

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDQ [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is FDQ [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Edinburgh and lived in a room at [REDACTED] with my parents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My mother was born in Oldham and my father was from Poland. It says on my birth certificate that my parents were married in Dunfermline on [REDACTED] 1950 but when we went to register my father's death the Registrar could not find any record of their marriage.
3. I was the youngest of four children. My mother was 23 when I was born and my father was 40. My brother [REDACTED] was the eldest, next was my sister [REDACTED], then my sister [REDACTED] and finally me. At one stage the four of us were under the age of five years. We were brought up in the Catholic faith. My parents were practising Catholics. They insisted we were brought up as Catholics and kept together when we went into care.
4. My mother had mental health issues. She was institutionalised on several occasions and she spent some time in Carstairs. She tried to get rid of me when I was born by giving birth to me in the toilet. She took her own life in a mental institution in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 1977. Her death certificate recorded that she died of a health issue plus carbon monoxide poisoning.

5. My father liked his drink but I do not recall any violence in the home.
6. I am not sure when I was taken into care. According to my baptism certificate I was baptised at Corstorphine St Andrews Church at 23 months old but I am not sure if I was in care then. We were also in a nursery at Claremont in Edinburgh. It was run by social services. I found receipts of payments my father had made to the nursery after he died. Obviously if my mother was in hospital he had paid for us to be cared for while he was working. I don't know if we were in care at that time or just in a day nursery.
7. I believe social work took us from our parents and put us in Nazareth House in Aberdeen to make it more difficult for my parents to see us.

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

8. My first memory of Nazareth House was crying my eyes out on Sister LGR [REDACTED] shoulder as she carried me down the stairs on the day that I was moved from her nursery to the section for bigger girls. I was about four and a half years old. I remember everything in the nursery was dark wood and I slept in a cot in the nursery building. I had an instinctive fear of moving to the older girls' section. I was very attached to Sister LGR [REDACTED]. She was fantastic. She taught me how to embroider. Sister LGR [REDACTED] used to sit in her chair embroidering and I sat on my little stool embroidering.
9. Nazareth House had lots of buildings. The main building had a little porch with two church benches and then there was a hall which led to the Church. There were two flights of stairs. When we went to mass we would come along the corridor under the stairs. Girls would walk on one side, boys on the other side and a row of nuns down the middle.
10. There was a driveway which took you down to double gates. We had to walk down there every day to get the bus to school.

11. My brother was in Nazareth House for a very short time but then returned home and was raised by my mum. My sisters and I remained in Nazareth House although I did not know they were my sisters until we left Nazareth House and went into foster care together.
12. There were a couple of hundred girls at least in Nazareth House and a similar number of boys. The main house was mixed age. Boys and girls were kept apart.
13. All the nuns were involved in the running of the home and the care of the children. I can remember some of them. Sister Johns was very tall. I can't remember anything bad about her. She was strict but I don't think she ever hit us. Sister ^{LTX} [REDACTED] was very harsh. She dished out a lot of the punishment. We nicknamed her ^{LTX} [REDACTED] because she would look at you when she was displeased with you and her eyes would nearly pop out of her head.
14. Sister ^{FAF} [REDACTED] was strict but also fair and was good fun. I had no contact with Sister ^{LDW} [REDACTED] when she was alive but when she died we were all made to kiss her dead body. I remember being lifted up to kiss her in the open coffin when I was about six years old. This was in one of the side parts of the Church. It haunted me then and it haunts me now.
15. The Mother Superior was in charge overall.
16. I can remember some of the girls. [REDACTED] was my only friend. Her birthday was on [REDACTED]. She was the same age as me. We were the same height and build and had the same hair colour and people used to think we were twins. I still think of her now every year on [REDACTED].
17. [REDACTED] was older than me. There was a girl called [REDACTED] who was from Glasgow. There were girls called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who went to the hostel in Edinburgh as well as me whenever they left Nazareth House.

Routine at Nazareth House

Mornings and bedtime

18. The first building I stayed in was a great big place and it had big dormitories. There were lots of girls in the dormitory I slept in the dormitory which was in the attic. There were 24 mattresses on the floor, twelve on each side of the dormitory. I moved dormitory about half a dozen times during my stay at Nazareth House.
19. Eventually we were divided up into houses with twelve to a floor. I was on the first floor of a four storey building which we accessed through the back garden. There were four rooms with three girls of mixed ages in each room and then a nun's room. We were never allowed to go upstairs to any of the other girls' rooms.
20. We were woken up early. We had to make our own beds and change them every week. If we had had an accident and wet the bed, we had to wash our own bedding in the bath. I only wet the bed once because the girls in the dormitory wouldn't let me get up and were tickling me.
21. Those who did wet the bed regularly were treated terribly. One little girl wet the bed nearly every night. She was given a right hammering by the nuns. She would be slapped and hit and dragged away by her hair and her ear while she was screaming. Her face was rubbed in the wet sheets. Quite a few of the girls wet the bed regularly. The nuns humiliated them all the time. If anybody wet their pants they were made to wear them on their head with the crotch by their nose.
22. The nuns slept nearby and would check on us during the night. We had to lie in bed with our arms folded across our chests all night. If we moved we got hurt. We would be woken up, dragged out of the room, given a hiding and then sent back to bed. Sometimes we would be hit with a hairbrush on our backsides or the back of our

legs. That was a regular thing but it only happened to me once and I made sure it never happened again. As a result of this I can't sleep on my back any more.

Mealtimes / Food

23. The nuns supervised all the meals. We had to say prayers before breakfast and on a Saturday and Sunday we had to go to Church before breakfast. The Church was contained within the convent building. We got porridge for breakfast which I loved. I think I was the only girl to ask for second helpings. The food was mostly acceptable. Before we were divided into smaller houses we used to eat together in a big dining room with six to eight children to a table all in rows.
24. We had pork on a Tuesday lunchtime all too often. I have since found out that I am allergic to pork. I had a bad reaction to it and I would vomit. I couldn't eat it because my throat would just close up. The nuns would force me to eat the pork plus the vomit. Sometimes they would mix pudding in with the dinner. Three nuns would hold me down and one nun would stand over me and force feed me.
25. Many a time I was late for school or the bus as a result of this. I saw other children being force fed too. One table was reserved for children who hadn't eaten their lunch. You couldn't win. As a punishment for not eating we had to polish and scrub floors.
26. We got chicken on a Sunday. We would get the giblets and innards in gravy on a Saturday. Saturday's dinner was awful. It was disgusting and I couldn't eat it. Some of the girls would swap food so that the nuns wouldn't see that we weren't eating it and we managed to do this without them knowing. We had to be ever so sneaky and if we got caught we would be in terrible trouble.

Washing / bathing

27. During the week we would go down to the bathrooms in our vests and pants to get washed. There were three or four sinks, a couple of toilets and a bath. The nuns gave us red soap to wash our clothes with and we also had to use this soap to wash ourselves, our hair and our teeth. It didn't taste very nice so we used to say we had brushed our teeth when we hadn't.
28. We bathed once a week. I remember having to be lifted up into the bath and the bath water was always freezing cold and dirty. Girls of all ages had to queue up together naked for their turn. I don't remember girls with pubic hair or breasts so it must have been girls up to a certain age. We had to dry ourselves with a soaking wet towel.
29. You were called in in your underwear and examined for head lice. When we had head lice the nuns would rip the stainless steel nit comb through your hair until your head was bleeding and then they would douse you with Lorexine or Derbac.

Clothing / uniform

30. We wore a gymslip from Monday to Friday. It was navy or grey or black. I can't remember what we wore under it. We were given our uniform and underwear that we had to wear all week on a Sunday night. If you were last in the queue you got the wrong size. My shoes were always too small and too tight which damaged the bones in my feet. I have since had two operations on my feet to correct my bones. Sometimes my underwear was so big I had to tie it at the side.
31. In winter we had to wear wellingtons with ankle socks and our legs got chafed. We were never given anything to help it. We would get off the bus soaking wet. We had to go to Church and sing like this and we would also be freezing.

Religious Instruction

32. I did my First Communion, Confirmation and First Confession all at Nazareth House.

School

33. As an infant I went to St Mary's School. There was a Church with a school beside it. We wore white pinafores and were marched in to the classroom. We sat lined up on a bench and we had to copy off the blackboard. We wrote using chalk and slate. If we got something wrong the teacher would hit us with the ruler over the knuckles.
34. I then went to ██████████ in Aberdeen. We were bussed there and back in double decker buses. We were bussed to school and bussed back to the home for lunch. We were bussed back to school in the afternoon and then bussed back to the home at night. We wore a uniform supplied by the home. We didn't change out of our uniform during the week. We were given other clothes to wear at the weekend only.
35. I was the only one from Nazareth House in my class. I had told somebody what was happening at the home but a new girl who had come into the class whose surname was ██████████ heard about this and accused me of lying and pushed me over. She apologised months later.
36. I was bruised and had cuts as a result of the beatings I had received from the nuns at Nazareth House but the teachers at ██████████ never asked about them. They weren't interested. I was average at school and usually got a C.
37. At Nazareth House the nuns made the bigger girls supervise our homework. I think they were about thirteen or fourteen years old. ██████████ was supposed to be my charge when we were divided into houses but I can't remember ever having much contact with her. I was about ten years old then. I remember being very upset when she left Nazareth House.

Trips and Leisure Time

38. We went to Duthie park regularly and we once went to a big park in Elgin. There were lots of sports going on and we all took part. That was a nice day. We went on trips to the cinema. I was in the choir and we used to go to singing competitions. We went to pantomimes at the King's Theatre and Jimmy Logan used to get me up to sing with him. Andy Stewart used to perform for us in the big hall at Nazareth House.
39. We used to do Scottish Country dancing. Dance teachers came in from outside Nazareth House to teach us. I was very good. The nuns and the dance teachers used to take us to competitions. When I was four and a half I danced the sword dance at the Braemar Games. I won a medal which was presented to me by the Queen.
40. I was in the Brownies. Again this was taken by somebody who came in from outside Nazareth House and it was held in the hall in Nazareth House. We wore the Brownie uniform. I still have my Brownie badge today.
41. In the six week summer holidays we had to walk to the beach. We had lovely days on the beach but we would get sunburnt. Sun cream or after sun were never provided. We didn't receive treatment for our sunburn.
42. There was a couple called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] who used to take me out for the day and I remember sleeping over at their place. To me they seemed really old.
43. When I left Nazareth House I was contacted by a family called [REDACTED] I went to see them and they showed me a video of me playing on the beach with their daughters, who were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and a black dog. I must have had day trips to their home when I was in Nazareth House but I have absolutely no recollection of it. I did have some memory of the dog.

44. When I lived in the hostel I used to go for weekends and holidays there until the father passed away. They were lovely people and I can't understand why I have no memory of them.

Birthdays and Christmas

45. One Christmas there was a screen put up in the big hall in Nazareth House and we watched a film. We were each given a raffle ticket and when your number was called out you were given a present. We were allowed to play with it that day and the next day it was gone. The nuns told us the presents had been given to children who were worse off than us.
46. One Christmas, when I was seven, the TV studio invited some children aged six and under to attend the recording of [REDACTED] Because I was small for my age I was allowed to go. Father Christmas was there and I was terrified of him. They gave out presents to the children. The programme was televised on Boxing Day and I was at the [REDACTED] house so I pestered them until they let me watch it. I have since tried to get a copy of the programme but I was unsuccessful.
47. Birthdays weren't celebrated. I remember my eighth birthday and not one soul had said Happy Birthday to me all day. I was very upset. I told one of the other girls why I was upset and she called me a big baby. Then a nun asked me if it was my birthday and when I said it was, she took me to the Mother Superior who said I was allowed to select something. I chose a tin of beads and some lace and I had them for a long time until they were confiscated because I was naughty.

Pocket Money

48. We were lined up and given a thruppence for pocket money. Then they would say there is a penny going for the black babies, a penny for your post office book and because you were naughty this week you aren't getting the other penny.

Visits / Inspections

49. I can't remember any visit from social workers or my parents and I never went home.
50. When I was about five or six we were lined up and people would come in and choose children. We never saw the children again. We assumed they had been adopted. I remember this happening on at least two occasions. Nobody ever picked me.

Healthcare

51. I was sent to school when I had chickenpox. They told me it was heat bumps but I had chicken pox blisters. I can't remember ever seeing a doctor when I was at Nazareth House. I remember dentists coming in to Nazareth House and we were called up to see them in sixes. I never needed to have anything done.

Abuse at Nazareth House, Aberdeen

52. Children did chores as punishments. I would get beaten for lots of things I hadn't done. I was the fall guy for a lot of things a lot of the time. Punishments included scrubbing and polishing floors. We were made to stand facing a wall for hours in a corridor. I was generally known as **FDQ** so whenever I heard the nuns say **FDQ** **FDQ** I knew I was in trouble. This is why I now prefer to be known as **FDQ**

53. If we were in a line and we talked the nuns would discipline us with whatever came to hand. They had keys which they kept on chains and sometimes you would be whipped with them. We were also hit with wooden sticks and belts.
54. On a Saturday before or after dinner the nuns would say you have been bad this week and they would put you over their knee and hit you with a wooden hairbrush on your backside. This would be done in front of the other children. They would call you all sorts of things.
55. Sister **LGY** favoured the slipper. She would mete the punishments out there and then but the other nuns would wait until Saturday. If you could run and get away from Sister **LGY** and she couldn't catch you, you would get away with it.
56. In the main building of Nazareth House we were told to stand on the attic landing. Our names were called one at a time for us to go downstairs. I can't remember what this was for. I didn't hear my name being called. A nun came storming up the stairs, grabbed me and dragged me by my hair and my ear down four or five flights of stairs. My knees were banging on the stairs and I was screaming. My knees were strapped up with a crepe bandage which I had on for a long time and I used to limp. I never saw a doctor.
57. It turned out that one of my kneecaps had been shattered. I didn't find that out until years later when my knee cap locked and I was taken to hospital by ambulance. My kneecap was removed when I was thirty due to the damage caused. I still have trouble with my knee now.
58. On one occasion we were running over chairs in the hall and one of the nuns threw a chair at me which split my head.
59. The nuns made the girls be nasty to each other. There was bullying instigated by the nuns. We weren't allowed to show frustration or anger. If we cried the nuns would say that they would give us something to cry for.

60. We were made to feel unwanted, powerless, useless, alone, scared, defeated, deflated, fearful, hopeless, ashamed, dirty, worthless, wary and numb. I felt anxious and that I was not good enough.
61. I was told that I was an orphan and that nobody wanted me and that I was only there because the nuns let me and there was nowhere else to go. I think we were all told that. I felt totally alone. There was no love shown. I lived in total fear.
62. There were men working at Nazareth House. Mr LPK was the [REDACTED] For some reason I was always sent to him with somebody's [REDACTED] He was in his fifties and he wore his glasses down low on his nose. He was a little fat man. He used to make me sit on his knee and he would give me a sweetie. One day he put his hands down my pants and said I was a big girl now and it wouldn't be long before... He would always stop at that. A few times after that he put his hands inside me. I was eight years old when this happened.
63. There was also a tall thin man with black hair who wore a royal blue boiler suit or dungarees. I can't remember his name. We used to see him going into a shed with one of the children on a Saturday when we were in that play area. We were all outside so these men could do what they wanted. Nobody ever warned us to watch him or not to go with him.
64. I think the [REDACTED] must have said something to this man about me because he dragged me off and sexually assaulted me. He took me into a second shed which was like a coal shed. It was dark and horrible and that was where he raped me. He put me on a concrete shelf to rape me. I cried and asked him to stop but he wouldn't.
65. When I came out I was bleeding and he had ejaculated so I ran into the hall and sat on a galvanised bucket until it all stopped. I remember thinking that if I do a poo in here somebody is going to find it and see the blood and that stuff. Nothing was ever said.

66. He grabbed me again a few weeks later and did the same thing. I never told anybody because I was too scared. I tried to tell one of the other girls but she said to keep my mouth shut because nobody would believe me. Every time he came near me after that I would run away. There was no way I was going to let it happen again because it hurt too much. I warned [REDACTED] to run if he came near her and she trusted me so she took me at my word.

Leaving Nazareth House, Aberdeen

67. One day I was taken to a room and the nuns gave me a pair of pyjamas, vests, pants, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, a hairbrush and a comb. They also gave me a pair of sandals, which they measured me for, an outfit of clothes which I was told I was to wear on Saturday and a couple of other outfits. They were all put in a small brown leather case like the ones you see in the old films.
68. They told me to pick up the case on Saturday morning. I asked where I was going but the nuns told me they didn't know. I collected the case on Saturday morning after breakfast. There were a lot of other girls and we were taken to the train station and we went on a steam train to Glasgow. I think we had a carriage to ourselves.

JAI/JAJ [REDACTED] Balloch

69. JAI/JAJ [REDACTED] met us at the station and bundled me and two other girls into the back of a green van, which I think was a Morris van, and took us to their house. I had never met them before. I imagine they were over sixty. The other girls were my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This was the first time I knew I had sisters. I was never told by the nuns or by the JAI/JAJ [REDACTED] that I had a brother.
70. The JAI/JAJ [REDACTED] lived at [REDACTED], Balloch. It wasn't far from St Kessog's School where I did my last year of primary. I was eleven years old. The headmaster was called Mr McAuley.

71. I believe that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were fostered by the JAI/JAJ prior to us.
72. Mr JAI [REDACTED] worked for a company called [REDACTED] and Mrs JAJ [REDACTED] didn't work.
73. The JAI/JAJ had two natural children called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was in the RAF. [REDACTED] was three years older than me. Her real name was [REDACTED] but they called her [REDACTED]. The JAI/JAJ shared one bedroom with [REDACTED] and my sisters and I were in the other bedroom in a double bed.
74. The JAI/JAJ adopted a boy called [REDACTED] when we moved from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] to a bigger house. This was a maisonette. It had two bedrooms upstairs and one bedroom downstairs. I shared a twin room with my sisters. I shared a single bed with [REDACTED] and she used to take all the blankets so I had to get clothes to cover myself with because I was cold. [REDACTED] slept in the bedroom downstairs and the JAI/JAJ shared a bedroom with [REDACTED]

Chores

75. I didn't get on with my sisters. They were awful bullies but we did as we were told. I got the impression we were only there to do the housework. We did all the housework. [REDACTED] had to do their washing in a twin tub. I took it down and hung it out on the line in all weathers. My sisters and I had to wash our own laundry by hand. I dust panned and brushed the stairs, the landing and the hall upstairs every day.
76. Every Saturday I swept and mopped the communal stairwells and dusted all the banisters. Mrs JAJ [REDACTED] was being paid to do it I but I never saw the money. She inspected it and if I missed any I would get a clout around the ear. I ran errands for Mrs [REDACTED] who lived downstairs and she would give the JAI/JAJ a few pennies for me but I never saw them.

77. After we finished our housework we would be sent outside and told to come back at five o'clock. We didn't have watches so we had to guess what time it was. We used to go to Balloch and ██████ got a job in the ██████ café. ██████ and I used to clear the tables and eventually they gave us jobs doing that. We got fifteen bob a day which we had to give to the JAJ/JAJ ██████ to go in our savings. We worked in that café every day we could to get away from them.
78. When I left, Mrs JAJ ██████ gave Mrs Coutts my post office savings book and the only thing that was in it was the pound it was opened with. The wages I had received from the café were taken off me every time by Mrs JAJ ██████. I believed it was going into my savings account.
79. We weren't allowed to cry or show frustration or anger or any feelings. We felt forgotten and rejected. If we cried, we would be given something to cry for and would be slapped or hit. They told us we were orphans and that nobody would want me because I was such an awful child.

Mealtimes/Food

80. We were fed very meagrely. We ate in the kitchen and they ate in the living room on trays. We had a small handful of cornflakes for breakfast. We were given one slice of bread and butter to take to school for lunch. We got a tiny meal in the evening. We were always hungry. We would take it in turns to go down and steal three slices of bread out of the bread bin. ██████ got caught and after that they took the bread bin into the living room.
81. I used to steal the school dinner tickets after they were used so that I could get a school dinner. One day I got caught and was sent to the headmistress. She asked me why I was stealing food and when I explained I was hungry she phoned the social services department. She asked me why I walked the eight miles to school when I had a free bus pass. I told her Mrs JAJ ██████ had said I had to walk because I was fat and need to lose weight. She told me in future I was to get the bus because she had arranged for a replacement bus pass to be sent to the school for me. I

walked out of her office with the school badge of merit. I was the first pupil ever to receive it.

Discipline

82. I was treated quite badly by the JAI/JAJ. Mrs JAJ didn't like to discipline us and so Mr JAI would do it. She used to say wait until Mr JAI deals with you. Mrs JAJ said I had to be my underwear when I was spanked but she would not be present. Mr JAI would only chastise me when I was in my underwear. He spanked me in the bedroom but [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there.

Washing/Bathing

83. We had to clean our teeth with the Sunlight soap when we lived with the JAI/JAJ as well. I had to wash in the kitchen in my underwear in front of Mr JAI when he was cleaning shoes. Mr JAI walked into the bathroom and used the toilet when I was in the bath. He did that a few times. I don't think there was anything sexual in his behaviour.

Uniform/Clothing

84. I wore my sisters' cast offs. I never had new shoes. I wore my sister's old ones and stuffed the toes. I know that the JAI/JAJ got clothing grants for us but we never got new clothes. When I was in third year I did a lot of sport at school and [REDACTED] watched me. I was in the bath one day soothing my breasts which were sore after doing sport and [REDACTED] knocked the door and asked if she could come in.
85. She asked me why I didn't wear a bra. I told her that I had asked her mother for one when I was twelve but that she had told me I was too young. I had asked three times. [REDACTED] must have been mortified for me and she gave me one of her bras. The following morning Mrs JAJ took it off me. She reiterated that I was too young to wear a bra even though I had breasts. She never gave me a bra until the day before I was taken away.

School

86. The only good thing I can say about the JAI/JAJ is that Mr JAI used to check my homework, especially maths. I did badly in a maths test at school and I got zero marks. This was on my report card and Mr JAI went into the school to query it. He told them he had seen me doing my maths and I was very good. They told him it was because I wasn't showing my working out. I had been doing it all in my head.
87. Mr JAI showed me how to put the workings out down and as a result of that I passed my eleven plus examination. Nobody had ever bothered before that to sit with me and explain different things about maths and how things should be done.
88. I attended Notre Dame High School in Dumbarton. School was okay. Mrs JAJ never allowed me to go on school trips so I had to sit in on other classes. Mrs Peacock my maths teacher was wonderful. She used to give me extra maths to do which I was good at. I sat my leaving certificate exams at Notre Dame and passed them.

Birthdays and Christmas

89. Christmas was celebrated and we were given gifts which we were allowed to keep. I got a weaving loom and a lot of things to do with knitting and sewing. That felt personalised. My birthday wasn't celebrated.
90. We were never given pocket money.
91. My best friend in school was called [REDACTED]. She was the second oldest of seven children. Her family lived in a small flat and all slept in the same bedroom. Her birthday was the day before mine. I was invited to her birthday party. When her family sang Happy Birthday they sang Happy Birthday to [REDACTED] and FDQ My name was on the birthday cake as well. The tears were streaming down my face. It

was really nice. I bumped into [REDACTED] shortly after my second child was born but that was the last time I saw her.

Religious Instruction

92. The [JAI/JAJ] didn't attend church but we were made to go to [REDACTED] Church.

Trips/Holidays

93. Mrs [JAJ] had a sister called [REDACTED] and she and her husband [REDACTED] took us to Blackpool on holiday for a weekend when I was thirteen years old. We had days out with the [JAI/JAJ]

Visits/Inspections

94. My parents never visited when we lived with the [JAI/JAJ]
95. We were never allowed into the living room except on the occasions when the social worker, Mrs Coutts, came. She visited every six months. We were always seen in the presence of the [JAI/JAJ] Mrs [JAJ] threatened that if I said anything I would be sent back to Nazareth House.
96. I was finally able to speak up one day when Mrs [JAJ] went to the toilet. I asked Mrs Coutts to get us out of there because it was terrible. I was fifteen years old. This must have been in [REDACTED]. My sister, [REDACTED], was taken away within a week. I stayed there until I left school six weeks later. I finished school on Friday and I left the [JAI/JAJ] on Saturday. Mrs Coutts took me to the hostel in Edinburgh. My other sister chose to stay but after I left she moved in with her boyfriend.

The Good Shepherd, Colinton, Edinburgh

97. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

98.

99.

100.

101. My sister [REDACTED] had found my father and she took me to meet him when I was seventeen. He was living in Niddrie. That was wonderful. He had to go through social services to see me because I was still in the care system. He visited me in the Good Shepherd. His Polish was very good but his English was very poor. He told me that

we were taken from him and my mum and that they wanted to see us when we were in care but that they weren't allowed to. I had a relationship with my father until he died in 2001.

102. My father told me I had a brother. It took me eighteen years to find him with the help of the Salvation Army. My mother had got married again and his name had changed from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. He was living in North Wales with his partner [REDACTED]

Life after being in care

103. I married my sister [REDACTED] husband's brother just before I turned eighteen. He was called [REDACTED]. We lived with my father until our first child was born and then we were given a flat by the council. The marriage broke up because every time he drank he gave me a beating. When [REDACTED] hit me it felt normal because I was used to it. I lost a twin because of this. We had two children together, [REDACTED] who is 46 years old and [REDACTED] who is 41. [REDACTED] spent some time in jail for assaulting me.
104. I have a son called [REDACTED] who is 43 years old. He was born as the result of me being raped after I was babysitting for a friend in Pilton. I have another son called [REDACTED] who is 34. His father was called [REDACTED]. He beat me also and I ended up in the Women's Refuge as a result of this abusive relationship.

Impact

105. I made a failed attempt to take my own life when I was nineteen years old. I was separated from my husband and a single mother at the time. It was more of an accident than a serious attempt. The Samaritans helped me through it. They were wonderful.

106. I started attending counsellors called Brian and Deborah about 23 or 24 years ago. I belong to two groups that they run but I haven't been for the last year due to personal circumstances. They taught me coping mechanisms when I had flashbacks from my time in care.
107. I used to break down and cry for no reason and I couldn't work out why. They got me to think about me which is something I had never done before. I had always prioritised the children. They taught me about what I was and what I could be. They taught me to accept my progression. They made me realise that I was a victim but that now I am a survivor.
108. I have recently seen a doctor and am now on anti-depressants to help with the flashbacks to my time in care. This is mainly about Nazareth House but also my time in foster care with the JAI/JAJ. They were cruel in different ways. I do not have any feelings towards the nuns or the JAI/JAJ. Sister LTX was a young nun and she followed by example. She was doing what everyone else was doing and I believe she thought that was the way to do it. I am sure nuns weren't taught as novices that was how to treat children.
109. I have tried not to treat my children like I was treated while I was in care.
110. I did an access course and now run an art class now because I was unable to work due to physical ailments.

Reporting of Abuse

111. I saw an article in the newspaper asking for people who had been abused while in care to contact Ross Harper Solicitors. I saw Cameron Fyfe from this firm and I reported my abuse to the police around the year 2000 when he told me to. This was a couple of years after I made a statement to him. I reported it to Worcester CID. Two female officers from a specialised unit took my statement.

112. This was the only report I made to the police. I was never contacted by the police in Scotland. The police sent my statement to Cameron Fyfe. Mr Fyfe was representing me in a civil claim against the Sisters of Nazareth. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I hadn't told any of my children about the abuse I had suffered while in care until it was publicised by Ross Harper that they were looking for people to come forward.
113. [REDACTED]
114. I told Mr Fyfe to contact my sister [REDACTED] because she had been in care in Nazareth House as well and I wrote to her saying I knew her time in care must have been difficult for her. She contacted me and invited me to go to her house in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in Edinburgh. She had arranged for some of the other girls from the home to go as well. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] brought guitars and we sang together. I had been in the hostel in [REDACTED] with them and we had been in a folk group. [REDACTED] said that her memory of me at Nazareth House was standing alone in the playground looking as though I was going to burst into tears.
115. I met with a panel and they asked me a lot of questions. I was awarded £1000 compensation by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the scar on my face caused by a nun throwing a chair at me and £100 for the two rapes.

Records

116. I requested to see my medical records under the Freedom of Information Act and there are no records for me between the ages of two and fifteen.

Lessons to be Learned

117. I think children need to be listened to and believed. It is important that children feel they can tell you what is going on in their lives. We were too scared to tell anybody what was happening to us.

Other information

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

Signed..... 

Dated..... *21-05-2019*