

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LDI [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is LDI [REDACTED]. This was my name as a child. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1964. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mum and dad's names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We lived in Maryhill, Glasgow before I went into care. I have no memories of my life at home as I was only about two years of age when I went into Nazareth House.
3. I went into care because my mum committed suicide and I think my dad was in prison at the time. There were nine of us in the family. I was the second youngest. Only four of us went into Nazareth House. The older ones went to live with my Granny [REDACTED], who also lived in Maryhill, and the youngest, [REDACTED], was only eight weeks old and was adopted by my dad's brother and his wife.
4. I went into Nazareth House with my sisters, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and LCT [REDACTED], LCT [REDACTED] is a year older than me. I think [REDACTED] is now about fifty-nine or sixty. She was the oldest of the four of us. I think there's only about a year between her and [REDACTED]. My mum had all of us one after the other.

Nazareth House, Glasgow

5. I was too young to have any memories of arriving at Nazareth House. I only remember wee bits and pieces from my early years in the home. I know I had a feeling that things were different. It was such a big place and there were so many other kids there. It seemed massive to me as a child, like a castle. That's the way we used to look at it, like a big castle.

6. I was in the nursery group with LCT at first. I think and might have been there too, and then they moved on to another group when they got to a certain age. There's not really much I remember about the nursery. I remember sleeping there, and I always remember pulling at the sister's habit to get her attention. I was probably around three then.

7. There were lots of kids of all different ages in the place. The way it worked was that you got put into groups depending on your age. The nursery, which was on the ground floor, was for babies and kids up to about school age. There were two other groups upstairs. There were about twenty kids, boys and girls, in each group and each had its own dorm. The group on the left-hand side, the green group, was for kids up to about ten and the one on the right, the red or blue group, was for the older kids. There was another group in a separate building. You worked your way through the groups as you got older.

8. I don't really remember the staff in the nursery, apart from LKB. She was there from when I was a kid right through to when I left. There was one nun in charge of each group. They slept in rooms partitioned off the dorms. Sister LHA was in the green group. There was a whole floor on the other side of the building which was full of nuns. They also were involved in looking after the kids. The mother superior was always down on the ground floor in her own room. I think I only saw her twice in my whole life. The other staff I remember are Madeline and James Hollywood. James is another one I

remember being there from my younger days right up until I left. Madeline did some work with the kids and James was the driver. He used to get the supplies for the home and take us and the nuns to places.

Routine at Nazareth House

Mornings and bedtime

9. I slept in a big dorm when I moved up to the bigger group. I remember being with LCT in the dorm, but not or . There were big, glass doors as you walked into the dorm and the beds were in sections around each wall. The layout was the same in the other group's dorm.
10. We got up in the morning at six o'clock to go to mass. The nuns would put the lights on and start shouting at us to wake us up. Nobody helped us to get dressed. We just did it ourselves in the dorm. There was no privacy until we moved into the older group. We all had breakfast in the dining room together after mass.
11. We washed before bedtime, got into our pyjamas and went to bed around seven o'clock. I think that was the time. I know it was definitely early. Lights would be out for about eight. Nobody came to read us a bedtime story or anything like that.
12. Mostly everybody in your group lined up for a wash at the same time. There were big sinks in the bathroom, Shanks sinks I think they were called. There was a big, deep one and a smaller one next it. You sat in the sinks to get washed. There would be one kid in the big sink and another in the smaller one at the same time. There was no privacy. I don't know if the water got changed for each kid. We washed and dried ourselves. I don't really remember anybody bathing me, apart from when I was younger. There were around three different baths and a number of normal-sized sinks along the wall in the bathroom as well. The baths were for the older ones.

Food

13. The food was disgusting. We got porridge or cereal and toast at breakfast. The porridge wasn't even cooked right and was full of lumps, and the toast was always burnt. I could eat the breakfast but the dinners were atrocious. I was force-fed the dinners, and sometimes they would put the same food down to me if I hadn't eaten it at an earlier meal. We ate our lunch in the home as well.

School

14. I went to Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School and then Lourdes Secondary School. Both schools were just outside the Nazareth House gates, one to the left and one to the right. All the kids stood in line and walked to school together. I remember always looking back and looking at everybody in line. When I think about it now, I think it was quite embarrassing for us all to be walking together like that. I think that's why a lot of other kids used to say things about us. It was obvious we lived in the home.
15. We were called names at school because we were dressed in 'trampy' clothes. We wore a uniform but it was never new. All of our clothes were passed down from other kids. I always felt different from the other children at school. I don't why I felt that way. Maybe it was just because I was in a home.
16. I did like going to school though, as it meant getting out of Nazareth House. I did quite well at primary school, and I got on well with the teachers. I didn't feel that the teachers treated us differently. We were just the same as everybody else to them.

Leisure time

17. You weren't allowed out unless you were going for a walk along the paths in the grounds with the nuns and the staff. There were mostly fields all round about, but I

wasn't allowed out to play until I was about ten. We were always kept in when we were wee, apart from when we went to school.

18. There was a sitting room everybody could use. There were big chairs, a telly, a piano, a board on the wall with lots of stuff on it and some books. There weren't any toys in it. It was just somewhere to sit.
19. When I was older, I used to go to Madeline and James Hollywood's house for dinner after school. I was actually quite close to them. They were good people.

Chores

20. We were given different jobs to do, like polishing everybody's shoes, washing, drying and putting away the dishes, or doing the bedding. As you came in Nazareth House, there were glass doors at the side and a box room with dookits for everyone's shoes. You had to sit there on a wee stool when you got home from school polishing the shoes for everybody in your group, all twenty pairs. The shoes were polished almost every day because they were dirty from going to school each day. I think it worked on a week's rotation.

Religion

21. We went to mass every single morning and benediction at five o'clock at night. We had to kneel at our bed and say prayers at night. On a Sunday it was all about mass. Everybody had to sit in the chapel after mass and say the whole rosary. The books in the home were bibles or other religious ones. Mostly everything was religious.

Holidays/trips

22. I remember we went on day trips in taxis a couple of times a year to Girvan or Irvine and Troon. I also remember going on holiday to Glengarry Guesthouse in Girvan with all the kids in the home and the staff and nuns.

23. LCT [REDACTED] and I were taken to a caravan once with a couple we had never met before. We were sexually and physically abused there. I have no memories of going on any other trips with people not connected with the home.

Birthdays and Christmas

24. We got one gift and a cake on our birthday. They would put on a wee party for the person whose birthday it was. The cake was big enough for everyone in the group to have a piece. We also got one gift at Christmas.

Healthcare

25. We went to see Dr LKQ [REDACTED] if we were poorly. He wasn't based in Nazareth House. He would come in from outside the home. I don't know where he came from. He had a room in the home where he saw us.
26. I don't know if any kids ever had to go to hospital with injuries from beatings. I think Dr LKQ [REDACTED] would have been the one to deal with that. He was always brought in when kids were sick. I remember one time a crowd of us were all laid up in bed with food poisoning and he was brought in to see us.
27. I always had bother with athlete's foot, so I used to have to see him quite a lot. I had it really bad. I think it was from always having to wear other people's shoes. I never got a new pair of shoes. They were always passed down from somebody else. It was the same with clothes. No matter what clothes you wore, they were always passed down from somebody else.
28. I can only remember seeing a dentist when I went to secondary school.

Visits/Inspections/reviews

29. My dad came to see us eventually. I think my first memory of seeing him is when I was about eight. He was always drunk, so he wasn't allowed in and was kept at the gate.
30. I think my Granny [REDACTED] came to visit LCT [REDACTED] and me whenever she could. Nobody else was there when we saw her. I don't know whether she visited [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] separately.
31. My social workers were Jim Cameron and June O'Brien. I think they were based in the Maryhill social work office in Glasgow. I'm not really sure how long they were my social workers. Apparently they had been there all my life, but I don't remember seeing them or having anything at all to do with them before I was about eight. They would come to see LCT [REDACTED] and me and we'd all sit round a table and have a chat. There would just be the four of us in the room. They'd ask us how we were and stuff like that. LCT [REDACTED] used to say quite a lot to them about the problems she was having. I don't think they paid any attention to her. I told them things as well when I was older.
32. I remember two priests, Father LSO [REDACTED] and Father Hay, used to visit. I was abused by Father LSO [REDACTED]. Father Hay was a nice priest. I never had any problems with him.
33. I don't remember there ever being any meetings to review my situation and discuss whether I was to stay in Nazareth House or move on elsewhere. I never attended a children's panel. I know LCT [REDACTED] did because she used to run away.
34. Apart from the social workers, nobody official ever came and spoke to me to ask me how I was being treated in the home. I would remember if they had. I do not remember any official inspections ever taking place.

Siblings

35. I was always in the same dorm as LCT until she left Nazareth House when she was about thirteen.
36. LCT and I used to get taken from the nursery up to the older group to see and for about an hour or so on a Sunday. I remember all of us just sitting there. We didn't have games or anything like that to help us interact. I think things got a little bit better once we understood who and were, and we then got talking. and were then fostered out. The people who fostered them were sometimes there when we were taken up to see them. A nun used to be there too, sitting in the corner with her wee nose in a book. I think and got fostered out not long after I moved out of the nursery. I would only have been about six or seven when they left.
37. and's foster parents sometimes took us for a few hours to spend time with them after they were fostered. I think I was between eight and ten when that happened. It was just once in a while and then it stopped. We didn't have any contact with them at all after that.
38. My dad's brother, and his wife, adopted my sister when my mum committed suicide. They lived in Newcastle. We used to go there during the school summer holidays to visit them. I think they were trying to keep the family connection going between the three of us. I'm not sure how often we visited. I do know we went down there more than once.
39. I don't know exactly what happened, but I think things fell through when we were on a visit, and we ended up in Nazareth House in Newcastle. I remember LCT and me being in a massive dorm. There were only the three of us in this big dorm. I don't know whether all the other kids had been moved out of the home at that time. I was maybe about ten or eleven at the time.

40. Nothing happened to me in Nazareth House in Newcastle. [LCT] and I went back to Glasgow after that, and [REDACTED] stayed with my uncle and aunt. For whatever reason, the contact between the three of us then stopped.

Abuse at Nazareth House

41. Most of the abuse I remember took place when I was between the ages of about eight to eleven. I don't know if other things happened when we were all younger. As far as I'm concerned, the nuns didn't discipline us, it was all abuse.
42. All of the nuns were involved in the abuse. I don't remember any of them being kind. The names of the nuns I remember are Sister [LGS], Sister [LFL], Sister [LHA], Sister [LGY], Sister [LKE], Sister [LJS] and Sister [LNV]. Sister [LGS] was in the red or blue group. Sister [LHA] was in the green group. She had a [REDACTED] I think she got moved away because allegations against her were made, and I think she was replaced by Sister [LJS]. I remember Sister [LKE] more from when I was younger, so I think she was in the nursery group.
43. I hated meat and was force-fed by the nuns until I was sick, and even although I was sick, they would still carry on trying to make me eat it. They would shout and bawl, saying that there were poor kids in Africa who didn't have food and that we should think ourselves lucky.
44. The abuse happened to me mostly at dinnertime because of the situation with the food. If I wasn't eating my dinner, they'd pull me out of the chair, sometimes by the hair, sometimes by the arm, and make me stand there in front of everybody until I ate it. Eventually they would sit me back down and force-feed me. If they were going to hit me, they'd pull me back up to my feet again. They'd hit me all over my body, wherever they could get me. Mostly I'd be standing when I got hit. They'd use

whatever they had on them - slippers, coat hangers or belts. I got this nearly every night because I hated the dinners.

45. I used to wet the bed every night. That was a big thing for me. I was always petrified. I think I was scared to get up and go to the toilet because the toilets were right at the very end of a big, long passageway and there was only a night light on the ceiling. It really was quite a freaky place.
46. I think the nuns got up in the morning about four or half past. One of them would come round then and check on all the kids who usually wet the bed. If you'd wet the bed, she'd take the cover off you and make you lie on the wet sheet until it was time to get up. You'd also get shouted at and hit, mostly across the legs, when you were lying in bed. She'd use whatever she had on her, slipper, belt or whatever. Everybody in the group then knew you'd wet the bed. You had to lie on the wet sheet from about half past four until six when you got up for mass. That happened all year round. You had to strip the bed when you got up and take the sheet to the laundry room. Later on when I was older, I had to stand and wash the sheets myself in the sink.
47. I was abused in the way I've described at least once and sometimes three times a day because at times I'd get meat for both lunch and dinner, and would also wet the bed at night. I got wiser with the food as I got older. I used to hide it in my pockets and then put it down the toilet pan or get rid of it some other way. I wet the bed right up until I was fourteen or fifteen. I was punished in the same way right up until I left Nazareth House.
48. Sometimes you would be made to stand in the corner facing the wall as a punishment for not doing what you were told, like walking on the wrong side of the corridor or putting your elbows on the dinner table. You had to stand still for about an hour. You weren't allowed to move or fidget, as they called it, or you'd get slapped.
49. LCT and I were sent on a holiday trip to a caravan with a couple called LFN/LFO. LFN/LFO He looked like he was in his thirties and she looked in her twenties. I

don't know where the caravan was. I was about nine or ten at the time. I don't know who these people were or where they lived. We hadn't even met them beforehand. We just got sent away with them, which I thought was quite strange. LFN sexually and physically abused both me and LCT on that trip. He took us into the room one by one, so I think LFO knew what he was doing to us.

50. A priest called Father LSO used to come into the sitting room once a week, mostly on a Sunday, sit you on his knee and touch you down below. He first started doing this to me when I was about nine or ten. As I said, most of the abuse happened around the same time for me, between the ages of eight to ten or eleven. The older I got, I realised that I should stay away from him.
51. I think Father LSO abused a good few of the children in the same way. I didn't actually see him doing anything. It was just that I saw other children sitting on his knee and thought he was probably doing the same to them. I told LCT what was happening and she said, "Aye, he used to do it to me". She told me to stay away from him.
52. I don't know whether Father LSO lived in Nazareth House or was just a visitor. There were some priests living in the other side of the building. I don't know if he came from there. There was a church connected to Nazareth House, but there was also another one outside the grounds, just before you got to the school. Father LSO might have been based at that outside church.
53. LVT used to visit the home a couple of times a year. He used to touch me down below as well.
- LCT
54. I don't remember exactly what LCT did, but I remember she was hit for it by a nun with a coat hanger. This was when we were still in the nursery. I forget the nun's name. I can still see her standing in front of me. She was quite tall and wore glasses. They wore the full nun dress at that time, so I didn't see her hair. She was quite

hard-faced and scary looking. Thinking back now, I would say she must have been in her thirties.

55. For me the abuse took place mostly at the dinner table or because I had wet the bed, but LCT [REDACTED] was constantly hit by the nuns. She was quite rebellious. She would always stand up to them. Even when she knew she was going to get battered, she would still stand up to them. I was so quiet. I would just sit there and take it.
56. I saw a lot happening to LCT [REDACTED]. She would get pulled about by the hair, hit with a belt, a stick, a slipper - everything. It happened mostly when she was sticking up for me. She stuck up for me at the dinner table and even when I wet the bed.
57. I remember one time when I was really sick at the dinner table, and LCT [REDACTED] started shouting about how sick I was. Sister LFL [REDACTED] came over to the table, picked up a knife and hit LCT [REDACTED] over the head with it. I can remember the sister telling me, "Eat it. Eat it", and me saying, "I can't eat any more". Sister LFL [REDACTED] was quite stumpy, wore glasses and had a [REDACTED]. I'd say I was about seven or eight when that happened.
58. LCT [REDACTED] used to run away quite a lot. She used to get up during the night and sneak out the doors and climb over the big gates. She always used to head for Maryhill. I don't know how she got there. She would be away for days sometimes. When she was brought back, she'd be hit and then locked in a room. It was just a small room, like a cupboard. There was nothing in it, just bare walls. I don't think it was used for anything else. She'd be in the room for a day, sometimes two days. I don't even know if she got fed when she was in there.
59. I remember LCT [REDACTED] took her first period when she came back after running away one time. I remember that time because I could hear LCT [REDACTED] screaming. The nun threw her in a bath full of disinfectant and used a big scrubber on her. She told LCT [REDACTED] that she was dirty and wasn't one of God's children any more, or something along those lines. We had never been given any explanation about having our period. I went to LKB [REDACTED] when I took mine and told her I was bleeding in my

private parts. LKB told me what was happening to me and bought me some pads.

60. LCT has always been a fidget. She got a beating one time after mass I think because of her fidgeting. Sister LHA pulled her about, kicked her with her boot, [REDACTED], and stamped on her when she was on the floor. LCT was screaming.
61. LCT was sent to an approved school eventually. They split her and I up. I think LCT was about thirteen at the time. I didn't have any contact with her when she was in the school. Nazareth House refused to take her back when she got out, and the social work department couldn't find anywhere else that would take her because of her behaviour. She was just left to run about the streets, and then she went to live with [REDACTED] John.

Other children

62. I was always quiet and wanted to just keep myself to myself and stay out of trouble. I'd rather just go and sit and hide in a corner and act as if I hadn't seen anything, but I did see other kids being hit.
63. I saw Sister LGS severely batter a girl called [REDACTED] on a flight of stairs when we were on holiday at Glengarry Guesthouse. Sister LGS was a bitch. [REDACTED] was in her group. She beat her because [REDACTED] and I had gone downstairs and stolen food from the kitchen. The two of us were walking back up the stairs, and Sister LGS was standing at the top waiting on us. She grabbed [REDACTED] and started battering into her. She was kicking her, pulling her hair and punching her, and she carried on kicking into her when [REDACTED] was on the floor. It lasted a while, about ten to fifteen minutes I'd say. I started screaming and shouting for LKB to come.
64. LKB came and pulled Sister LGS away. I remember LKB trying to defuse the situation. The two of them were shouting at each other. I remember LKB

said, "You can't treat the kids like that", and the sister saying, "That's their punishment. They shouldn't be stealing". Again, I would say I was between eight to ten or eleven when this happened.

65. LCT's pal [REDACTED] was also quite rebellious at times, because of everything that was going on in Nazareth House. [REDACTED] and LCT were quite close. The two of them would get pulled about and shouted and bawled at, hit with a belt, stick, slippers, and sent to a separate room. The stick was like a big cane.

Leaving Nazareth House

66. [REDACTED] John came back on the scene, and LCT went to live with him when she came out of the approved school. I think John was about nine or ten years older than me. He started coming to Nazareth House to visit me. That's when I started to see LCT again, as she would come with him to see me.
67. I started going home for overnight visits, and, after a few visits, it was a case of 'Pack your stuff, you're out of here'. So I was sent home to live with John. I say "home" because that's what we called it. It all happened so fast. Nobody asked me if I wanted to go and live with him. I think I was about thirteen or fourteen. As far as I know, [REDACTED] he started coming with LCT to visit me at Nazareth House. I didn't even know who he was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
68. June O'Brien and Jim Cameron were still my social workers when I went to live with John. There was no discussion with them about me going there, and they didn't ask me whether I wanted to go.

Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House

69. When we came back from the caravan, LCT told LKB what LFN had done to us and then I spoke to LKB. LKB said that she'd go to Sister LHA and tell her. Sister LHA then took us into a room and LCT tried to tell her what had happened. Sister LHA told us that these people had gone out of their way to do this for us and we should be more grateful. She told LCT to stop telling lies. I said we weren't telling lies and that he had done "dirty things". That's how I put it. Nothing at all was done about it.
70. I told either Sister LHA or Sister LFL about Father LSO. I remember being told to go and sit down, that I was telling lies. The nun said, "People like that don't do things like this". I always used to tell, but nothing would get done about it.
71. I don't remember if I told the social workers about Father LSO or LVT. I think I most probably would have done. I do remember telling June O'Brien about what had happened when we went to the caravan. The response was that it would be looked into. Again, nothing was done about it. There was no police involvement in any of the situations apart from when LCT started running away all the time.
72. I also remember telling June O'Brien about the beatings. I didn't really see Jim Cameron very often. I would say to June that I just couldn't eat the food. I also told her what was happening to LCT but nothing was done.
73. I only have one recollection of talking to the police in Nazareth House. I know it was something to do with money, and I think it had something to do with LCT. I think LCT might have been in the wrong place at the wrong time and came across a case with money in it. I really don't know what the story was. I remember the police asking me about it, and I said that I didn't know anything. They also asked me why LCT kept running away, and I told them how we were treated by the nuns. I'm sure LCT told them as well. Again, nothing was done about it. I can't remember whether I spoke to the police on my own or whether any of the nuns were there.

74. I never spoke to my granny about anything. I think she passed away around the time when it was all happening. I remember asking [LCT] why she wasn't coming any more, and she used to tell me that she was no longer here.
75. I never reported what happened in Nazareth House to the police after I left the home. I tried to block it all out and just get on with life.

Living with [REDACTED] John Smith

76. [REDACTED] lived near Anniesland in Glasgow. The address was [REDACTED]. I was only there for around a couple of months. Moving in with him happened so fast and it fell through quickly as well. The social workers didn't come to visit me at John's. I would remember if they had done.
77. John raped me and [LCT]. He raped me first, but I didn't tell [LCT]. I was petrified living there. He then raped [LCT] at knifepoint. We went to the police and he went to prison for seven years. I had to give evidence at his trial. He then pled guilty early on in the trial.
78. We then went to stay with family friends, the [REDACTED], for a short while. They were total strangers to me, but [LCT] knew them. I was treated like a skivvy by them. I felt like Cinderella. I then ended up back in care. I rang the social work office and told them how I felt. I think I spoke to Jim Cameron. I went to live in a hostel on West Princes Street, just off Charing Cross in Glasgow. I was still only about fourteen. [LCT] stayed with the [REDACTED], and then she went to live with my mum's brother in Easterhouse.

Hostel, West Princes Street Glasgow/ St Francis, Govan, Glasgow

79. I can't remember the name of the hostel. I think it was something to do with the social work department. It was run by a man called Mr Campbell. It was for girls only.

There were about twelve of us living there. Nothing happened to me in the hostel. It was an entirely different experience for me. You could come and go when you wanted, and the staff took you out to places as well. I had no problems whatsoever there.

80. I stayed in the hostel until I was nearly sixteen. I fell pregnant and went to an unmarried mothers' place called St Francis in Govan. I stayed there for a few months and then left and got married.

Life after being in care

81. I didn't get any support from social work or anybody else when I left the unmarried mothers' place. I got married when I was sixteen. My husband, [REDACTED], was about five or six years older than me. I think I was just looking for something to hold onto. I think that's what my relationship with him was all about. It wasn't a good marriage.
82. I had four children with [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] died of cot death at ten weeks old. I decided then that I'd had enough of the marriage, and I just got up one day and walked out of the house. I was about twenty-three.
83. I went to live with LCT [REDACTED] and her husband in England. [REDACTED] sent the police looking for me, saying that he was worried about me, that maybe I had done something to myself. The police came and spoke to me, and I told them that I wasn't going back.
84. I stayed with LCT [REDACTED] for a few months and then I got a flat. My daughter [REDACTED] was in care at the time. I wasn't coping very well because of everything that had happened. My social worker helped me to sort myself out. I then got [REDACTED] back home and just got on with my life.

Impact

85. I felt lost most of the time when I was in Nazareth House. I think it was because my older sisters were away from us and there was just LCT and me. I felt a bit more comfortable when I had LCT with me, but felt really lost when she left. I was all on my own then. I saw my sisters and again in later years when I lived in Edinburgh. All of us lived there at one point. I don't have any contact with them now, as there's no bond between us.
86. My sister and I have kind of got a wee bond now. She recently sent me some pictures of LCT her and me in Newcastle as kids. She's not long buried her son, so she understands how I felt.
87. LCT and I are the closest in the whole family. We've always kept in contact in some way or other through the years.
88. When I look back to my upbringing in Nazareth House, having now brought up my own kids, I see that there was no love or affection from the nuns. There was nothing at all like that. We just had to follow this strict routine that was laid out for us. It was not a very nice place for anybody.
89. My son was born mentally and physically handicapped and had spina bifida. He died when he was ten. I only have my two girls now. I am very close to them. I wouldn't say that my time in care has negatively affected my relationship with my kids. My girls have always said that they had a great upbringing. I think I wanted to make sure that they got everything that I didn't get, including all the love and affection. I'm the same with my grandkids. I am also very overprotective of them. I can't even let them out into the garden on their own. My two grandkids are my life. I have another one on the way.
90. I think being in care most likely affected my relationships with men. As I said, I got married for the wrong reason when I was only sixteen. My husband started battering

me about when I was pregnant with [REDACTED]. I was in hospital mostly every week with broken bones, including a broken jaw one time.

91. I met someone else when [REDACTED] was about one. I was in that relationship up until about ten years ago. I'd say I've got big barriers, and I just don't feel comfortable with men. I think that's got a lot to do with all the abuse I experienced.
92. I'm quite a withdrawn person. I've always tended to keep myself to myself. It's as though I've got a big barrier up with everybody, except my own family. I get anxious meeting new people. I was having palpitations before I left the house today at the thought of meeting the Inquiry team.
93. There are times when I think about my experiences as a child quite a lot, and at other times I just try to shut it out. I think about the past when I feel unsettled within myself.
94. I had nightmares for a good few years after I was in care. This carried on even after I had the kids. I did actually wet the bed a few times as well, which I found pretty embarrassing. I do still have nightmares sometimes. They're mostly about what went on in Nazareth House and also the rape. The rape played a big part in my life.
95. I carried on practising the Catholic faith and used to go to mass up until I lost my kids. I gave up on everything after that. I used to say to myself, "If there is a God, then why would he do that to me?"
96. I never passed any exams at school and I think that was down to having to move schools. I had to go to a different school when I went to live with John and then a different one again when I went to the hostel.
97. Over the past few years, I've found out that my sister [REDACTED] had a heart condition when she was in Nazareth house. She had some sort of fever. I can't remember what the condition is called, but she's had to have open heart surgery because it

wasn't dealt with in Nazareth House. I now have a heart condition. I've had two heart attacks and had a mini stroke in 2010. I am on medication for the rest of my life.

Treatment and support

98. I had some counselling after my son died. I was on anti-depressants and I went to see a psychologist. I went there a good few times and spoke quite a lot about my experiences as a child. Sometimes it gave me the feeling of a big weight having been lifted from my shoulders and other times it just made me so down.
99. I don't have any ongoing support or counselling. I've been offered it a few times. I was attacked and robbed last year and I sort of spoke to somebody then. I'm not ready to deal with it all. I haven't spoken to my GP about the abuse.
100. I've been on anti-depressants from time to time throughout my life. There have been times when I've not needed them. I only take them to help me to cope when certain things happen.

Records

101. LKB [REDACTED] gave me an address in London where all the records went to when Nazareth House was shut down as a children's home, but they said they have no records. Sandra Toyer from a group called Voice Within tried to get information for me and my Nazareth House records, but apparently they have all been destroyed.
102. I used to go to Voice Within when I was back home in Scotland. I still keep in touch now, which I find helpful.
103. I also went to the social work office in Maryhill and to some social services place in Duke Street in Glasgow to try to get information about my childhood. The Maryhill office told me that my case was too old and they didn't have anything for me. The

doors are being shut on me everywhere. It seems as if it's all just been brushed under the carpet.

Lessons learned

104. I think things might have been different if people had listened to us as children and paid more attention to what was actually going on. It might have made it easier for all the other kids who went into the home after us.
105. I think it would make a difference to children in care nowadays if more people were brought in from outside to see what's going on in the homes, and those people should listen to what the kids are saying. Volunteers could go into the homes to see what's going on and build up trust with the kids.
106. I just hope that kids now don't have to go through what we've all gone through. I hope they have a better life. I know that being in care isn't a good life, but I'd like to hope that the experience is a better one for them. I hope that giving my statement to the Inquiry does some good for children in the future. I also hope that someone is accountable for what happened to us as children.

Other information

107. I keep in contact with ^{LKB} [REDACTED]. I was close to her in Nazareth House and I still have a strong bond with her. She has always been a constant figure in my life, even when I lost my kids she was there for me. I haven't spoken as an adult to her about my experiences in Nazareth House. I don't talk about it at all. I think she feels quite upset about it. I would say if there was anything positive that came out of Nazareth House, it was definitely ^{LKB} [REDACTED]

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

Signed... LDI

Dated... *13.4.18.*