. Social workers would come round roughly every three months, or more often if they needed to. Often it would be different social workers for the same children. One child might have three or four social workers come to visit them. The social workers would speak to the children privately and if there was anything they needed to speak to me about, they would do so afterwards.

**Records and record keeping**

64. I didn't keep any records other than when the children got their inoculations or had to be seen by the doctor. We didn't have an office and you couldn't leave things like that lying around. The sister superior kept all the records. If a child was being discharged I would have to go to the superior and get the discharge book so I could complete it. After doing so, it would then have to be returned.
65. I also had to fill in a menu book to record what the children had to eat. I don't know what happened to those books. I never had any more involvement than that.

**Inspections**

66. There would be inspections from Hammersmith and the Home Office used to come round as well to check that everything was alright. They would look at the menu books and I suppose check that the children were getting a balanced diet. I'm sure

they would have written reports, but I never saw any. I don't know what might have been in the reports.

### **Review of care**

67. I was not involved in any review of my children's care. The social workers sorted all that out and then they would tell me. All I knew of [LCT] and [LDI] coming back from being fostered was when the social work told me.
68. Some of the social workers were very good and would keep me informed about the children. Some allowed me to have some input, others were not so good. I suppose they possibly had a lot of children to see.

### **Families**

69. As the sister in charge of a group, I didn't know the history of any of the children and what family they might have had. That would only have been known by the sister superior or by Sister [LNU], who was in charge of all the children's groups.

### **Discharge from Nazareth House, Cardonald**

70. When [LCT] and [LDI] left to go into foster care, they would have been formally discharged. They were only away for about a fortnight before they came back and I don't know what the discharge procedure was. I don't know if contact would have been maintained with them if they had stayed away.

## Discipline and punishment

71. If a child needed to be disciplined I wouldn't give them all their pocket money straight away. I would wait until they did something good before they could get it. I would also tell them they weren't allowed to watch the television, or go out and play football.
72. There were no written rules or codes of conduct or anything like that with the sisters. There was never any use of corporal punishment at Nazareth House in Cardonald. I never had it when I was young and I think that you must find another way around a problem instead.
73. I don't think there were any records kept if a child had to be disciplined at all. I certainly never knew of a punishment book or anything similar.

### *Recollections of other staff discipline*

74. I wouldn't know what went on with other groups, but I'm sure they wouldn't have used corporal punishment either. Sisters would often meet up and discuss things and I'm sure I would have known.

### *Recollections of specific incidents of discipline and punishment*

75. I remember one day the school headmaster 'phoned up and told me he was sending [REDACTED] home. He had blocked all the toilets in the school with toilet paper. When he came home I never said much to him at all, I thought the headmaster could correct him if he wanted to.

**Abuse in Nazareth House, Cardonald – specific incidents witnessed or heard of by me**

76. I never saw any behaviour at Cardonald that I would consider was abusive. Even with the benefit of hindsight I don't think there was any abusive behaviour towards the children.
77. Similarly, none of the children ever reported anything to me. They might say that one of the other children had hit them, but that was all. I was not aware of anything that caused me any concern. I think I had a sufficiently good relationship with the children that they would feel able to come and speak to me if there was anything that troubled them.

**Leaving Nazareth House, Cardonald**

78. I asked to leave Nazareth House, Cardonald because my hearing was getting increasingly worse.
79. [REDACTED] I was finding it difficult working with the children. It was hard to hear the children's higher pitched voices and I felt they needed somebody who was able to hear and speak to them properly. Somebody who could give them a better life. I asked to do something else and had a choice of being with elderly people or being in the kitchen, so I thought I would try working in the kitchen.
80. I did say that I would stay until they found somebody good to replace me and it was another six months before a Sister Myron was found. I think she was home from Africa. I never met with her and there was no handover.
81. I was sorry to leave the children. After eighteen months I had become fond of them, but it was for the best. One of the things I found hard was that the superiors in

Hammersmith didn't want me to keep in contact with them. They said it was better not to because it would make it hard for the sister coming in.

82. Since I left I've never been back.

### Specific allegations of abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald

83. I have been advised that a number of children who stayed at Nazareth House, Cardonald during the period I was there have made allegations of abuse against members of the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth. No allegations have been made against me and I can confirm that I have not been the subject of a police complaint nor have I been subject of a civil action.

LBC

84. LBC has given an account to the Inquiry of her time at Nazareth House, Cardonald. I have no recollection of a child by that name. In her statement she has made allegations of abuse that she received.

85. LBC has said "*I was a terrible eater and it was the meat they served up that I found particularly disgusting. It was like grey grizzle. If I didn't eat it at whatever meal they served it up then it would be put back in front of me at tea, then supper and again at breakfast*". That was never a practice I was aware of, that wouldn't be true.

86. I am led to believe that LBC makes specific allegations against a Sister LKR. I think there is a Sister LKR but so many of the sisters have changed their names that I am not sure if I know who she is.

87. LBC says of Sister LKR that "*sometimes I was forced to swallow it by Sister LKR holding my nose and mouth and I would be force fed five or six pieces of the meat this way*" and "*Sometimes I would be sick on my plate and was told to eat the plate clean*". That's not something I ever heard of.



88. **LBC** also says with reference to her sister *"my sister [REDACTED] was a bed-wetter and every night she would wet her bed then climb into mine. Sometimes during the night Sister **LKR** would check the bed to see if it was wet then, if it was, then God help us if it was [REDACTED] bed. She would be ordered to get up or dragged awake by the hair to the toilet screaming or locked up in the boiler room"*. I have never heard of that before.
89. **LBC** also says *"if [REDACTED] was in my bed or mine was wet I would be repeatedly dragged while screaming "sorry". I would cling to my bed or the radiator but when I did I would be constantly hit with a belt, hairbrush or, on a few occasions, a tennis racquet. I would say that this happened constantly over three years"*. I have never heard of that happening.
90. **LBC** says *"there was also a pants inspection every so often when my pants were put into a basket at bedtime. I got quite a few smacks for my pants being marked or soiled so I often wore them inside out to school or hid them down the side of the radiator next to my bed"*. I don't remember there being any such inspection at all.
91. **LBC** continues, saying *"discipline was regimental and institutionalised. Everything was set for a specific time-table and you would get punished for something as simple as laughing. I got beat most mornings because [REDACTED] would have wet the bed. We would get smacked with the hand a lot on the head or put over their knees and hit on the backside. You were permanently scared and lived with fear. You just knew that you were going to get a beating no matter how good you were"*. That certainly never happened.
92. **LBC** goes on *"beatings were a regular occurrence in the home and could be for anything. You would get a slap or hit with anything they had at hand. I remember one occasion I saw a lit cigarette in an ashtray and took a puff from it. As I was walking out of the kitchen Sister **LKR** grabbed me and lifted me right up into the shower area by the head and neck and repeatedly slapped my legs, back and*

bottom. It was lunchtime and there were other staff there. I would have been about nine years old". That's nothing I've ever heard of happening.

93. **LBC** also mentions that "another time was when one of the other girls had a pretty skirt on which swirled around when you spun round in a circle. I thought it was beautiful and asked if I could try it on. We swapped skirts and I swirled around wearing the pretty skirt and just at that moment Sister **LKR** came in and saw me flashing my pants. She told me to sit on the bed and told the other girl to get out ... Sister **LKR** then left the bedroom but came back shortly thereafter carrying a belt. I think I was about nine or ten and I called her a fucking cow. She then beat me continuously with the belt. She then dragged me down to the shower-room and used carboloc soap to scrub my face and inside my mouth. Such beatings were often done in front of other members of staff who were clearly aware of what was going on but I think they were too scared for their jobs to say anything". I've never heard of that happening either.
94. **LBC** continues "on another occasion I was in the field in the evening behind a large hedge. I had my nightdress on and was having a cigarette. The next thing I knew Sister **LKR** put her hands through the hedge, grabbed hold of me and dragged me through the hedge. She then ran me along into the side door and repeatedly strapped and punched me before sending me to bed". I'm not aware of that happening.
95. **LBC** says "I had a friend called [REDACTED] who stayed in [REDACTED]. Her mum phoned Sister **LKR** and asked if I could stay over. It was a Saturday night and I was told I could go but was to be back for mass the next morning ... I made it back in time for mass the next morning but Sister **LKR** stared at me throughout the mass and as soon as I got back to my group she started shouting at me for staying out all night. She then repeatedly slapped me around the face and head. I answered back that Mrs [REDACTED] had phoned her and told her I would be out all night but she just called me a liar. She then dragged me to a toilet sink and rubbed carboloc soap in my mouth before sending me to my bed". I have no knowledge of that.

96. LBC makes reference to a [REDACTED] girl called [REDACTED]. I don't recognise that name and there was certainly no [REDACTED] girl in my group. There could have been a [REDACTED] girl in one of the other groups, but I'm not sure.

97. LBC says "There was one [REDACTED] girl called [REDACTED] in the home who got beaten by Sister LKR and she was spitting up blood. The TV programme [REDACTED] was on at the time and she got called all kinds of [REDACTED] names. [REDACTED] used to fight back and one time she managed to snatch Sister LKR hat off her head. [REDACTED] life was hell in that place". I have never heard of that happening.

LCT

98. LCT has given an account to the Inquiry of her time at Nazareth House, Cardonald. LCT was the girl who was fostered along with her sister LDI. In her statement she has made allegations of abuse that she received.

99. I am led to believe that LCT makes specific allegations against a Sister LFL. Sister LFL was a long time before me and I wouldn't be able to comment on the allegations LCT has made against her.

100. LCT has said that "I never had a problem with bedwetting. I do remember seeing what happened to the bedwetters. I knew a few kids who would just wet the bed as they were terrified to go to the toilet. I don't know the reason why they were terrified. The nuns would grab the child out the bed and take the sheets off. The child would have the sheets wrapped round them and made to go and have a cold shower. [REDACTED] would wet the bed and I saw it happen to her. The beds would then be made up again with fresh sheets". That never happened.

101. LCT also says "I didn't like Brussels sprouts, custard or semolina. I refused to eat them. Sister LFL and Sister LHA would use a spoon and force feed you if you refused to eat anything. If you were sick while they were force feeding you, they would scoop up sick with the food and shove it back in your mouth. They

*did this to me between the ages of five and nine. I can't remember any of the other nuns force feeding". I have never heard of that happening.*

102. LCT continues *"I remember going to see LKQ? to get our jag for going to school. I was scared. I was greeting and I lashed out. So three people had to hold me down while LKQ? gave me the injection. He was not gentle. He whacked the needle into my backside. I couldn't sit down for a week". I remember now that LKQ? was the practitioner who visited the house, but I don't remember any child being treated like that.*
103. LCT also makes reference to being taken to the dentist *"I remember being taken to the dentist and having teeth removed. It took six staff members to hold me down. I was scared. My canine teeth were taken out. My dentist recently told me that they must have been taken out by mistake. I had been a biter when I was younger. I believe that they took out my biting teeth on purpose". I have no knowledge of anything like that happening or of any child going to the dentist.*
104. I believe LCT also says that the group she was in was referred to as the "Green" group. That was not the case when I was there. All the groups were referred to by the sister's name who looked after them.
105. LCT says of her older sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] *"When I moved to the Green Group, my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] weren't there. I hunted the whole of Nazareth House for them. That night, I was agitated and angry. I was then told that they had already been fostered out. The nuns that had told me about seeing my sisters already knew they had been fostered out. I thought they were cruel lying to me. I was very upset. I really thought I was going to be with my sisters". I have never heard of that happening.*
106. LCT mentions *"Life was not good in the Green Group. Sister LHA was in charge. [REDACTED] She would hold you against the wall and kick you with her [REDACTED]. It was horrible. Sister LHA also force fed us. She also called me the devil's child because I was left*

*handed. She used to put my left arm up my back. She didn't like me. I was beaten up all the time by Sister [LHA]. I know nothing about that.*

107. [LCT] also says "*Sister [LHA] used to jab the metal nit comb through your hair. It was very sore*". I've never heard of that happening.
108. [LCT] says "*One of the nuns died. I didn't know her. Everyone had to go to the funeral. All the kids were lined up and we had to kiss the dead nun on the head. I hated that*". If any of the sisters died they were laid out in the Choir. I think the children got used to seeing that.
109. One day I got a phone call from the headmaster of the school because [LCT] had been taking the children from school into the church and had been lifting the lid of the coffin. I think [LCT] had possibly been saying to the other children at school that she had seen a dead person. The headmaster said it had been frightening some of the children and I suppose it would have been.
110. They were never made to kiss the dead nun at all. The children shouldn't even have been in the Choir, which is where we used to say the prayers, not in the main part of the church.
111. [LCT] also says "*I remember an old man used to visit. [REDACTED]. He used to get the little girls to sit on his knee. I wanted to sit on his knee. I had never sat on anyone's knee before. When I was sitting there he touched me underneath. I knew it was wrong and I got off his knee. That was the first time I had been sexually abused. I never went back on his knee. I wasn't the only one that it happened to. This happened when I was in the nursery. I remember him well. He wore big dark glasses. He was not as nice as we thought. That only happened once with him*".
112. I don't remember [REDACTED] coming to visit. [LCT] had accused her foster carers of sexually abusing her, that's why she and [LDI] came back.

She hadn't told me that, it was the social workers that did. I never heard of any other sexual abuse.

113. **LCT** says *"I used to run away quite a lot. I remember one occasion running away to [REDACTED]. I slept in derelict buildings. There was blood in between my legs and I thought I had injured myself. I was scared. I went back to the home. I think I was about eleven or twelve. I told Sister **LJS** that I had hurt myself, that I was bleeding underneath. I had taken my period. I had not been told about periods and I had no idea what was happening to me"*. I don't remember a Sister **LJS** with the children at all, she must have been before my time.
114. I believe that **LCT** makes allegations of being sexually abused by a **LFN**. She and **LDI** had been taken to a caravan by **LFN** and **LFO** for a holiday. Those names don't ring a bell with me.
115. **LCT** says *"I told the nuns that I wasn't going back out with the **LFN/LFO** I told them that he had abused me. The nuns did not believe me. They called me a liar and a troublemaker. I was told I should be thankful that someone had chosen to take me out on holiday"*. I don't know anything about that.
116. **LCT** never mentioned having been abused in any way to me.
- LDI**
117. **LDI** has given an account to the Inquiry of her time at Nazareth House, Cardonald. **LDI** was **LCT** sister. In her statement she has made allegations of abuse that she received.
118. **LDI** says *"The food was disgusting. We got porridge or cereal and toast at breakfast. The porridge wasn't even cooked right and was full of lumps, and the toast was always burnt. I could eat the breakfast but the dinners were atrocious. I was force-fed the dinners, and sometimes they would put the same food down to me*

*if I hadn't eaten it at an earlier meal". That never happened, you can't really force feed children.*

119. [REDACTED] LDI also says [REDACTED] LCT *and I were taken to a caravan once with a couple we had never met before. We were sexually and physically abused there". I appreciate that may be the same incident [REDACTED] LCT mentioned, but I have no knowledge of it.*
120. [REDACTED] LDI says *"I remember two priests, Father [REDACTED] LSO and Father Hay, used to visit. I was abused by Father [REDACTED] LSO. The children were never left with the priests. I don't recall a Father [REDACTED] LSO and I know nothing of any abuse.*
121. [REDACTED] LDI continues *"All of the nuns were involved in the abuse. I don't remember any of them being kind. The names of the nuns I remember are Sister [REDACTED] LGS, Sister [REDACTED] LFL, Sister [REDACTED] LHA, Sister [REDACTED] LGY, Sister [REDACTED] LKE, Sister [REDACTED] LJS and Sister [REDACTED]". Sister [REDACTED] LHA was a very gentle sort of a person. I can't imagine her doing anything like that. I was Sister [REDACTED] LNV. I can't think of a Sister [REDACTED]*
122. [REDACTED] LDI says *"I hated meat and was force-fed by the nuns until I was sick, and even although I was sick, they would still carry on trying to make me eat it. They would shout and bawl, saying that there were poor kids in Africa who didn't have food and that we should think ourselves lucky". That just wouldn't have happened.*
123. [REDACTED] LDI continues *"The abuse happened to me mostly at dinnertime because of the situation with the food. If I wasn't eating my dinner, they'd pull me out of the chair, sometimes by the hair, sometimes by the arm, and make me stand there in front of everybody until I ate it. Eventually they would sit me back down and force-feed me. If they were going to hit me, they'd pull me back up to my feet again. They'd hit me all over my body, wherever they could get me. Mostly I'd be standing when I got hit. They'd use whatever they had on them - slippers, coat hangers or belts. I got this nearly every night because I hated the dinners". That never happened either.*

124. [REDACTED] LDI says in relation to bedwetting *"If you'd wet the bed, she'd take the cover off you and make you lie on the wet sheet until it was time to get up. You'd also get shouted at and hit, mostly across the legs, when you were lying in bed. She'd use whatever she had on her, slipper, belt or whatever. Everybody in the group then knew you'd wet the bed. You had to lie on the wet sheet from about half past four until six when you got up for mass. That happened all year round. You had to strip the bed when you got up and take the sheet to the laundry room. Later on when I was older, I had to stand and wash the sheets myself in the sink"*. That did not happen.
125. [REDACTED] LDI also says *"Sometimes you would be made to stand in the corner facing the wall as a punishment for not doing what you were told, like walking on the wrong side of the corridor or putting your elbows on the dinner table. You had to stand still for about an hour. You weren't allowed to move or fidget, as they called it, or you'd get slapped"*. I have no knowledge of such a punishment.
126. [REDACTED] LDI specifically names [REDACTED] LFN and [REDACTED] LFO as the couple she and [REDACTED] LCT went on holiday to a caravan with, who physically and sexually abused them both. She says *"I don't know who these people were or where they lived. We hadn't even met them beforehand. We just got sent away with them, which I thought was quite strange. [REDACTED] LFN sexually and physically abused both me and [REDACTED] LCT on that trip. He took us into the room one by one, so I think [REDACTED] LFO knew what he was doing to us"*. Again, I have no knowledge of that.
127. [REDACTED] LDI says *"A priest called Father [REDACTED] LSO used to come into the sitting room once a week, mostly on a Sunday, sit you on his knee and touch you down below. He first started doing this to me when I was about nine or ten"*. I do not recognise that name. I doubt that could have happened though, they were never left with the children on their own. There was always myself or one of the staff there.
128. [REDACTED] LDI continues *"I think Father [REDACTED] LSO abused a good few of the children in the same way. I didn't actually see him doing anything. It was just that I saw other children sitting on his knee and thought he was probably doing the same to them. I*



told **LCT** what was happening and she said, "Aye, he used to do it to me". She told me to stay away from him". Again, that's nothing I know of.

129. **LDI** says "**LVT** used to visit the home a couple of times a year. He used to touch me down below as well". I know a Sister **LKE** **LKE** she's now in Scotland or the north of England somewhere. She wasn't there in my time and I don't remember **LVT** coming to visit.
130. **LDI** refers to her sister **LCT** was constantly hit by the nuns. She was quite rebellious. She would always stand up to them. Even when she knew she was going to get battered, she would still stand up to them. I was so quiet. I would just sit there and take it".
131. **LDI** continues "I saw a lot happening to **LCT** She would get pulled about by the hair, hit with a belt, a stick, a slipper - everything. It happened mostly when she was sticking up for me. She stuck up for me at the dinner table and even when I wet the bed". I know nothing of that.
132. **LDI** says **LCT** used to run away quite a lot. She used to get up during the night and sneak out the doors and climb over the big gates. She always used to head for **LCT** I don't know how she got there. She would be away for days sometimes. When she was brought back, she'd be hit and then locked in a room. It was just a small room, like a cupboard. There was nothing in it, just bare walls. I don't think it was used for anything else. She'd be in the room for a day, sometimes two days. I don't even know if she got fed when she was in there". There was no spare room, that never happened.
133. **LDI** also says "**LCT** has always been a fidget. She got a beating one time after mass I think because of her fidgeting. Sister **LHA** pulled her about, kicked her **LCT** and stamped on her when she was on the floor. **LCT** was screaming". I know nothing of that. I replaced Sister **LHA** who left before I arrived.

134. [LDI] says "I saw Sister [LGS] severely batter a girl called [REDACTED] on a flight of stairs when we were on holiday at Glengarry Guesthouse. Sister [LGS] was a bitch. [REDACTED] was in her group. She beat her because [REDACTED] and I had gone downstairs and stolen food from the kitchen. The two of us were walking back up the stairs, and Sister [LGS] was standing at the top waiting on us. She grabbed [REDACTED] and started battering into her. She was kicking her, pulling her hair and punching her, and she carried on kicking into her when [REDACTED] was on the floor. It lasted a while, about ten to fifteen minutes I'd say. I started screaming and shouting for [LKB] to come".
135. [LDI] continues [LKB] came and pulled Sister [LGS] away. I remember [LKB] trying to defuse the situation. The two of them were shouting at each other. I remember [LKB] said "You can't treat the kids like that" and the sister saying "That's their punishment. They shouldn't be stealing" ". I know nothing of that. I do remember [LKB], she was in a separate house, but I thought she looked after elderly men. It may have been elderly priests. I don't know whether she was with the children at one time.
136. [LDI] also says [LCT] pal [REDACTED] was also quite rebellious at times, because of everything that was going on in Nazareth House. [REDACTED] and [LCT] were quite close. The two of them would get pulled about and shouted and bawled at, hit with a belt, stick, slippers, and sent to a separate room. The stick was like a big cane". I never remember anything that was like a big cane and know nothing of that.
137. [LDI] says that "When we came back from the caravan, [LCT] told [LKB] [LKB] what [LFN] had done to us and then I spoke to [LKB] [LKB] said that she'd go to Sister [LHA] and tell her. Sister [LHA] then took us into a room and [LCT] tried to tell her what had happened. Sister [LHA] told us that these people had gone out of their way to do this for us and we should be more grateful. She told [LCT] to stop telling lies. I said we weren't telling lies and that he had done "dirty things". That's how I put it. Nothing at all was done about it". Again, I know nothing of that.

### Final thoughts in light of allegations

138. I have not previously been aware of any of these allegations. I did not witness any such abuse, nor did any child or anyone else report any such thing to me. Occasionally I or one of the other sisters might have shouted at a child, but nothing more than that.
139. I accept such behaviour would amount to abuse, but it is not something I have ever experienced or heard of.
140. I don't know why all these allegations have been made. Sometimes you can convince yourself that something happened when it didn't. Sometimes perhaps something that might have been done with good intentions might be taken a different way.
141. I am aware that as a result of their experiences in care, some people have described the long-term impact and the effect the abuse has had on them. I cannot offer any explanation as to why that impact might have occurred.

### Prior statements

142. Quite a while ago, in 2004, I had to write a statement regarding [REDACTED] and her time at Cardonald. I have not provided any other statements to either the police or any other agency.

### Photographs

143. I still have three or four photographs that were taken during my time at Nazareth House in Cardonald. They show a number of my children, including [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they were a family. There is also [REDACTED] LDI, [REDACTED] LCT and a boy

called [REDACTED] I think his second name was [REDACTED] I'm not quite sure. There is also a boy called [REDACTED] and a few other brothers and sisters.

144. The photos were taken when we were out in Bellahouston one day by someone with one of those instant cameras.

145. I also have some photographs from when we were in Fairlie for a holiday. The children in one of them weren't mine, they were Sister [REDACTED] LHW. In another of those photos are [REDACTED] he loved dressing up, and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had a thing about keys, he'd bury them. You had to be careful not to leave keys around.

146. I am also in one of the photographs along with Sister [REDACTED] LFR

147. I don't want to part with the photographs, there the only ones I have left of the children. I can provide them if the Inquiry would like to see them though.

**Closing thoughts**

148. I think it would have been nice if the children had their own rooms. It would have been great if they had a little privacy, but in those days they didn't think along those lines.

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

Signed..... [REDACTED] LNV .....

Dated..... 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 .....