

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LBF

Support person present: No

1. My name is [REDACTED] LBF [REDACTED]. This was my name as a child. My date of birth is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I lived with my mum, dad, two brothers and sister somewhere in the Granton area of Edinburgh. I can't remember the exact street. My sister's name is [REDACTED] and my brothers are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I am the eldest. For some reason, [REDACTED] was known as [REDACTED].
3. Looking back, I'd say we were a typical dysfunctional family. My mum and dad were quite violent towards each other, although there was never any violence towards the children. I was the only one who witnessed anything. The others were too young. We were well looked after. [REDACTED] and I went to school. I used to go and stay with my gran and Aunt [REDACTED] every weekend. That's how we lived.
4. We were taken into care after my mum left the family. My dad had my gran, aunt and uncle all living close by, but he wasn't allowed to keep us. We all lived only about three or four houses apart from one another. I've wondered over the years why we couldn't have stayed with my dad when there were so many other family members around to help look after us. Maybe they thought it was better for us to go into Nazareth House.

5. My dad kept us at home for a good couple of months after my mum left, and then social services came and took us away. I don't know how it came about. It's never been spoken about. Maybe somebody decided we shouldn't be living at home with just my dad. We were a Catholic family. I have no idea whether the parish priest had expressed concerns about us.
6. Social services had had no involvement with our family prior to my mum leaving. They just suddenly appeared after she left. They came to our house one day and took us all to Nazareth House in Lasswade. I don't know whether it was the weekend, or if we'd just been kept off school that day. We didn't know they were coming and weren't told we were going into care. My dad wasn't at home that day. I think he was at work. I don't think he knew we were being taken away. I think my paternal gran was in the house with us when they came. I think it was a surprise to her as well.
7. A woman social worker came to our house and collected us. I don't know her name. I remember being told to get into her car, which was white. We were only young, so we did as we were told. I don't remember exactly when it was. I think it was either 1967 or 1969. I was five or seven years old. [REDACTED] is a year younger than me. [REDACTED] was about eighteen months and [REDACTED] was about four or five months. We didn't take any of our belongings with us. All we had was what we were standing up in.
8. As far as I'm aware, there was no legal basis for us to be taken into care. I wasn't an abused child and I'd never been in trouble. My understanding of it now is that we were taken away because we had been left with a male parent.

Nazareth House, Lasswade

9. I remember arriving at Nazareth House and being met by a nun. She was a bit hostile. I don't know her name. She was shouting at the woman who was dropping us off.

10. I was quite taken aback on seeing the place. It was so big and there was a big statue outside the building. My brother and sister were crying. They were frightened. I was a bit frightened too, but I couldn't show it as I was the oldest and was trying to reassure them.
11. We got out of the car and were taken by the nun into the building. She walked us along a big, long corridor to the group we were going to be in. She spoke to the nun who was going to be looking after us. Her name was Sister [LFX] She told Sister [LFX] who we were and that we'd only just arrived. My first impression of her was that she was not in the least bit welcoming.
12. [REDACTED] and I were put into Group 2. That's how it was referred to. There were two other groups, Groups 1 and 3, in the big house. I think there were two staff members per group plus a nun. I think we went into Group 2 because that's where the vacancies happened to be.
13. There were about twenty kids in Group 2. The age range for the boys was from five to ten or eleven. The girls were a bit older. The boys went elsewhere when they reached twelve. I think they went to a place called St Ninian's. I stayed in Group 2 right through until I left.
14. There was another part of the home called Holycote. It was for the tots and one other group. I don't know anything about the other group. We didn't mix with them.
15. Sister [LFX] was the nun in Group 2 when I first arrived. There was a staff member called [LFY] She was really nasty. Most of the staff lived in the home, but she didn't. There was a wee room for the staff. [LFY] lived in [REDACTED]. The other staff were okay.
16. Sister [LFX] was the nun in Group 2 for around a couple of years after I moved to the home. She didn't like me. I don't know how often they rotated the nuns. Some were there for a couple of years and others for only a few months. I don't know if

they moved to other homes. There was a mother superior too. I don't remember her name.

17. I think Sister [LFZ] was the next one after Sister [LFX]. She was okay with me. Then there was Sister Bernadette. She was a really nice nun. Sister [LKI] came after her. I think she was only about eighteen. I was in high school by the time she came. She was okay with me. She was there when I left.
18. [LJH] came in as a staff member when [LFY] left. Her [] worked in Group 1, doing the same sort of job. [LJH] was nice. There was a male staff member in Group 1. I don't know his name. I didn't have any dealings with him.

Routine at Nazareth House

First day

19. The nun who met us at the front door left us with Sister [LFX]. She more or less got me and my siblings to stand in a line and started checking our heads for lice. The windows were long and I was standing head height with the window sill. I said to her, "We don't have lice. We get looked after". She slapped me hard across the face and my head rattled off the window sill. I didn't say anything else after that. She carried on checking our heads. She then told me and [] to stay where we were, and [] and [] got taken away to Holycote.
20. By this time the other kids in Group 2 were having a meal. I think it was teatime. We were told to go and join them. There were about twenty kids. I had never seen any of them before in my life. It was quite scary. We weren't introduced to the kids or any of the staff.
21. I think there were four tables in the dining room, with five or six kids round each table. We just found a place and sat down. I don't remember what I was given to eat.

22. After the meal, we went out to play. We also had to do benediction. At bedtime, I was told to go and get washed and then was shown to my bed. There was a nightie on the bed for me. I didn't have a toothbrush. I didn't get one until the next day or so. I remember that because I was very particular about my teeth, which was quite unusual for a child.
23. I slept in a dorm with other girls. That's when we got a chance to chat. They told me who they were and asked about me. They asked why I was in there. I said that I didn't know. They asked if my mum and dad were together or separated. I didn't really understand what they were talking about. I told them my mum had left but my dad was still in our house, and that my gran, aunt and uncle all lived only a few houses apart from one another.
24. I didn't sleep well the first night. There were children crying and I could hear screaming. It wasn't coming from the area I was in, so I didn't know why they were screaming. I could hear the staff walking around. It was quite scary the first night.

Mornings and bedtime

25. We always got up early because we had to go to mass in the morning. I'm guessing we got up about six o'clock. A whole crowd of us went into the bathroom to get washed. There were a good few sinks in the bathroom. You'd pick a sink, get washed, brush your teeth and then get dressed. Every child had a wee pigeon hole in the laundry room for their clothes. I think our names were on the pigeon holes. Once dressed, we lined up to wait on the others and then went to church. We got breakfast when we came back and went to school afterwards.
26. All our clothes were second-hand. I remember being given a pile of clothes on my first morning in the home. It wasn't until I was about twelve that I started getting brand new clothes. We were taken to the C & A shop in Edinburgh. We had play clothes, a school uniform and other clothes to wear to church on Sundays.

27. I think we had a bath before bed on alternate nights. The whole group got a bath. We all lined up, girls and boys, in a queue. It was one in, one out. The bath water didn't get changed. It was scorching hot if you were first in and filthy and freezing if you were last. It was a mad dash to get in the queue.
28. You were classed as responsible when you got to age ten. That meant you were responsible for one of the younger ones. You had to make sure they got their bath and washed their hair. You weren't just looking after yourself, you had responsibility for someone else.
29. After the bath, you got your nightie and dressing gown on, and then, depending on the time, you'd either go down and watch TV for a wee while or go straight to bed. We had to say prayers and then it was lights out.
30. When I first arrived, there was a dorm for the girls and one for the boys. I don't remember how many girls were in my dorm. After a few years, the place was refurbished and we had smaller bedrooms. There were two or three single rooms, which the older ones got, and other wee rooms with two or four beds in them.
31. The nun or staff member used to come into the dorm at night to make sure we were all asleep and in our own bed. Two of the girls in my dorm were sisters who were used to sleeping together. One would climb into the other's bed after lights out. She'd get slapped and put into her own bed if she was caught.
32. There were a few in my group who wet the bed. You were basically encouraged to humiliate them. They had to stand up at breakfast time in front of everybody and say that they'd wet the bed. They'd get put into freezing cold baths as well. I didn't witness people getting put in the bath, but I heard them screaming. I didn't experience any of this because I didn't wet the bed.

Food

33. We got porridge for breakfast nearly every day We'd get something different maybe twice a week. I never ate porridge even before I went into the home. I used to try to give it away.
34. I don't remember what we ate at other mealtimes. It was just food. Sometimes it was okay and other times it was not so good. You had to be quiet at mealtimes. We weren't allowed to talk at all.
35. You weren't allowed to leave your food. You had to finish what was on your plate, even if you were full or didn't like it. Sister [LFX] and [LFY] would force-feed you if you didn't eat it. I didn't eat the porridge the first morning I was there. Nobody said anything that time, so I thought it was okay to not eat it. Maybe they didn't say anything because it was only my second day. I found out soon enough that you weren't allowed to leave anything.

School

36. I was given a white blouse and grey skirt to wear to school on my first morning. I got a tie later that day. The school was St Mary's in Bonnyrigg. It was alright. It was about a mile to a mile and a half away from the home. We walked there and back by ourselves, it was quite a walk. We had lunch at school.
37. The staff member who came in after [LFY], [LJH], helped me with my homework. She helped me to catch up on things that I hadn't picked up on. Looking back now, I think she sort of took me under her wing.

Leisure time

38. There was a sitting room where we could watch TV or do our homework after school. We could go out to play if it was nice. We played outside with the children from Groups 1 and 3. Each group had their own door that led out to the big playing field. I

was friends with a girl called [REDACTED] from another group. We then got our tea, unless it was a Friday, as we had to do benediction before tea on Fridays.

39. We had free time again until about seven or eight o'clock. We would watch a bit of TV. There were about ten books in the sitting room. We didn't have many games either. We had to make our own entertainment.
40. We used to get pocket money, but I can't remember how much. We had to save half, and we spent the rest in a wee shop in Lasswade. We had wee post office savings account books. I don't know what the purpose of saving was as we never got any of the money, and I wasn't given the book when I left.
41. By the time Sister [REDACTED] LKI came to the home, I was a bit older and was allowed to go out socialising. She let me go to the disco in Loanhead on a Friday night with the older girls.
42. Another staff member came in after [REDACTED] LJH. I used to stay overnight at her house. She used to take me to see her brother playing in a band. I had a bit of a social life when I got older. It did get better as I got older.

Chores

43. We had to polish the floor of the big, long corridor until it gleamed. It was a weekly chore. We put the polish on by hand and buffed it up with rags on our feet until it was shiny. It took ages. We also had to brush and mop the floors in the kitchen and dining room. Each of the groups had their own kitchen and dining room.
44. You had to change your bed and make sure your part of the dorm was tidy. If you had responsibility for a younger one, you did their bed too. The beds were inspected by a nun or staff member, but you didn't have to queue up and wait for them. It wasn't regimented. You'd let them know you'd done it and if it wasn't done right, you'd be told to go back and do it again.

45. I did my own washing and ironing when Sister [REDACTED] LKI [REDACTED] came. I liked to do it because it made me feel grown up.

Holidays

46. We were taken to Dunbar on holiday every year for three weeks. It was supposed to be a holiday but the abuse still carried on there as well.

Birthdays and Christmas

47. Birthdays weren't celebrated. I knew when it was my birthday, but I didn't get a card or anything else. I don't know whether my family sent anything in. If they did, I never got it. Christmas was celebrated. We got gifts, sometimes new and sometimes second-hand. If you got anything nice from your family, it was taken off you. I got a watch from dad one time and it was taken away. They said I didn't need it.

Visits/Inspections

48. My dad wasn't allowed to come and visit us. I think it was because he came up really drunk one time so they never allowed him to come back.
49. My gran on my dad's side used to visit me and [REDACTED] every Saturday. She'd bring sweeties and fruit. She spent time with us in the wee visitors' room and took us out if the weather was nice. She used to take us down to the park in Bonnyrigg for a couple of hours, and we saw my dad there. I don't know if she also went to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in Holycote. She never said that she'd seen them.
50. My other gran and my Auntie [REDACTED] also visited. They came maybe once every two to three months. They didn't take us out. They just saw us in the visitors' room.
51. Sister [REDACTED] LKI [REDACTED] arranged with the mother superior for me to go and stay with my gran and Auntie [REDACTED] at the weekends. I think I was about eleven when that started. I used to go on a bus from Bonnyrigg to Edinburgh on a Saturday morning

and get the bus back on the Sunday. My Auntie [REDACTED] used to meet me at the bus station and we'd walk down Leith Walk. My friend, [REDACTED], used to spend the weekend at home with her dad, so I went back on the bus on Sundays with her.

52. A social worker was appointed to me when I got older. His name was Mr Madden. My mum had applied to get me out of the home by then. I think she started the process of trying to get me out of the home when I was about thirteen. Mr Madden spoke to me about it. I think I only saw him about three or four times the whole time I was in Nazareth House.
53. My mum had never once visited until she applied to get me out. She then came to see me with her partner. Up until then, I had no idea where she was, neither did my gran or auntie. She had never been in contact with them since she left my dad's. I had no idea who she was when she came. I had sort of forgotten her.

Siblings

54. My brother and sister, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were taken away to the other side of Nazareth House the first day we arrived. I never saw them again until they were five and came to live in Group 2. They were just whisked away that first day. We weren't even allowed to go and visit them.
55. The place had been refurbished by the time [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to Group 2. [REDACTED] wasn't put in a bedroom with me. She went into a room with three other girls. I was never given responsibility for [REDACTED]. She was looked after by other girls. You'd think, given she was my sister, that I would have been asked to look after her.
56. I saw [REDACTED] every day until he left Nazareth House. He was in the same group as me. We were only separated at night for sleeping purposes. [REDACTED] had gone by the time [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to our group. I don't know whether he was fostered or adopted. I didn't know he was leaving. Nobody told me. One day he was there, the next day he was gone. I was either at school or out playing and he wasn't there when I got back. I never got a chance to say goodbye. Somebody probably

discussed it with him and told him what was happening. I'm just presuming that. I've never had any contact with him since he left, so I don't know what he was told. He went to live with one of the staff, [REDACTED] LKA [REDACTED], and her family in Fife. She was nice. I think he was about ten when he left. I think [REDACTED] LKA [REDACTED] carried on working in the home after [REDACTED] went to live with her.

Healthcare

57. I don't think we got a medical inspection when we arrived at Nazareth House. I only remember the nun going through our hair. I don't remember our height or weight ever being noted. I remember seeing a doctor once. It might have been a general check-up.
58. A dentist came round at school and checked our teeth. The home didn't provide a dentist.

Inspections

59. We never got to know if anyone was coming to inspect the place. I don't think it was ever inspected. We would have sussed something out if there had been any official people coming in. The only people who used to come in were from a Sunday school group. They came once a year and had picnics in the grounds.

Abuse at Nazareth House

60. Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED] always picked on me. Even if I wasn't involved, it was always me who got the blame. She hit me most days. I've already mentioned that she slapped me on the face the very first day I arrived. I'd say I got hit every two or three days.
61. We used to go to the swimming pool in Bonnyrigg on a Sunday. I was late back one day, which annoyed Sister [REDACTED] LFX [REDACTED]. She called me into the dining room. All the chairs were tilted up on the tables. She asked me why I was late, and I said that I

hadn't rushed up the road. She slapped me and I fell to the floor. She then started kicking me on the face and stomach. She was shouting at me, telling me to stand up. All the while she was doing this to me, there was this stupid song, All Kinds of Everything, by Dana playing in the background. She had just won the Eurovision Song Contest. Every time I hear that song now, it makes my blood run cold.

62. I fell against the record player and it scratched the record. Sister [LFX] started hitting me with a wooden chair, banging it on my back, over my head and on my legs. Eventually, the chair broke and she started hitting me with the leg of the chair. I think she must have exhausted herself with all the hitting and kicking, as she then stopped and told me to get up and get out.
63. I took myself up to my room and just lay on my bed, crying. I was covered in bruises. She had been kicking me with thick, heavy boots, and she didn't come up to see if I was okay. I was only a wee lassie. I think I was about seven. I hadn't long had a birthday. There was no apology. She thought she could do it, so she did it. That was the punishment for being five or ten minutes late. None of the staff came to check that I was okay. I was just left there. I have a vague memory of Sister [LFX] coming to me later in the night and asking if I was okay. I don't know if she actually did come or whether it's just something in my head.
64. Sister [LFX] slapped me across the face one day when I was having a laugh and carry-on with a few others. I was about eight or nine. I lost my balance and fell down the stairs. I knocked myself out. They couldn't bring me round, so Sister [LFX] took me to the hospital in a red van. She drove the van and I sat in the passenger seat. I kept slipping and out of consciousness and she punched me two or three times to waken me up. Each time she punched me, she shouted, [LBF] waken up."
65. I'm assuming I went to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, but I don't know for sure. I had concussion and was kept in overnight. I don't know if my face was marked from the slap. I don't remember being asked by a nurse or a doctor about what had happened to me. There didn't seem to be much concern. The nun probably said that I'd been fighting with other children and fell.

66. They didn't need a reason to hit you. It wasn't like you did something bad and then got punished for it. They hit you just because they could, just because you happened to be there. I was hit by a staff member called LGA. She was in Group 3.
67. I was force-fed on a couple of occasions, once with spaghetti. I was adamant I wasn't taking it and tried to keep my mouth shut while Sister LFX banged the spoon against my mouth. I had bruising all around my mouth and my gums were really sore afterwards. If I was sick when being force-fed, the vomit was forced into my mouth as well.
68. LFY would walk round the dining room with a thick wooden spoon, which she'd use to hit us on the side or top of the head if she caught us talking.
69. LFY was wicked. We used to be allowed to go down to the chapel in Bonnyrigg. You just asked if you wanted to go. I said I was going there one day and then changed my mind and went somewhere else. They managed somehow to find out that I hadn't gone to church. LFY beat me with the wooden spoon when I got back to the home. She was hitting me on my bottom at first and the nun told her not to hit me there, as there was too much flesh and I wouldn't feel it. She told her to hit me at the bottom of my back, which she did several times. I don't remember which nun it was. I didn't count how many times LFY hit me, but it was a lot. It was really, really sore. I could hardly walk after it. It actually scarred the bottom of my back.
70. My friend, [REDACTED] was hurt by one of the nuns when we were about twelve or thirteen. It wasn't a nun from our group. I don't know her name. [REDACTED] hit the nun back and pulled her veil off. She then got sent away to live in St Euphrasia's in Glasgow. I kept in touch with [REDACTED] when she left. I still do. I wrote to her one time and got a slapping from a nun when she opened [REDACTED] reply to me. I think it was Sister LFZ who hit me. It was just a slap, not a beating.

71. It's difficult to explain what it was like. You knew other kids were getting hurt, but you didn't always witness it. They were taken away sometimes. You just knew it was happening. Every child in there knew about it.
72. Cold baths and getting humiliated were the typical things for the bed-wetters. I remember a nun rubbing a child's face in her bed because she had wet it. She was roaring and shouting at her. It wasn't Sister [LFX] as she had moved on by then. I don't remember who the nun was or the child's name.
73. Sister [LFZ] used to hit [REDACTED] and another boy, [LBL] a lot. They seemed to get the brunt of it. I only ever saw her hitting them with her hands. It was hard for me to see my little brother getting hit and not being able to stop it. It was hard for me to see any child getting hit. I don't know if Sister [LFZ] was as brutal as Sister [LFX] or [LFY]. As I said, you didn't always witness what was happening.
74. It seemed to be that they stopped hitting you once you got to a certain age. I don't know how Sister [LKI] was with the other kids, but I was a bit older when she came so I was okay.

Leaving Nazareth House

75. Mr Madden came to visit and told me I was going to spend the weekend with my mum. The next thing I knew, I was signed out of Nazareth House and was staying with my mum permanently. I was fourteen. I hardly knew my mother, yet I was sent to stay with her and her partner, Mr [LWU]. Sister [LKI] was the nun in Group 2 at the time. She didn't mention anything about it to me. I didn't have a say in the matter.

Life after being in care

76. I went to live with my mum and Mr [LWU] [REDACTED] in Fife. I don't think I should have been sent to live there. Living with my mum was like living with a stranger.
77. I wasn't allowed to keep in contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] after I'd left Nazareth House. There was only one phone in the convent and it was held where the Mother Superior lived. I was always told that my brother and sister weren't there whenever I phoned to speak to them.
78. I went to two schools, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], when I moved in with my mum. I think it worked out that way because the schools taught different subjects. I don't think having to change school was disruptive. I just managed to cope. I just went with the flow. I didn't do any exams. I left before I sat my prelims. I wasn't academic in the least. As I got older, I got more academic and went to university, but I wasn't interested at that particular time.
79. Mr [LWU] molested me. I told my mum and she slapped me across the face and said that I was a liar. I decided to leave home at the first opportunity. I went through to Edinburgh to stay with my gran and Auntie [REDACTED] for the summer holidays. I think I was fifteen. My mum had agreed I could stay there for the whole summer. I was expected to make my own way back to my mum's when it was time to go back to school, but I refused to go. My Auntie [REDACTED] then asked me outright if Mr [LWU] had done something to me, and I told her what he'd done. She phoned my mum and told her what I'd said. My mum came through the next day with Mr [LWU] and we went to see Mr Madden at the social work office.
80. I had to go down and give a statement to Mr Madden. I went with my mum and Mr [LWU] [REDACTED]. We went to the social work office in Shrubhill, which was the social work main office. We were told we would be spoken to down in the annexe. The annexe is what I called it. I don't know if they called it that. It was the other part of the office which

was down in the wee shopping centre on Leith Walk. I told Mr Madden what Mr [LWU] had done to me. My mum and Mr [LWU] spoke to Mr Madden as well. For some reason, I was then told that I had to go back and stay with my mum and Mr [LWU]. Mr Madden made that decision. I don't know if he discussed it with anybody. I don't think he did as there was nobody else in the annexe. I didn't have any further contact with Mr Madden after I went back to my mum's.

81. I was petrified that something else was going to happen when I went back. I used to barricade myself in my room at night to make sure Mr [LWU] couldn't get in. My mum, knowing what he had done, still used to leave me alone with him. She used to go and stay with a friend in Edinburgh for the weekend and leave me in the house with him. He did try to come in to my room once or twice and I told my mum when she came back, but she didn't listen to me.
82. I left school around the end of the November just before my sixteenth birthday in [REDACTED]. I had to get away from my mum's, so I left home and stayed with my friend [REDACTED] when she was visiting her dad at the weekend, and I also stayed with my friend, [REDACTED] when her partner was working away. When I wasn't staying with them, I slept in stairwells.
83. As soon as I turned sixteen, I went through to Edinburgh to live with my gran and Auntie [REDACTED]. I knew that once I turned sixteen, I couldn't be sent back to my mum's. While I was living with my gran, my mum got full custody of my brother and sister, and they went to live with her and Mr [LWU]. Mr [LWU] sexually assaulted my sister. She reported it to Mr Madden and nothing got done about it. I didn't know about it at the time, I only learnt about it years later. I just don't understand why my mother was allowed to have my brother and sister staying with her when there had already been an allegation made by me about Mr [LWU].
84. Maybe I was naïve, but I didn't think he would do anything to my sister. When I heard that she was going there to stay there, I thought he wouldn't do anything because I had reported him already. I really couldn't believe it when I found out.

85. After I moved back to my gran's, I got a job and was quite settled. Although, I did fall out with my gran at one point and went back to stay with my mum for about six months. My mum had had another son, [REDACTED] by then. My brother and sister were living there too. I then went back to my gran's and stayed there until I met the man who became my husband. I lived with him for six years and then we got married. He and I had one daughter.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House

86. I told my Auntie [REDACTED] when she came to visit me in Nazareth House about [REDACTED] LGA the staff member from Group 1, hitting me. [REDACTED] confronted her but nothing was ever done about it. I don't know if it was brought to anybody else's attention. I didn't mention the abuse to my relatives again because nothing came of it that time. Also, I think there were consequences of some sort for me after I told my aunt about [REDACTED] LGA but I don't remember what they were.
87. I don't think I told Mr Madden about the abuse. I did see him on my own with no staff or nuns around, but I don't think I said anything. I didn't see him very often anyway. He probably knew what was going on. I don't know why I think this. I suppose it's because there were always kids with bruises. The nuns probably said that we'd been fighting among ourselves if we had bruises. The funny thing is that the children didn't fight with each other. All those children living together and they didn't fight; it's strange actually.
88. I don't think I would have been able to tell a social worker about the abuse if I'd had more regular meetings with someone. We were really, really scared. The nuns might have come across all lovey-dovey when other people were around, but you would have paid for talking when they left.
89. I spoke to the police about Nazareth House in 1996. They took a statement from me. That was at the time when there was an investigation into Nazareth House. I also saw a lawyer, but nothing came of it. It didn't go to court. I did get £1000 criminal

injuries compensation. I told them I had a scar on my back because of the beating with the wooden spoon, and I had to go and show them. It was a bit humiliating.

90. I found out what Mr [LWU] had done to my sister at the same time as I heard about the investigation into Nazareth House. I just had a feeling something was wrong and went to see her. She burst into tears and told me what he'd done to her. We went to the police and gave a statement. It went to the procurator fiscal and came back saying something like "no proceedings".
91. The police contacted me recently and I arranged to meet them on [REDACTED] 2017 to give a statement about Nazareth House. They had the statement I made previously, although they only had part of it. I had given a lot more information. I filled them in on what was missing. They didn't have anything on what Mr [LWU] had done either. I don't know how the police got my details. I didn't initiate the contact. They just turned up at my house and left a card for me to contact them. The police officer I spoke to was DC [REDACTED] from Livingston police station. I am happy for the Inquiry to contact her if further information about the investigation is required.

Impact

92. I'm not very sure how to describe the impact of my time in Nazareth House. It's difficult to put into words. I don't trust people easily. I'm always very wary. It's like I've built a wall between me and other people.
93. I think my experiences had a lot to do with why I split up from my ex-husband. We were together for sixteen years. He used to hit me. I don't know why I married him. He knew what had happened to me and he used it as a weapon. He verbally abused me about it. It was constant. He was always saying things like he was doing me a favour being married to me, because nobody else would want me.
94. I am finding it harder to talk about my experiences now. I gave statements to the police in 1996 and it didn't affect me as bad as it is now. I was actually dealing with a

difficult divorce back then as well. I don't know why it's affecting me worse this time. The statement I gave back in 1996 is exactly the same as what I'm saying now, yet I get more upset talking about it this time. I've started counselling recently. I was put in touch with the counsellor through Future Pathways. I've never had counselling before.

95. My sleep has been affected. I can get to sleep, but I can't stay asleep. I waken with nightmares. The nightmares are all to do with Nazareth House. One night last week I was screaming in my sleep, and my daughter came into my room and wakened me. I wasn't even aware that I was screaming. I saw my GP recently and he gave me a sick line for two weeks to give me time to try to sort my mind out. I've to go back to see him when the line expires and he'll assess me to see whether I need sleeping tablets or anti-depressants.
96. I also feel guilty because I wasn't able to protect my brothers and sister. I know I was only child and I'm being hard on myself, but I was the eldest and I felt responsible for them.

Records

97. I've written to Nazareth House three times and not had any reply. I've also written to the social work department in Edinburgh asking for access to my records. I wrote in the letter that I didn't know which year I went in and told them it was either 1967 or 1969. They never got back to me.
98. I've spoken to someone from Future Pathways and they've forwarded my details to a company which I think is called Birth Right. Hopefully, they can help me get my records. I'll be happy to share them with the Inquiry if I do recover them.
99. My sister and I wrote to social services around the time I found out that Mr LWU had sexually assaulted her. They wrote back saying they had no record of Mr Madden. It


made me wonder whether he was really a social worker, although I don't know how much effort they put in to try and trace him.

Lessons to be learned

- 100. It was a different era when I was in Nazareth House. There was a different way of thinking towards children. Nowadays, I think it would be good for children in care to have someone they can go to, someone who they feel comfortable talking to about anything. They need to know that they have someone who will listen to them, believe them and not judge them.

Other information

- 101. 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 28/11/17.....