

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ESW

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is ESW My date of birth is 1951. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. Before I went into Nazareth House I lived with my step-mum, she was called I was too young to understand who she was. I didn't know she was my step-mother. My father was always away at sea in the navy. My dad was called The physical abuse at home always happened when he'd gone away to sea. She would never let us get near him when he was home and told us not to tell our dad about what she did to us or we'd get it worse when he was away.
3. I was very young and I was always around children in the house, but I was treated differently from them and I began to feel different. She had her own children and they were fine, and it was just me that got it, and that why I felt I was different. She used to make me stand outside of the bed at night and tell me the rats would get me. It frightened me and I had to stand in the corner all night. If I jumped into bed beside one of the other kids to get warm, she'd come and get me out and make me stand in the corner. She gave me a life of hell. I can't remember how many kids there were in the house. I was the only child in the house to my father and I found out that I had full sisters when I met them in the convent later on.

4. I have scars on my body from what my step mum did to me, and I know I didn't get them in the convent. My father doesn't know where they came from. She put a roasting iron on my arm and I have two holes in my left arm from what she did. The hospital fixed them up for me as best they could. I also have a scar on my stomach because of her.
5. I'm in touch with my dad, he's in his eighties now and he lives down south. He was brought up in care himself, he was in Glenclutha. I have children myself, and I know that if I came home and they were scarred I'd want to know what happened. He can't tell me what was going on as he just buried his head in the sand and he admits that. When I was at home before I went to the convent I never saw much of him.
6. My real mum, [REDACTED], was in hospital with TB and she was in hospital for most of her life. My parents split up and my dad got with my step-mum and married her. The house was in the [REDACTED] There was the old wee man pub, its shut now and we stayed above it. I can't remember the address, but I can visualise the place.
7. I don't know the reasons for me going into Nazareth House and my dad can't remember why I went to the convent. I don't know about any social work involvement. There were welfare officers then. I had a welfare worker called Mr Fife from John Street in Glasgow. I was in so many different places over the years that it's hard to remember everything.

Nazareth House, Cardonald, Glasgow

8. I was aged four or five when I went into Nazareth House that was run by the Sisters of Nazareth. There was a nursery section in Nazareth House and I may have gone in there at the start, I'm not sure. At the front of the convent there were swing doors. The dining room was through the swing doors and then you went onto the assembly hall. When you entered the convent you turned to the left to go up a flight of stairs to the dorms. I think there were about four dorms and about six girls in the dorm room.

9. There were about 25 – 30 girls in the whole convent at least. I left when I was aged nine or ten and I think the girls in the convent went up to ten or eleven. I don't recall any boys in the convent. Some of the older girls took jobs in the convent and worked in the laundries. A lot of girls stayed in there, but I don't know up to what age.
10. The nuns stayed in their own rooms. There were not many nuns in the convent and the only one I had problems with was Sister **LFH** and she had something in for me. She was in charge of my group. To me she was aged in her sixties. She was a wee fat nun and you could hear her coming from the rattle of the rosary beads and the belt that she wore. I'd be standing petrified, waiting for her to come, because I'd know what I was getting when I was standing outside of her room waiting for her.
11. Sometimes Sister **LFH** would take a holiday or go on retreat and another nun would be in charge for her and that was much better, there was never a problem then. There were about six nuns in total. They wore long, black habits with some white sections and a veil and rosary beads and belts. I don't remember the name of the Mother Superior in charge. There were also civilian staff who did the cooking for us. There was a wee woman who did the washing, she was called **LJX** I think her real surname was **LJX**. She had **LFH** and other kids made fun of her. She was based in the wash house.

Routine at Nazareth House

First day

12. I don't know who took me to the convent, but I remember I got a hiding on the first day. A nun took hold of bamboo canes to hit me with. I don't know what I did to make her do that to me. The children were organised into different teams belonging to different nuns and I was put in Sister **LFH** team, called the green team. The other teams were known by different colours. My first clear memory was of us children having to go on our knees to scrub the floor from the age of four.

Mornings and bedtime

13. I was placed in the dorm for the green team, but I felt I was always standing outside of the nun's door. She liked to keep a close eye on me. The nun had her own cell in the dorm and my bed was just outside her cell. I think my sister [REDACTED] was in the same dorm as me.
14. We were up in the morning, then knelt down by our beds to say prayers, and then into the washroom where there were sinks in a row. I was made to go in there for a cold bath and washed my hair in cold water and that was because I'd wet the bed. The bath water was cold for me when I'd wet the bed and I often wet the bed.
15. We went to bed at the same time and it didn't change as we got older. It was about 8 pm. We were early to bed and we had to get ourselves ready for bed, but with Sister LFH [REDACTED] supervising us in our team. I can't remember the names of the girls I shared the dorm with.

Mealtimes / Food

16. I had breakfast after I had helped to scrub the floor of the assembly hall. We had to eat food from last night's meal. I had to do this on the day after me and my sister had run away and our evening meal was kept for us.
17. The food was generally ok. At breakfast we had to say prayers again before we could eat, and then we had porridge or cornflakes. On the days we went to school we then went back to the convent for lunch. We weren't forced to eat the food. I didn't see any force feeding, but we were made to eat the food if we refused. It was left for us when we came back for our next meal. Whichever nun was on duty did that. One of them was always supervising the meal times. I can't stand peas and I was made to eat them. I don't like fish either and they boiled the fish and they had bones in them. Everyone sat together at dinner time to eat. The children were not allowed to talk to each other.

Washing / bathing

18. I had a normal bath once or twice a week. I had a 'dirty head' at school. Sister ^{LFH} got a steel comb and she dug it into my scalp and made it bleed. My hair was shaved because of the sores. I had to go to school like that. Sister ^{LFH} put some purple stuff on my head to kill the head lice.

Clothing / uniform

19. We wore plain clothes for playing in after school and I remember wearing a dress for mucking about in. We all looked the same and everyone knew where we came from. I don't know where the convent got our clothes from.

School

20. I went to the school opposite the convent. It was called Our Lady of Lourdes primary. I didn't enjoy going to the school. We had to wear brogue shoes. The other kids at school could hear us coming because of the noise that the brogues made on the floor.
21. I got a hell of a hiding for kicking the teacher. I wasn't good at maths as I couldn't concentrate. The teacher, Miss Hill, wanted me to do a sum on the blackboard and I didn't want to, and as I got up my skirt ripped on my chair and I had my hands behind me holding my skirt. She wanted to see my hands and I refused and then I kicked her. She phoned the convent about it, and that was me in more bother again.

Religion

22. We went to chapel for holidays of obligations and saints days. We were in chapel most days. It was in the grounds and part of the same building. The service was taken by a priest, I don't know his name.

Work/chores

23. I had to scrub the floor of the assembly hall before I went to school. All the girls had to do that. We also had to put Brasso on the metalwork. We also had dusters on our feet and we were sliding round on the floor. If you were caught sliding around on the floor you'd get in trouble. You had to scrub, clean and polish the floor so the nuns could see their faces in it.

Trips / Holidays

24. There were taxi outings. There were people who came in to see kids who had no visitors of their own. They were called 'knights'. They took kids on holidays into their own homes in the summer for a week or so. I went with them as I didn't have visitors. It was nice to see a family life. Everything was fine on these holidays, it was a good time and I wasn't happy to have to go back to the convent.

Leisure time

25. After school we didn't get time on our own to get out of the convent, but we did things in our groups such as choir, violin lessons or reading. We got out in the grounds sometimes and there was a wee swing in the grounds. We got leisure time after school when the nuns felt like it. I don't remember doing any homework after school. We had a playroom and we could play with dolls.

Personal possessions

26. We had personal possessions. We each had a cabinet by our bed, I didn't have many things of my own.

Birthdays and Christmas

27. We went to see Santa Claus in Glasgow at Lewis's every year. We got a present. On Christmas Day, the place was decorated and we made our own decorations. There was a tree. There were trips on Christmas Day, but it was just another day. It was what we were used to. Birthdays were not celebrated and they were not considered special days. I couldn't even remember my own birthday.

Visits

28. My dad never came to visit me in the convent. I had no contact with my family, other than my two sisters in the convent. No visitors came for me. I never saw the welfare officer, Mr Fife as I got him after I came out of the convent. The people we called Knights who took children on holiday came to visit, but not very often.

Siblings/contact

29. My two sisters were in the convent. Their names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I didn't know anything about them before I got there. I was introduced to them by Sister LFH [REDACTED] It was shocking to hear that they were my sisters, and I was confused by it. [REDACTED] was a year older than me and [REDACTED] was two years older than me. They didn't know about me either until we met at Nazareth House. They were shocked to meet me too. They were in the convent when I was kept with my step-mum. We were never close as children, and we are still not as close as sisters should be.

Healthcare

30. There was no doctor that I recall. I was kept in the sick bay at some stage as I had mumps or something like that and I was taken care of by the nuns. I was in there by myself and it was scary being in there alone. One time the children were taken to the Belvedere Hospital for two weeks or so as there was a dysentery infection in the convent. There were no regular medical check-ups. There was a dentist, he was a big bully. His place was in the convent. The convent made sure you got your teeth checked.

Running away

31. Me and my sister [REDACTED] ran away for one night. We ran to the house in Ibrox, Glasgow where the [REDACTED] family lived. They were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] were friends of my family. They drank a lot and always ended up fighting with one another.
32. We were found in the [REDACTED] house and taken back to Nazareth House and I can't remember who took us. When we got back to the convent Sister [REDACTED] made us eat the fish from the meal that was served the night before. I hated fish and it had bones in it, it was horrible and cold. Sister [REDACTED] also hit both of us with either the table leg or bamboo cane. I'm not sure what it was that time as she just used whatever she could get her hands on.
33. I ran away quite often. Once I ran to the dancing teacher as she was so nice and I always wished I could live with her. She recognised me as a girl from the convent as I was wearing the beret that they made us wear. I told her I wanted to stay with her and I told her what the nuns did to me and she wouldn't believe me.

Bed wetting

34. I wet the bed a lot and this attracted the abuse. I was told to stand outside of the door to Sister [REDACTED] cell. I used to stay awake so I wouldn't wet the bed. When I wet the bed I was punished with whatever she had in her hands, whether it be a bamboo cane or a table leg or a belt. It was always her that did it to me. I got that on any day of the week, but more so on a Saturday as it was bed changing day and you had to shake your sheets out. The punishment was countless times to me. I used to hide under my bed with my night dress over my knees because I was too scared to go to sleep in case I wet the bed.
35. When you got up in the morning she would notice that your bed was wet as there was a special drawsheet with your name on to put on top of the sheet to protect it. You got the cane for wetting the bed. Sometimes the caning happened in the assembly hall in

front of everyone and sometimes there was another girl who'd wet the bed and she was punished at the same time. You were told to stand in the hall wherever she told you, by her desk in the hall or sometimes outside of her cell. Then you were hit on the knuckles with the table leg, or the belt or bamboo cane over the palms. I can't say how many times she would strike me, but to me it seemed like it lasted forever.

36. One evening I was waiting in the assembly hall for punishment from Sister ^{LFH} [REDACTED]. There was a table leg lying on the nun's desk and that was what she was going to use on me. Sister ^{LFH} [REDACTED] for some reason had forgotten all about meeting me. My sister [REDACTED] called down the stairs to me to leave the hall and I was able to throw the table leg in the bin. [REDACTED] always looked out for me.
37. I was hit just because of the bed wetting. I had to wash my own sheet too, every day, but on a Saturday the beds were changed anyway, for everyone. You'd wash your sheet in the room where you washed yourself. Once I got a girl up from next to me and told her she had to go to the toilet. When she was gone I took her dry sheet and swapped it for my wet sheet. It was a mean thing to do but I was so sick of being hit.
38. We also had to stand in the hallway with wet pants on our head until Sister ^{LFH} [REDACTED] said to stop. Other girls could see me and I'd be made fun of. It was humiliating. I had no other clothes on. It was a regular occurrence because I couldn't help wetting myself. It happened to other girls who wet the bed, not just me. My sisters didn't wet the bed.

Discipline

39. Sister ^{LFH} [REDACTED] was in charge of the green group. She would hit you with whatever she could get her hands on. There was a detention room in the convent. And I was frequently locked in there for if I did anything wrong. It was a tiny room with a window. Sister ^{LFH} [REDACTED] decided when you came out. She would see it as discipline. She told me I was a disturbed child. There were frequent beatings, at least weekly and being beaten made me more likely to wet the bed as I was so scared. I was too scared to go to sleep. When I got a hiding it was mainly for wetting the bed. There was one other time, from another nun but I can't remember why.

Abuse at Nazareth House

40. I was told by the nuns that I was a mentally disturbed child. The nuns would hit you with the leg of a table on the knuckles until they were swollen and then you were made to hold something and if you dropped it you got hit again. They got a leg of the table or a bamboo cane and you had to hold out your hands for anything they thought you'd done wrong.
41. I couldn't even remember my own name and I couldn't say [ESW] so I got a hiding for that. I didn't remember my own birthday and I was told I was stupid and I got hit for that too. That was by Sister [LFH], there was one other nun that was almost as bad as her but I can't recall her name. Most of my punishments were from Sister [LFH].
42. Once I couldn't get into the building with my pal [REDACTED]. We went to the toilet outside when the outside door was locked and my sister [REDACTED] was looking out the window and told the nun and we got a hiding for that.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House

43. I told the dancing teacher what was happening to me in the convent and she said nuns didn't do things like that. It was a girl called [REDACTED] who finally brought things into the open much later on. I told the police when they picked us up from the [ESX-ESY] home. I told a couple of people what was happening, but the beatings became a normal part of my life. I wasn't believed as nuns didn't do things like that.
44. I was very young when I ran away and slept out rough for a couple of nights, aged seven or eight. I was called the absconder, and I was mostly by myself. I just wanted to get away. I can see now, the danger I put myself in. On occasions the police would find me and my words fell on deaf ears. When we ran away we tried telling the police what was going on and we were told we were children with vivid imaginations and nuns didn't do those sorts of things.

Leaving Nazareth House

45. I left Nazareth House at around age ten. I think my sister told the [REDACTED] what was happening to me, but I don't know why we were taken out or how it happened. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left at the same time as me. I was just pleased to get out. I went to stay at [REDACTED]. That was where the [REDACTED] lived then and they were allowed to take us in. They had two daughters and three sons of their own in the house. So there was the father, mother and five kids already and then me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived. They had a three bedroom house. I slept wherever I found a bed. I think [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to live somewhere else after one year, and it meant I didn't see them for a long time. I think [REDACTED] went on to stay with my mum's sister and I don't know about [REDACTED].
46. I went to school at St Moden's as it was a primary school, and then later went onto St Gregory's high school. The [REDACTED] made me raid the bins with them and if I didn't they said I'd go back into care. That threat was always over me. I also had to find dog ends in the bins for them. The welfare team gave us clothes and the [REDACTED] would pawn them. We dealt with Mr Fife from the John Street office. He didn't come to the house to visit, we saw him in his office. He was a good guy and he was in charge of my case until I left care at seventeen.
47. I was with the [REDACTED] for around three years and I went from primary to secondary school. Their kids were about the same age as me. The problems would come when the parents would drink and fight. Things were ok, but I didn't like raiding the dumps. We were alright and I had no problem with them. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were not with the [REDACTED] for as long as me.
48. I didn't see my dad when I was living with the [REDACTED]. My step-mum told me I wasn't to see my dad. We must have been put into my dad and step-mum's house at some stage and gone from one property to the other. We were in my dad's house at some stage, but I'm not sure how or why. I just remember I couldn't find my school

bag one morning and she took the full force of her fist and punched me in the mouth. I don't know what age I was at this time, but I think I was primary school age.

49. Another time, we were playing a dare game and I took something from a shop on Paisley Road West. My step-sister caught me and told her mother. The step-mum came right into my face and told me I wasn't wanted here and to tell my father nothing, and she told me to run away like usual. I'm not sure what stage of my life this was. My experience at home and school tends to merge into one for that part of my childhood as I was in so many places and schools. It still confuses me.
50. I was living with the [REDACTED] for about three years and left when I was about twelve or thirteen and went back to care. I can't remember why that was. I think I was a bit disobedient, but life in general was ok with the [REDACTED]

Clyde Cottage, Dunoon

51. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
52. [REDACTED]
53. [REDACTED]

54.

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56.

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St Euphrasia's, Bishopton

60. I was taken to St Euphrasia's by Mr Fife and I can't remember why that was. I can't remember what age I was in St Euphrasia's. He told me I would be there for a couple of months, it turned out I was there for a couple of years. Mr Fife put me there, probably because I had no family to go to. It was run by the Good Shepherd nuns and Mother Aylbie was in charge. It was an all-girl institution and I think there were over one hundred girls there.
61. There was bullying by other girls. The nuns were ok. There was no abuse by nuns, but life at St Euphrasia's was not as good as in Clyde Cottage. I wasn't allowed out and I feel I was institutionalised by this.
62. I don't remember going to school, we never got out. We slept in dorms and I can't recall how many girls were in each dorm as they tended to come and go so much. There was lots of girls in big dormitories. I slept with one eye open. There was lesbianism amongst the girls. Girls came in straight and went out the other way. They knew not to come near me. I didn't see it happening, but I'd heard of it happening in the institution and wanted to make sure I left there straight.
63. I wasn't expected to do as much cleaning there as in Nazareth House. I don't know how old I was, but I was old enough to work in the laundry. I worked in the laundry and we washed the clothes for the Celtic team and the Kenilworth Hotel. I once found a

fiver in a pocket and wasn't allowed to keep it as I never went out to spend it. You had to get gold stars to go out and I never got any.

64. The routine was all about discipline. We didn't pray as much as we had to in the convent, and they were a wee bit more lax and relaxed. I never had any problems with the food at St Euphrasia's.
65. We went on day trips to Butlins and I think that must have been to Ayr. I remember falling in the water when I was there. We had to take up a musical instrument and I sang in the choir. I played violin. There was also a playroom with toys. I wasn't wetting the bed at St Euphrasia's. You could get a bath or shower whenever you wanted to. We could only get out in the grounds, and the staff used to take us further on walks and everyone knew who we were because of how we looked and also we had nuns with us. Christmas in St Euphrasia's was nothing special. I can't remember what happened when it was my birthday.
66. I don't remember there being a doctor and I didn't have to see one. With regard to religion, we went to chapel on a Sunday and we had our own chapel in the home. I took my confirmation when I was sixteen.

Visits

67. My mother came to see me and wanted to take me out of St Euphrasia's. She never came near me when I was in the convent, and the first time I saw her when I was in care was when I was old enough to go out to work. I was maybe sixteen then. I told her to go away as she'd not been near me before, when I was younger.

Leaving St Euphrasia's

68. I must have been about sixteen by the time I left St Euphrasia's and I was old enough to work. Mr Fife must have told me I was leaving, but there was no preparation for leaving care. I think I had a bit of notice that I was leaving. When I left, I met my sister

█████ again as she was waiting for me when I came out. I'd not seen her or █████ for many years. I can't remember when I next met █████

Life after being in care

69. I was out of the care system at sixteen and I went to a hostel in Castlemilk for starting adult life. I must have been put in there by Mr Fife. You could only stay there for a short length of time. I worked in █████ in the Gorbals. I was a message girl, then I went onto Steam Hoffman pressing. I shared a room in the hostel with a girl called █████ and being in the hostel was a big new experience for me, and you could go out whenever and wherever you wanted to. The staff looked after us and they gave us tokens for the bus. There was a matron, Miss Little, who was taking care of us in the hostel.
70. I was in the hostel for about one year. When I was just seventeen I was old enough to go out and look after myself. I knew that was the end of being in care for me. I don't know if Mr Fife told me. There was no after care given to me. After that I had nowhere to go and I slept rough in doorways in Glasgow. Then I started to stay in the home of █████ who was a girl I knew. She lived on █████ She had a husband who worked on the shows, and he tried it on with me and I refused and he kicked me out.
71. I was offered the keys to an empty property that a guy was working on and he knew it was empty. I went to this property on █████ and I fell asleep, then six guys barged in and I was raped by them. This was in the 1970s and my daughter █████ was conceived. I didn't report the rape to the police as the Glasgow Police were not nice, and I decided they would tell me I deserved what I got. My daughter █████ was adopted. It was a terrible situation for me. I had nowhere to take her. We met up a few times over the years and she died in 2018.
72. After that I started travelling around the UK. There was no-one to tell me yes or no and I did what I wanted. I got married at nineteen to █████. He was a good man. I was in

a bedsit in [REDACTED] and I worked in a hostel. He was a gardener in [REDACTED] and he lived in the hostel. He moved in with me. We were married for one year or so and I ruined it all. I had a baby girl, [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] when I was twenty. She is aged 46 now. I used to take her with me on my trips around the country, to the seaside mainly.

73. I lived in Dunoon for a while with [REDACTED] and I was in touch with Mr Dunlop who ran the fruit shop when I was at Clyde Cottage. The council officer in Dunoon couldn't find me a permanent home and I was moved to [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] but I didn't like it there and I came back to Dunoon. I continued to move from place to place and made friends and I worked to put bread on the table. I travelled around and slept rough sometimes when she was young. I had relationships around this time, but none of them meant anything to me and some were abusive. I also lived in various places in Devon on the coast and in Bristol when [REDACTED] was about two or three years old.
74. I moved to London when [REDACTED] was ten or eleven so I was 30 or 31. London was a fresh start for me after Glasgow. I lived in Shepherd's Bush. I worked when I could at whatever job would help me put bread on the table. I had various jobs over the years.
75. I've been in Dunoon since 2013 and my daughter [REDACTED] stayed in London, but [REDACTED] has now moved to Dunoon to be nearer to me. I wasn't getting help and support in London. I was contacted by Ross Harper & Murphy solicitors when I was in London. They phoned me and then sent me some big forms to fill in and I couldn't cope with them. I took the forms to a local priest for help. This was after the abuse in Nazareth House was in the newspapers in Scotland. I was asked to write to the SNP about the abuse and compensation for victims. I wrote to politicians and high-profile people about what had happened to me in Nazareth House and how I felt about it. They wrote back and said there was nothing they could do to help me.

Impact

76. My history in care had a terrible impact on me and it's hard to sum up. I had no stability and my lifestyle took its toll on my mental health. I had problems since [REDACTED] was young and it was ongoing after that. I had a bad breakdown about 24 years ago and I was hospitalised. I spent some time in the Priory Clinic in Roehampton. I couldn't remember my own name or my children's names or where I was. I was in bed for three weeks. By that stage, I had my youngest daughter [REDACTED] and my breakdown happened when she was about seven or eight years. My relationship with her father didn't work out as I didn't know how relationships or family units should be.
77. [REDACTED] was taken care of by her sister and she also spent some time in foster care. I had a few breakdowns over the years. My last breakdown was when [REDACTED] was pregnant about twelve or thirteen years ago. Now I take drugs to help me manage my mood and they help me sleep too. I was diagnosed in The Priory with depression and complex trauma and a personality disorder. I am also diabetic.
78. I have had some support. I went to the mental health team in Argyll I met a doctor, Dr Corrigan, in Lochgilphead. I visited him once a fortnight for three years for psychotherapy. He is now retired. Now I'm left by myself. In Care Survivors referred me to psychotherapy over the telephone as I cannot travel to see them in Glasgow in person. Nothing more came of that and I am now in the process of arranging my own support in Dunoon.
79. I get overwhelmed by things, but I'm much stronger now. I was violent to others in the past if they approached me and I knew something was wrong, but I couldn't work out what it was. These feelings became more severe over the years. Now I stay in the house and seclude myself if I can't manage. I had to recount my story to so many different people in London and that was difficult as I had to relive the experience every time. I get panicked and anxious over very little and it's hard to breath sometimes, I feel a lot better now I live in Dunoon. I came here because I have so many happy memories from my time in Clyde Cottage.

80. I am now in touch with my father by telephone since he contacted me when he was turning eighty and wanted me to attend his birthday celebration. He lives in England and he is now aged 85. We were out of touch for a very long time. My mum died when I was quite young and she was just in her 40s. My dad had three girls with my mum, that's [REDACTED] me and [REDACTED]. He then went on to have nine children with my step-mum. I keep in touch with one of them, [REDACTED] as she came looking for me and we get on ok and speak on the telephone
81. My sister [REDACTED] lives in Glasgow and [REDACTED] lives in London. I have no contact with them at present. I love [REDACTED] to bits and I'll try with her too, but we just don't seem to agree with each other when we do meet and I need to make peace with her.

Reporting of Abuse

82. I made a report to the police in London in around 2012, and I am not sure of the date. I reported the abuse in Nazareth House and the gang rape in the 1970s. After I made my report I heard nothing back from the police. I reported to the police before I came back to Scotland. I spoke to two young officers in uniform at either Shepherd's Bush or Hammersmith police station and that was when I lived at [REDACTED] Shepherd's Bush. It wasn't a long interview. I heard nothing back and I didn't contact them myself. I don't remember their names. [REDACTED] never knew about it. I told [REDACTED] when she was young as I wasn't well and she had to go into foster care while I got better.

Records

83. I have been led to believe that there are no records from my time in care. I was told this by someone at the solicitors Ross Harper & Murphy as they said there are no files for Nazareth House. I don't have any records and I have never seen any. I would like to see them as I may get some answers to my questions, and I understand there is an organisation that can help me access the records.

Hopes for the Inquiry

84. I hope that the victims will now finally have justice for the abuse they suffered as children. I know I couldn't imagine treating my children in the way that I was treated. I am happy that the stories have come out and people are now taking notice of what happened to the children who were in care.

Other information

85. 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.

ESW


Signed.....

Dated...30-4-20/19.....