

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LTO

Support person present: No

1. My name is LTO is my married name. I was known as LTO when I was a child. My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My dad's name was and my mum's name was Her maiden name was When I was two years old, my mum left my dad and took me and my brother to London. My dad found us there. My younger brother, LVB was then born in 1965. We stayed in London for a while and then moved back to Glasgow before my sister, LUA was born in 1968 when I was six years old.
3. When we lived in Glasgow, I remember getting up in the night and there was a fire around the side of the door. I've been told in later life that somebody put a bottle at the door with a fire in it. After that happened, we left Glasgow and went back to London. I think there was domestic abuse in the home. I didn't know it as such except now and again my mum would have a black eye. We would say prayers like, "Please let dad come in and go straight to bed." My mum must've tried to protect us. I remember she would tell us to go to bed and then the next day she would have a black eye.

4. My dad was a painter and decorator, but there were times when he didn't work. I can't remember any social work involvement, but I think my mum and dad received benefits. We were always fed, but I do remember mum had to go somewhere and wait for ages. We would sit and wait with her. I think my dad might have drunk her money and my mum had to wait there to get money for food.
5. Towards the end of our time in London, things escalated. I remember seeing a shoe going through the window. Things were getting worse. When I was about eight years old, my mum left my dad and took [LVB] [LUA] and me to Wales. I don't think she knew where she was going, but she got to Wales. Initially, the four of us stayed in a room. I think social services helped to get her a house. It was the best house we'd ever had. Before that, we'd always rented a room and a kitchen in London. It was a maisonette with upstairs and downstairs and it had its own door.
6. Sometime after that, a man called [REDACTED] moved in. He was a nice man, but I didn't particularly like him. I just wanted to be with my mum. In [REDACTED] 1971, she had a baby, also called [REDACTED]. About a year and a half later, my dad found us. He told the authorities he was my mum's brother and they told him where we lived. I remember the day the door went and it was this man. I didn't recognise him as my dad. He said, "Where's your mum?"
7. Things went a big strange after that. My mum would always take me with her. She went to sell the Embassy cigarette coupons and she didn't let me in the phone box that day. I didn't know what was happening but something was different. I went to the bathroom and when I came out, my mum wasn't there. I was jumping up and down on the bed, thinking, "Where is she, where is she, where is she." The lady downstairs came up and said something to my dad. He told us mum had gone but that she'd be coming back.
8. My dad had told my mum that wherever she took his kids, he would follow her. She did go somewhere to tell them that she was leaving us, but nobody came. I don't know who she told. My mum then left me, [LVB] and [LUA]. The baby could just sit up in his pram, so I think he was only months old. She took him with her because he

was [REDACTED] son, not my father's. She eventually remarried and became [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I had only ever been with my mum up until that point. We were left with my dad, who I hadn't seen for two years.

9. My dad took [REDACTED] LUA who was nearly three years old, back to Glasgow to stay at my gran's. [REDACTED] LVB and I stayed in Wales for a while. Everything was okay. I hadn't seen my dad for a long time, so it was a bit scary. I remember thinking my mum was going to come back. My dad had a job and he got a lady to look after us. Then a man called [REDACTED] came into the house. I don't know who he was. The lady who used to look after us just stopped and then [REDACTED] was there. I was a bit frightened of him.
10. Dad started drinking again. I think we lived in Cardiff. [REDACTED] LVB and I decided to run away to London. We said goodbye to the park and everything. We were trying to get back to London. We walked for ages and said to somebody, "Are we in London yet?" They directed us to the police station and we were taken back to our dad.
11. [REDACTED] came in one night and the buttons of his shirt were undone. I think he had been at the pub with my dad. He was looking for the knife, but I hid it under the TV because I thought he was going to hurt my dad. I ran to our neighbours and asked for help. They said no, but they must have got help because the police came. The police took us somewhere. I remember our heads being checked for head lice. I think we were taken to a home in Cardiff. We didn't go to school or anything, so it must've only been for a little while. My dad came and got us. When we got back to the house, [REDACTED] had a black eye and he was packing his things.
12. We went back to Glasgow after that and stayed with my granny, my granddad, my dad and my dad's younger brother, Uncle [REDACTED]. We lived in [REDACTED] Street in Easterhouse. I can't remember how many rooms my granny had, but there probably weren't enough. We then moved to [REDACTED] Street in Cranhill. The adults in the house never hit us, but they used to drink and fight and it was scary. My dad didn't have a job. The three men used to drink and when they drank, they fought. When I was an adult, I found out that the reason they drank was they had things they didn't talk about when they were sober. When they got drunk, all hell broke loose.

13. We went to primary school in Glasgow. I think the school was called St. Benedict's. What I remember about Glasgow is that my granny would take us out of the house. We would go and sit up closes, waiting for the other adults to be more sober and then we'd go home. Sometimes she'd leave us with the men, thinking it would keep the peace. When she did that, it was more scary.
14. My granny took my sister to Northampton to her Uncle [REDACTED] for a while. I don't think she was away for very long. She left me and LVB [REDACTED] in Glasgow. At that time, I was sexually abused by my Uncle [REDACTED]. We used to go to the quarry. He sniffed glue. The way I dealt with it was to try and avoid being in a situation where he would be with me. I didn't tell anybody. I knew if I told my dad, he would've killed [REDACTED]. They were fighting enough already. I went to an aunty, who was my granny's sister. I told her that we weren't happy and asked if she could do anything. I didn't tell her about my Uncle [REDACTED]. She said she'd told someone about the cruelty, but nobody came. Then my granny came back and things were alright, apart from the drinking.
15. I don't think there were social workers involved with the family. I know my granny had the family allowance. She used go somewhere where she would get us shoes and clothes. Sometimes, I used to phone the police. My dad would get into trouble for breach of the peace and then my granny would be angry that I'd called the police. But if dad wasn't there, that was one less person drinking so it wasn't as bad. Sometimes, dad would come in the middle of the night and say, "Right, kids. Up." He'd take us to his friends' houses. Nobody ever hit us or did anything to us, but it was scary, getting up in the night.
16. One day in 1972, I remember dad being under the influence. He kept saying he was going to put us in a home. I said, "Dad, just put us in a home." So we walked from Cranhill [REDACTED] to the social work department in Easterhouse. I think the social worker was a Miss O'Hara. My dad must have told her to take us into care. I don't remember how we got our clothes or anything. I was pleased that dad did what he said he was going to do.

17. We got checked for head lice and then we were taken to a home in Glasgow. I can't remember where it was or what it was called. I have very little recollection of that place. My sister was very little. I remember thinking I needed to look after her. It seemed very loud and everybody was running around. There seemed to be lots of children of all ages. We were small compared to a lot of them. I don't think we were there for very long because we didn't go to school there.
18. I think it was Miss O'Hara who came to take us to Aberdeen. We were definitely taken by a social worker on the train. I think we knew we were going to a home far away so our dad couldn't get us. We got a taxi from the train station in Aberdeen to Nazareth House. It was as if the taxi driver was talking a different language. I didn't know how the social worker could understand him. I didn't have a clue what he was saying. I know now that it was Aberdonian, but it was like double Dutch.

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

19. Nazareth House was a massive granite building. The home was run by the Sisters of Nazareth. The sisters used to wear a white bit that came across their heads and they used to wear a veil. They had long, black garments. The sister in charge was called the Mother Superior. There were three different Mother Superiors when I was in the home. I remember Mother **LKO** the most. She was there when I arrived. She was lovely. I think after her there was a Mother Thomas. The last Mother Superior before I left was Sister **LJJ** or **LJJ**. The children didn't have many dealings with the Mother Superior. Sometimes she would visit our group and we would see her at Mass.
20. When you came through the main gate at the front, there was a little gate and you would come into the main garden. There were roses and a couple of huge statues that stood either side of the main door. We didn't tend to use the front door after we'd arrived. There was a football pitch. Our group didn't really use that. When I first arrived there were swings in the garden. I'm not sure why, but they were pulled up after a while and they planted grass seed in their place.

21. When you went in the front door of the main building, there were two parlours. There was then another door and a big staircase that went up to the elderly people in the house. The older children would help to wheel the elderly into the church, but we didn't do anything else to help with the elderly people. On the left hand side, there was a lift and the main kitchen. One of the children's groups was on that floor. Sister LRC was in charge of that group. Each group had a sister in charge, who looked after her own group. When we went to church on Sundays, all the groups were there but other than that we didn't really mix.
22. Our group was a level up from Sister LRC. Sister LJI was in charge when we first arrived. There were two or three lay staff working in a group. I can remember Marie Clark and Barbara Nicolson the most. There was also Dorothy, Hilda and Ann Wilson. They weren't all there at the same time. Sister LJI was the only sister in our group and she was the only adult who stayed overnight. There were separate staff quarters at the top of the house. As well as the staff that looked after us, we also had two cleaning ladies. One of them was called Mrs Adams.
23. There were about twenty children in our group. I was one of the eldest in the group and I was getting towards the end of primary six when I arrived. The family name family came not long after us. family name was around the same age as me. She had a sister called family name a brother called family name and a little sister called family name. There was the family name family. They had been there for a long time. family name was the eldest, then family name then family name then family name. family name was Sister LJI favourite. Sister LJI had looked after her for a long time. There were two boys, family name and family name. There was another family called family name. The youngest was family name, then there was family name, family name and LQC. There were two brothers, family name and family name but I don't think they were there for very long. There were some children that came and went, like the family name family family name and family name. family name was really little. Most of the children were there for quite a long time. The family name and the family name were there the whole time that Sister LJI was there.

24. Our group contained a bedroom area. Sister [REDACTED] LJI bedroom was a cut out section within one of the children's bedrooms. We had tall lockers in the bedroom area, where we would put our dressing gowns and slippers. There was a door with a Yale snib which separated the bedroom area from the main part of the group. There was a play room, a kitchen, a dining room and a living room. There were more of the tall lockers there, where we kept our coats when we came in from school. There was a linen room and the toilets. There was a cupboard containing spare clothes and the bathroom was on the other side. There were two or three baths, the washing machine and the big sink. There was also the dentist's room. I didn't like the dentist's room.
25. Above our group was Sister [REDACTED] LHA?'s group. Sister [REDACTED] LDX group lived in a new part of the house that had been renovated. It was round from the laundry, like an offshoot from the main house. Sister [REDACTED] LKH had a group that lived in a house outside on a main road. A couple of older children and former residents who worked in the house also lived in some of those houses.

Routine at Nazareth House

First day

26. The building was huge. I remember a sister opening the door. I went behind the social worker a bit. I'd never seen a nun before. They took us into a blue parlour. They gave us something to eat and then it was okay. Once I got over the door and I got over the way the nun looked, I wasn't scared any more. The social worker stayed with us. I think Sister [REDACTED] LJI came into the parlour. She introduced herself to us. She was smiley. She took us to our group.
27. I can't remember us having any belongings. When we got to our group, Sister [REDACTED] LJI took us to a big walk-in cupboard where she gave us trousers and nighties and things that we needed. I don't think we had our own. I'm not sure whether they

were new clothes. She showed us our bedrooms and introduced us to the other children. Most of the children were younger than me.

Mornings and bedtime

28. There were five or six bedrooms in our group. Most of the rooms had three beds but some had four. The bedrooms were lovely. We each had our own wardrobe with drawers. There was also a chest of drawers and a chair. The beds all had fancy quilts and pillows. When we went to bed, we took the quilt and pillow off and folded them up. When the bed was made, the quilt and pillow went back on the bed. Each bedroom had a different colour scheme. I mainly shared a bedroom with my sister. When we first arrived, I think there was also a little girl called [REDACTED] in our room. Siblings were in the same group, but boys and girls were in separate bedrooms.
29. In the morning, Sister [REDACTED] LJ1 came in and opened the curtains. She would say, "Rise and shine, rise and shine." She was always jolly. We jumped out of bed and started to say a prayer. She didn't check we were doing it or anything. Half the time, my head was on the bed and I was falling back to sleep. We had to get up and have breakfast in time for school. The older children would get themselves washed and dressed and the little ones would get help from the staff.
30. At night time, the little ones went to bed before the older ones. I was one of the last to go to bed. When Sister [REDACTED] LJ1 came back from her prayers or meal, the other staff would go home or to their quarters. Sometimes, she would fall asleep in front of the television. We would be really quiet so she would stay asleep. She'd wake up and say, "Oh, it's way past your bed time, go on off to bed."
31. We had to go down a long passageway, open the door and go down the rest of the corridor to get to the toilet during the night. The toilet was at the farthest end from the bedrooms. It must have been a little bit scary for the younger children.

Mealtimes / Food

32. The night before, we laid the tables with cups, saucers and bowls for breakfast. When we first arrived, the plates were made of hard plastic. Later, we got pyrex. The staff put cereal into the cereal bowl and put the side plate or saucer on top to keep it fresh for the morning. We had cereal, toast and tea for breakfast and sometimes a boiled egg. I remember it was better to have rice crispies if you didn't like hot milk. If you had corn flakes, the hot milk would make them soggy and I just couldn't eat them. I would have rice crispies because they didn't go soggy.
33. We ate our lunch at school. In the home, the whole group ate meals together. We said grace before meals. The sister and staff would be there, but they didn't eat with us, except when we were on holiday. There were about four children to a table and each table had a table cloth. At weekends, we had a dinner and a pudding. On a Sunday, pudding was mostly ice cream and jelly. I don't think we had a pudding for tea on week days. We got a snack when we came in from school and a biscuit and milk before we went to bed. I quite liked the food. The only thing I remember not liking was cooked celery. I don't remember there being any fuss about food.
34. Marks and Spencers used to donate food that was getting towards its sell by date. We would go there most evenings to collect the things they were giving us and help to unload it. Sometimes, we would go to the main kitchen to help Sister LQP. She prepared food for the other sisters and for the children. She had staff to help her. We would help her make the Sunday trifle that was going to be for our group. We would also help to make rock cakes or Christmas puddings, things like that.
35. Sister LGR was in charge of the food store. Sister LJI used to ask us to run down and collect food from her. I remember going down to collect angel cake, jammy dodgers, coffee and tea.

Washing / bathing

36. We generally had baths in the evening, but if a child had wet the bed then I believe they had a bath in the morning. We didn't have a bath every night. I don't remember big queues waiting to have baths so I think we got a bath every other evening. The little children got help but the older children just bathed themselves. There were two or three baths. They were partitioned off, but I'm not sure if the partition went all the way to the ceiling. Each partition had its own door and we had privacy in the bath. At the end of the partition, there was a sink and twin tub. There was a laundry for the whole building where clothes and wet sheets were washed. Sister Justina worked in the laundry.

Clothing / uniform

37. We wore a school uniform to school. Our names were on our school uniform. Sister [REDACTED] chain stitched our initials onto our underwear so she could tell what belonged to whom and we didn't have to share it. She had a chart with a colour for each girl. She would darn the toe of the sock in each girl's colour so she could tell who owned each sock. The clothes we wore around the house or for Sunday best weren't labelled because everybody's were different. We kept them in our own wardrobes. When we went to get clothes and shoes, it was usually the staff that would take us. She tried to let the staff take us on trips like that.
38. We got new clothes. C&A used to send clothes into the home. At certain times in the year, we would go with the staff to get new clothes. We would be taken on our own and we were allowed to pick. Those clothes would be classed as your good clothes, so we kept them mainly for Sunday. We all had kilts as well so every other Sunday, we wore our kilts to church. I remember going to Esselmont and Macintosh to get my school blazer and hockey skirt for secondary school.

School

39. When I first arrived at Nazareth House, I was in primary six. I went to St. Peter's Primary School. We went back to Glasgow for a while, but when I returned to Nazareth House I was still in primary school. I attended Aberdeen Grammar School.

There were no Catholic secondary schools in Aberdeen so we were separated for religious education. I found school okay. I never got bullied or anything like that. I don't remember anybody treating me differently because I came from Nazareth House. I can't remember feeling awkward or anything at school. I became a prefect at primary school.

40. We went by bus to primary school, but I can't remember if it was a public bus. I walked to secondary school. As time went on, my brother started at secondary school and I walked with him. He started getting himself into a bit of trouble so I decided not to walk with him after a while.
41. I did home economics, secretarial studies, maths, English and French. I didn't like French. I didn't really enjoy school, but I didn't have a problem with it. I just went and got on with it. I can't really remember homework. I do remember a student called Sister Mary Brenda who was with our group when I first arrived. I had a small homework notebook, which she used to sign, "SMB." I don't remember sitting down to do homework regularly. When it came to parents' night, I remember saying to Sister [REDACTED] LJI "I don't mind if you come." She said, "No, I'll send one of the staff."

Chores

42. When I first went to Nazareth House, the long passage way in our house was tiled. The floor used to get waxed. I can remember using the big waxer. Later on, it got carpeted and I don't remember using the Hoover. The passage downstairs still had tiles. I helped to wax it. On one occasion, I went off to do something else and before I got back, Sister [REDACTED] LFS fell. I don't remember there being a big consequence for me, but I felt bad because she could have really hurt herself. I waxed the floor at the weekend, but I don't think it was a regular thing. We sometimes did it with things on our feet and we had fun running up and down the corridor.
43. We had to keep our wardrobe and drawers tidy. The older children would help with the dishes and things. I didn't have to do the dishes as much as the other children

because I helped out in the parlour. When I first started doing it, Sister Erica was in charge. She was really, really old. When she knelt down, she had to hold onto a stool to help herself. After she left, there was a Sister Andrew Joseph. I would take the poor men their tea at different times of the day. There was always a sister present when I took the tea.

44. Nowadays, the men would be called down and out. They would come into the grounds in the morning and in the evening. I helped the sisters make bread and Stork margarine margarines. They were given the bread and big mugs of tea. In the morning, before I went to school, I'd run down and hold the tray while they took their tea and their sandwiches. When I got home from school, I'd do the same. I remember the sister saying, "Tell them when there are no cups, there's no tea." The men had started to take the cups. I never felt afraid or anything. As I got older I think the nuns wondered what would happen if one of the men recognised me on the street and said something to me.
45. I also used to take the chaplain's dishes away in the evening and give his dishes a wash. The chaplain lived in another part of the house. Sometimes I would take his flask of milk round to him.

Leisure time

46. During the week, we had a snack when we came in from school. We would watch TV or play in the play room until tea time. We played out in the grounds. There were bikes and swings, until the swings were taken away. After tea, we watched TV or played until bed time. I think we had a cuddly toy in our bedrooms but most of the toys were in the play room. There were board games and soft toys and things like that for the younger children. I was a bit older and I had a record player. One of the university students used to fix it for me, then he showed me how to fix it myself by taking the turntable off, spinning the thing underneath and putting it back together. I remember buying singles with my pocket money. One of the Blairs students bought me the LP, Band on the Run by Wings.

47. My sister was more of a reader than me. She was always reading books. There were books there for us. We could buy comics or sweets with our pocket money from the local shop. Sister [LJI] kept a book. Some of our pocket money went towards a stamp in the book and we were given the rest. When we went to Tombae, she gave us the money we had saved in the book for spending money.
48. At the weekends, the staff took us to the park, to the swimming pool or to the cinema. If there was a dress rehearsal at His Majesty's Theatre, we would be taken there with the other groups. I really liked Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. I remember Mother [LKO] wasn't keen on bonfire night, but we did have fireworks displays in the grounds.

Religious instruction

49. There was a chapel in Nazareth House, downstairs ahead of the front door. The chaplain would say Mass. We went to Mass on a Sunday and on holidays of obligation. We could go to Mass every morning during Lent, but we didn't have to go. Sister [LJI] used to wrap the younger children's hair in cloth so they'd have ringlets for church on a Sunday. The non-Catholic children also went to church on a Sunday, but they didn't receive communion. They also went to a different primary school. I remember saying the rosary, but I can't remember if that was all the time. We said a prayer in the morning when we got up and grace before and after meals. We all went to bed at different times so I don't remember saying prayers before bed time.
50. I had already made my first communion when I went to Nazareth House. My sister made hers there. I remember somebody spilling orange juice on her communion dress. [LVB] [LUA] and I were late making our confirmation so we all did it together. Bishop Mario Conti had just become a bishop and we were the first group that he had confirmed. There were 33 boys and 33 girls and I remember him joking that it could be 33 marriages. We had to have a sponsor for confirmation and I had Miss McKenzie, who was one of the primary school teachers. We got nice clothes to wear and had our pictures taken. The staff gave us a bible each, which they inscribed.

Birthdays and Christmas

51. There was a chart with the children's birthdays on it. My sister's birthday was down as [REDACTED]. We told them her birthday was [REDACTED]. They had a cake and a little gift for us.
52. At Christmas, we would go down to the big hall and there was a Christmas tree. We had a tree in the group as well. We were given £5 by the social work department. We were under Glasgow social work, not Aberdeen. I remember one year there was something about Glasgow children not getting their £5.
53. Most Christmases, we used to go to a family in Peterhead so I wasn't in Nazareth House. The families of three or four prison officers took children from the home. I went to the Walker family for a short time. I ended up going to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED] LUA started to come too. [REDACTED] LVB went to the [REDACTED] family. I think something happened and he didn't carry on going. He became a bit boisterous and unruly. I remember him saying he was jumping off the wardrobe there, so I'm not sure if that's why they stopped taking him.
54. The [REDACTED] had a daughter who was nine months older than me. She was also called [REDACTED] so she was called [REDACTED] 1 and I was called [REDACTED] 2. They also had a son called [REDACTED] who was a bit younger than me. Aunty [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED] tried to make [REDACTED] and I the same. I remember one year, [REDACTED] gave us both a vanity case for Christmas. It had talcum powder and things inside. Mine was the same as [REDACTED]. She bought [REDACTED] a signet ring for her thirteenth birthday and she bought me a signet ring as well.

Holidays

55. We went to Tombae in the summer holidays. Two groups would go at a time. We usually went with group who stayed above us, which was Sister [REDACTED] LHA?'s group, then Sister [REDACTED] LFS then Sister [REDACTED] LRB. We would go in the mini bus. One

group would stay in the big school house and the other group would stay in the house near the church. We stayed there for two or three weeks.

56. Tombae was lovely. It was just in the middle of nowhere. We went for a lot of walks. It was at the Glenlivet distillery so there was a river nearby. There was a metal bridge across the river and some of the boys would jump off it. We would sit on the side and go into the river and wash our hair in the river. I remember going for a walk to Dufftown. I think the staff had taken us, but we didn't realise there wasn't a bus running on that day. We started walking back, but it was a long way, and I remember Colin coming with the mini bus. I think he was a handyman at Nazareth House who drove us because Sister [REDACTED] LJI didn't drive.
57. We cooked our own meals while we were there. We helped to peel the potatoes and make Angel Delight and things like that. On one occasion, one of the staff members wasn't there for breakfast so we stuck her breakfast in the oven. We forgot it was a plastic plate and it melted all over the oven. Sometimes we ate our meals at tables outside or took food down to the river.
58. For the rest of the holidays, the sisters had two chalets at Aberdeen beach. Two groups would go to the beach at a time. We spent most of the day at the beach. We also started going to Uncle [REDACTED] and Aunty [REDACTED] as well. I liked going there. I got on well with their daughter, [REDACTED]. As we got older, I was more naïve than her. She was getting more worldly wise than me. It got to the point when I thought she didn't really want me with her.
59. I got to go to Switzerland with the school when I was at Nazareth House. The school paid for the trip and the sisters saved up to give me spending money. It was my first time abroad. It was lovely. By the time I went, Sister [REDACTED] LJI had left. I remember thinking that I wouldn't bring Sister [REDACTED] LVA a present.

Relationship with staff

60. I really liked Sister [LJI] and I really liked the staff. I used to follow Marie about and talk to her. I don't think people actually sat you down and asked you how you were feeling. It was just the way things were in those days.
61. Sister [LJI] used to put the young girls' hair in ringlets. When Sister [LJI] [LJI] did the hair, she was spending time with us and chatting to us. I helped her to do it and we would chat. The ringlets were mostly Saturday into Sunday. At other times, Sister [LJI] would tie their hair in bunches or they had baubles.
62. We really liked Sister [LJI]. She had been at Nazareth House for a long time and she had become like family. The day she left, I remember watching her doing the children's hair before school and thinking that she'd be gone by the time we got home. I tried not to get sad. She left some time after the summer of 1977.
63. Sister [LVA] replaced Sister [LJI]. She didn't arrive straight away, so we still had the same staff. She seemed so different from Sister [LJI]. She looked different. She wasn't unkind, but she was more direct. I didn't like her. I don't know if that was fair, because I might not have liked her whoever she was. She made slight changes, like covering the chairs. I think she might have come from [REDACTED]. I remember not long after she arrived, the toys were untidy and she said, "I'm going to send the toys to my children in [REDACTED]." I remember thinking that she was horrible and I didn't like her. I went to speak to the sister in the kitchen, Sister [LQP]. I said that Sister [LVA] was horrible and we were going to run away. She told me things would be okay.
64. When Sister [LVA] arrived, she started to cut girls' hair. I don't remember there being any commotion about the hair being cut. I've tried to remember why she cut the hair, but I don't know what the reason was. Even if there had been an outbreak of head lice, they should have done what they usually did and put the stuff on and comb it out. Before she arrived, I don't think we really got our hair cut. If it needed trimmed, I think the staff did it but the boys went to get their hair cut. She cut a little

girl called [REDACTED] hair and she looked like Love for Lydia, with NHS glasses and short hair.

65. I used to get some money for going to the parlour. Sister [REDACTED] LVA said I shouldn't get anything for helping at the parlour. I decided I wouldn't do it any more. I think her reason was to make me get a job outside of the home. I did like her more as I got to know her. She made the younger girls little gypsy skirts. She got me a job in a café at the beach. I got 70p an hour, which she saved for me, and I kept the tips. I used to buy things with the tips. I was terrified the first day I went. The lady who ran it put me on the counter to do ice cream and cigarettes. After the first day, it was fine. She encouraged us to go to discos and things. I went with a girl from Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] group, [REDACTED] to a disco and the staff would bring us back. I think she was trying to get us to socialise.
66. I don't think Sister [REDACTED] LVA was there for very long. I can't remember being sad when she left. Sister [REDACTED] LJS replaced her. She was lovely. At that time, we moved from our group to a part of the house that had been modernised. Each bedroom had its own bathroom. I shared a room with [REDACTED] LUA

Discipline

67. We had to keep our rooms tidy. We had to put our clothes in the wash or in our wardrobe and drawers. If we didn't, we would be told to tidy our room. There were no written rules. If we didn't behave, we would be sent to our rooms or we didn't get to go to the pictures. On one occasion, we were doing something in the evening. I think it may have been to do with the bishop. Sister [REDACTED] LJI asked me to wear my red dress. I don't know why because she never usually told me what to wear. I said, "I don't want to wear the red dress. I'm not going." She told me I wouldn't be going in that case. I went to my room, thinking she'd come round and let me wear a different dress. I looked out of the window and there they all were. I didn't get to go.

Visits / Inspections

68. The sisters may have had meetings with social workers, but I don't remember ever seeing a social worker when I was at Nazareth House. Our social workers were Miss O'Hara and Miss Whannel. They were lovely, but I don't remember having any contact with them whilst I was in Aberdeen. We knew the social workers had put us there and that they paid for us to be there. Other children may have been visited by social workers, but I don't remember ever seeing any.
69. There was a Sister who was higher up than the Mother Superior. I think she was in charge of the whole region. Sometimes she would come and visit. We didn't know her, but she would say hello, how are you and that kind of thing. Student priests would come in the evenings and on Saturdays from Blairs College, which was nearby. They would come to the park or sing songs with us. Some Aberdeen University students also used to come on a Saturday and joined us on trips to the park.
70. A lady used to visit who spoke about getting me violin lessons. I can't remember who she was, but sometimes she would buy me bubble bath. My granny came to visit the odd time. We came back from Auntie [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED] one day and my granny was there. She was annoyed because she didn't like the fact that we were going with another family. My uncle told me that the social work department would give my dad train tickets to visit us, but he used to sell the train ticket. I didn't mind that my family didn't visit me. Other children did have visits from family members.

Healthcare

71. I can't remember regular health checks, but we were taken to the doctor if we were ill. I fainted a couple of times. They thought it was because of my age. On one occasion, I fainted in church during Lent. Sister [REDACTED] LJI told me not to go to church before school. She said I should just stay in bed rather than get up early for Mass. I also got acne. I went to the doctor and was given cream for that. I can't

remember where the doctor was, but it was out with the home. I was bitten in the water at Tombae and taken to the doctor to get that seen to.

72. I remember there was an outbreak of dysentery. Sister LRB was in charge of the group upstairs by that time. Even her staff had to be contained to stop it from spreading. The only time people came out of that group was to go to church. They put sheets in Lysol disinfectant and hung them over the doorways. We would run up and down the stairs with a cloth to wipe the bannisters when the food went up to them. It must have worked because none of the rest of us got dysentery.
73. There was a school nurse who used to do head lice checks. My sister came home from school once with stuff on her head. Sister LJI wasn't happy they'd done that at school. You could smell it and it was obvious she'd been treated. The school nurse may have done that to other children who had head lice, but Sister LJI was annoyed that it might single my sister out. If they discovered we had head lice at home, they would put the stuff on and use the fine tooth comb to comb it out.
74. I didn't start my periods until I left. [REDACTED] started her periods at Nazareth House. Sister LJI talked to her about what was happening, but [REDACTED] wasn't happy. I don't think she liked wearing the sanitary towels. Nobody spoke to me about my periods. I don't think it was talked about at school either.
75. The dentist had a room in the house with a dental chair in it. He came fairly regularly. He was okay, but I didn't like the dentist. We all said he had a glass eye, but I don't know if he actually did. His fingers smelled of cigars. If I was at school and I had a dental appointment, I sometimes forgot and didn't go home. If I could avoid going to the dentist, I did. I have a lot of fillings and I had a lot of teeth pulled. I had gas and it would knock me out. We definitely had toothbrushes and toothpaste in the bathroom, but I can't remember for definite that we brushed our teeth every morning and every night. I made sure my own children brushed their teeth. After a while, we went out to the dentist. I'm not sure if the one who came in got too old.

Bed Wetting

76. I don't know if we all had a plastic sheet, but I know the children who were likely to wet the bed had one. Before the bigger children went to bed, Sister would ask us to get children who wet the bed up to go to the toilet. I'm not really sure they even woke up. I remember one little boy toddling off down the corridor and weeing in the bin. If they were wet when they were woken in the evening, Sister [LJI] would change the bedding, change the child and then they would go back to bed. They would get a bath in the morning. I think the older children who wet the bed took their sheets along to the laundry. The staff took off all the bedding and it got washed. They had a spray bottle with Zoflora disinfectant that they would spray and wipe the plastic mattress cover.

Abuse at Nazareth House

77. I don't remember children being smacked at Nazareth House, even though children did get smacked in those days. Nobody ever told me they were being abused.
78. I do have a vague memory of a boy called [REDACTED] I don't particularly remember him wetting the bed, because he was older. I have a memory of him in a dressing gown or a nighty with orange flowers. I think he may have had to wear that because he wet the bed. I'm not 100% sure about that memory, but I want to mention it in case someone says that was the consequence of him wetting the bed. It must have been a rare thing because I don't remember bed wetting being a major problem.
79. Sister [LVA] wasn't being nasty about the haircuts. I can't remember there being any big commotion or people crying or people telling her to stop. I just kept telling her, "Sister, you're not cutting [LUA] hair. If you cut [LUA] hair, I'm going to tell my granny." I don't know why, but I didn't want her to cut [LUA] hair.

80. I still don't really know how it came to be that I got my haircut, but I know I wouldn't have said yes. Before it was cut, it was long and straight. To this day, my sister asks how I could just stand there and let her cut it. I don't remember shouting or anything, but she cut my hair. I don't remember any conversation or my reaction while it was being cut. I went to the parlour to help Sister Andrew Joseph. She said something about a ribbon. I refused to go to school until Sister [LVA] got it fixed. I'm not sure if Sister Andrew Joseph intervened. Within a day, I did go to the hairdresser nearby to get it fixed. It's not a big thing, but I do think it was wrong. It didn't affect me for the rest of my life.

Temporary return to Glasgow

81. When I was in primary seven, somebody came and said we should be back in Glasgow and that there was no need for us to be in Nazareth House any more. I don't remember being asked and that's the thing I have an issue with. Sister [redacted] [LJI] told us a few days beforehand, but I don't think it was her decision. My dad came and took the three of us back to Glasgow. We knew that he had been drinking. We took our clothes and all our belongings.

82. When we were back in Glasgow, it all just started again. My Uncle [redacted] had access to me again and I was abused. My dad wasn't a bad man He never hit us, but he did drink. I always tried to avoid confrontation or saying something that might make him kick off.

83. One day, the adults got their money and I knew they'd be drunk that night. Granny said she was going to go out on her own. I'd been at school that day. My legs were shaking. I decided to go back to Aberdeen. I said to [LVB] "We're going back to Aberdeen, are you coming?" He didn't want to come and I said something along the lines of, "Well, tell my granny and I'll kill you, but [LUA] coming." [LUA] was five or six years old. She didn't really have a choice, but I tried to protect her. [LUA] had a little carriage for a doll. I put my foam rollers at the bottom of it. I asked my granny for our coats but she said it was the summer and we didn't need them.

84. I tried to phone the social work department from a phone box on the way, but I didn't realise that they didn't work all the time. I don't even know how I knew where the social work department was because it wasn't in Easterhouse anymore. It was at Hogganfield Loch in Stepps. It was a huge walk. We got there and it was closed. I didn't know what we were going to do. I thought my granny would get the police and somebody would come looking for us. There was a garage nearby, but it wasn't working at that time. There was a space in between some wood and we sat in there. **LUA** was crying and I was telling her it was going to be okay.
85. We spent the night there. In the morning, we kept looking at the clock to see what time it was. Somebody came in to be sick. I was scared they were going to find us, but they didn't. As soon as it was morning, we went back up to the social work department. The person who opened the door had red nail varnish. All she had was Ryvita and jam, but she gave us some of that. Mrs Whannell was our social worker by that time. I don't know if I'd had contact with her before that day.
86. We sat outside the social work office, waiting to be taken back to Aberdeen. My granny came and said she knew why we'd wanted our coats. I wasn't cheeky as a child, but I told her I didn't care and that we were going back to Aberdeen. I don't remember anybody asking us why we wanted us to go back. The social worker took us back to Aberdeen that day. I thought I would never go back to Glasgow.
87. I don't remember social workers coming to the house when we returned to Glasgow. Nobody asked if things were okay or if we wanted to be there. It was as if they sent us back and nobody came, nothing had happened. We did start school in Glasgow, but we were only there for a few months. I was still in primary seven when I went back to Aberdeen. **LVB** didn't come back straight away. I think he might have started getting into trouble in Glasgow. When he did come back, he was in a different group, Sister **LKH**. Some of the older children thought that Sister **LKH** group was for children who had come from the Children's Panel, so at the time I thought that might have been why **LVB** went into that group. We didn't have as much contact with **LVB** any more.

88. When I went back to Nazareth House, Uncle [REDACTED] used to phone me. I didn't want him to phone me and I told Sister [REDACTED] LJI It stopped after that. I don't remember social workers visiting us in Aberdeen at all, but they definitely didn't ask us if we wanted to go back to Glasgow. I know it's not Sister [REDACTED] LJI fault and it's not the social worker's fault because I didn't tell them that Uncle [REDACTED] had abused me. However, if they had asked me if I wanted to go back to Glasgow I would have said no. Then Uncle [REDACTED] wouldn't have had access to me again.
89. When we got back to Nazareth House after being in Glasgow, it was just like we were going home. My abiding memory of Nazareth House is being able to go to bed in my pyjamas and knowing I'd still be in my pyjamas in the morning and nobody was getting me up.

Leaving Nazareth House

90. When Sister [REDACTED] LJS arrived, there weren't many children left in the home. Some of the Glasgow children were now going back to Nazareth House in Cardonald. We merged with Sister [REDACTED] LDX's group. We hadn't had much interaction with her group until then. They were in a different part of the house. They didn't go to Tombae for holidays, they went to Girvan. They didn't go to Aberdeen Grammar School, they went to Linksfield Academy. They seemed to get the first pick of any clothes that came in.
91. Before we joined their group, they only had one girl. There was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in that group. There were two brothers who went by the surname [REDACTED]. There was [REDACTED] who was about a year younger than me. She had brothers called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the youngest and the only child of primary school age in Sister [REDACTED] LDX group.
92. Some of the boys went a bit wild for Sister [REDACTED] LJS They ran away and got a train to London. There was a big commotion about them coming back. The social work

department flew them back. I remember [REDACTED] and I saying they should have been getting the bus. As a consequence, they had to put their pyjamas on after school and take their shoes off to stop them running away. I think my brother went with them.

93. At that time, the plan was for me to go and stay with Uncle [REDACTED] and Aunty [REDACTED] [REDACTED] when I left school. I went for two job interviews at British Telecom and the Prescription Pricing Division in Aberdeen. I went to Aunty [REDACTED] one weekend before the summer of 1978. [REDACTED] was getting bigger. We went to a party. [REDACTED] was in a bedroom with one of the boys. I locked myself in the bathroom. They had newspapers on the wall with the Sex Pistols on it.
94. I remember sitting there, wondering what to do. I knew [REDACTED] would hate me if I told Aunty [REDACTED]. People were banging on the door. I told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was going and asked her if she wanted to come. I got a taxi home and she didn't come with me. I told Aunty [REDACTED] she was at the party. I didn't want to be in that situation again. I didn't want [REDACTED] to hate me so I didn't think I could stay there again. I wasn't a very grown up fifteen year old.
95. Some older boys started coming into the house at night. I don't know how old they were, but I was about to turn sixteen and they were older than me. I think they were about eighteen years old. One of them was the older brother of a boy in Nazareth House. The other was the brother of a girl who used to be in Nazareth House. I'm not quite sure why they were there, but they were in the living room. I don't know if Sister [LJS] [REDACTED] knew they were there. They may have been let in after she had gone to bed.
96. I remember wondering what we would do if they came into the bedroom. I thought we could run really fast to Sister [LJS] [REDACTED] room. She didn't lock her door. [REDACTED] was a little bit younger than me. She was in my bedroom with [LUA] [REDACTED]. The boys were saying stuff. I can't remember what they were saying and they definitely didn't do anything. Maybe I felt the way I did because of what had happened with Uncle

██████████ but I didn't know how to get out of the situation. On one occasion, I said to Sister LJS "The big boys are trying to get us." I didn't elaborate.

97. I thought about running away, but I didn't think that would work. Instead, I did what I said I'd never do and I went back to Glasgow. The sisters aren't to blame because I didn't tell them. I was in the middle of my exams. I went to Glasgow, supposedly for the weekend. I had asked ██████████ to look after LUA for me. I still feel that I let LUA down.

98. I went back to stay at my Aunt ██████████ in Glasgow. She was my dad's sister. I just told her I didn't want to go back to Nazareth House, but I didn't tell her why. The social work were still involved because I was fifteen. The school wrote to me and said that I really should go back, but I didn't want to. I decided to get a job in Glasgow.

99. I don't remember a social worker speaking to me about why I had left. Maybe if they had tried to prise it out of me, I would have said something about the older boys. I didn't tell the sisters. If I had, I would never had gone back to Glasgow. I just didn't know how to say it. I wanted out of it. I felt it was coming at two ends because when I went to ██████████, ██████████ was getting older too.

Life after being in care

100. After I went back to Glasgow in ██████████ 1978, I got a job working in an office. I then got a job working for BT. LUA then transferred to Nazareth House in Cardonald. A lot of Sister LRC children had done the same and she was now at Cardonald. I don't think LUA really liked it there. My sister was torn. She went for weekends to my aunt's.

101. Things didn't work out at my aunt's. It was complicated and I was a teenager. My dad didn't know I was there. I didn't want him knowing I was staying in Glasgow. When I was seventeen, nearly eighteen, I phoned Sister LKO who by that time

was the Mother Superior at Nazareth House, Cardonald. I asked her if I could come and stay. She checked with Sister [REDACTED] LRC. She said no. I understand now why they came to that decision, but at the time I felt that they were supposed to be my family and they weren't helping me. I blamed Sister [REDACTED] LRC

102. I phoned Father Clancy, who had brought the priests from Blairs into Nazareth House in Aberdeen. He was in Glasgow. He told me he would sort something out. He contacted the Daughters of Charity, who had a hostel for older girls in Wilton Street, Maryhill. I went to stay there. [REDACTED] LUA was still in Glasgow, so it was all settled for a while.
103. When I lived at the hostel, I started going to see my dad every week. He was with a lady called [REDACTED], who was also an alcoholic. He was always sober when I went to visit and they would make me my tea. One week, he was really drunk when I turned up. It was really embarrassing. He took me in a taxi to Glasgow. He was telling these old men to come and meet his daughter. I was mortified. I didn't visit him for ages after that. He couldn't help it, he was just an alcoholic.
104. When I stayed at Wilton Street, I took an overdose. I don't know what was going on at that time, but I remember thinking nobody really cared and what was the point in it all. Another resident had epilepsy so I took her medication. I remember worrying what would happen to [REDACTED] LUA if I died, so I told Nancy, the house mother. She told Sister Ann, but neither of them told any of the other girls what I'd done. They just said I'd had a stomach complaint. They took me to the hospital and they got the tablets. They had a little talk with me and they must have thought it was just a cry for help. It was a stupid thing to do. I didn't have my family and I was still growing up.
105. [REDACTED] LUA transferred back to Nazareth House in Aberdeen because she didn't like Cardonald. I kept in touch with her all the time. Sometimes, she would come down to Glasgow for weekends. I used to phone her all the time. By that time, there weren't many children left in the home and [REDACTED] LUA got fostered. She was about thirteen. I used to phone her when I worked in BT in Glasgow. I would ask her if she was okay

and she would say that she was. I knew she that wasn't. One day, I phoned her and she wasn't there. The foster parents said they didn't know where she was.

106. I phoned her social worker and he told me where she was. She was with a new foster family, who were lovely. Everything was much better for her. She's still in touch with that family. Although our dad had put us into care voluntarily, he could have taken her back at any point. When she was thirteen, they made her a ward of court so he couldn't come and get her.
107. When I first went to the hostel at Wilton Street, Sister Ann was in charge. She asked me to answer the phone at the hostel and then I didn't have to pay any digs. It was a little bit scary at first because some of the girls sniffed glue and things like that. However, although we were all different, everybody got on. Sister Ann was moved and Sister Mary arrived. She was very different. She would lock the door before everybody was home. She didn't let us go into each other's rooms. I didn't like it so I left and I went to stay at my granny's for a short time. That didn't work out so I moved into a flat. One of the girls at work helped me to find a flat down the road from BT.
108. When I was about twenty, I applied for a transfer back to Aberdeen so I could be closer to LUA I was going to work at the BT exchange in Aberdeen. I had a boyfriend by then. He was going to move to Aberdeen as well. I was going to stay with a congregation that taught in the secondary school. At the last minute, the transfer fell through. Because of the disappointment, I decided I wasn't going to go back to work. I went youth hostelling in Grantown-on-Spey with my boyfriend. My supervisor managed to get in touch and told me to go back. I think she had a soft spot for me and she had kept my job open for me, so I did go back.
109. I moved in with my friend , who lived in Paisley. She was teaching there. She had been a student in Aberdeen and then she became a member of staff at Nazareth House for a short period of time, which was how we met. Sometimes I would go to stay with her parents when she was on holiday from university. I was engaged and still working at BT. My friend had been a student priest. He had just

been ordained. I started thinking about becoming a sister. The Sisters of Nazareth had been so good to me and I thought they did such good work. I contacted Hammersmith and asked if I could come and visit them.

110. I got the bus to London and stayed in Hammersmith for a couple of days. It was the summer of 1984. I spoke to [REDACTED] and she neither persuaded nor dissuaded me. The sisters didn't do that either. I told them about the tablets I had taken because I wanted them to know everything. I knew I wouldn't be working with children because the Sisters of Nazareth worked with elderly people by that time. I thought I could do that.
111. I entered the order just before [REDACTED] 1984. I was at the novitiate house in Hammersmith as a postulate for a few years. My sister came to visit. I became a novice. I professed in [REDACTED] 1987 and then I went to Wrexham. I helped in the residential home there. I moved from there to Cheltenham. The sisters in Cheltenham were all lovely, but I started to wonder if I had done the right thing. I was able to speak to Mother Austin. I told her I didn't think it was me. She told me to have a good think about it and she spoke to the Mother General.
112. I didn't have any family to go home to. The sisters didn't encourage me to stay and they didn't encourage me to leave. They said it would be very brave if I decided to leave and that I could go back if I felt that I'd made a mistake. I left in [REDACTED] 1989. I was crying when I left, as were the other sisters, but there was no ill feeling. They knew I didn't have a family, so they paid my national insurance contributions for the entire time I'd been in the order. They also gave me some money to help me on my way. I asked if I could keep the little emblem that Sisters of Nazareth wore and they allowed me to do that. I've met a lot of sisters over the years. Nearly all of them have been very kind.
113. I'm happily married and I have my two children and I wouldn't change that. Looking back now, I don't think I would leave the Sisters of Nazareth. I think I was being a bit judgemental. The sisters were all different. Most of them were very kind and doing it

for the right reasons. One of the sisters, Sister [REDACTED] LDX?, is godmother to my daughter, [REDACTED]. I'm also occasionally in touch with Sister [REDACTED].

114. I'm still a practising Catholic. However, a work colleague was having a conversation last year. He was talking to somebody else. He said only he and one other man that he went to school with had a decorum of faith because they both went to church. I piped in, "You don't have to go to church to be a good person." I don't think it matters what religion people are. You don't need to go to church or have a faith to be a good person. I believe it's not just about being a good Catholic, Jew, Muslim or Christian. It's about being a good, kind person and trying to do your best as you travel along this path. I don't think I will be asked whether I was a good Catholic or whatever. I'm not perfect, far from it, but my answer will be that I tried and I have always tried to do my best and be a kind, decent person.
115. When I left the order, I went to stay in Dumfries because my friend [REDACTED] was there. I started working for a book publisher. I met my husband soon afterwards and we got married in 1992. I've worked for the council for ten years. When the children were at school, I worked in the dinner hall so I could be with my children during the school holidays. I now work for [REDACTED] Council care call and out of hours service. Both my children still live with me. My oldest child, [REDACTED] is 25. She's hoping to go to [REDACTED] University to study [REDACTED] in the autumn. My son, [REDACTED] is 22. He studied computer studies at college, but he decided not to go to university. [REDACTED]
116. If I had stuck it out at school, I think I would have become a nurse. I think I would have become a good nurse, but I didn't get the qualifications. When I was in the religious life, Mother Austin in Cheltenham tried to get me back into my studies with a view to me going into nursing. I do regret that I didn't stick in at school. I always told my children it was up to them what they did with their lives, but their education was important. My daughter listened but my son still played his x-box. I didn't push them, but I told them not to do what I did and leave in the middle of my exams.

117. After my mum left us in Wales, we didn't see her until we were grown up. Before I left the Sisters of Nazareth, I decided to try and find my mum. The sisters helped me. We wrote to the Salvation Army. I knew she had been living with [REDACTED] before she left. When I found her, my mum asked why I hadn't looked for her when I was eighteen. I told her my circumstances were different then. If she hadn't wanted to know me at that age, it would have had such a bad effect on my life.

Impact

118. Nazareth House was a positive experience for me. I think I would have been more disturbed if I'd stayed at home. The stability was good for me and I met good people. The sisters did their best. Uncle [REDACTED] did abuse me when I was allowed to go back to Glasgow. I didn't tell anybody some of the things that happened, but I don't think anybody can be held responsible for that. I didn't know how to say it and I didn't say it. Looking back, I do think the social work department should have been more involved. They should have come to see how we were doing when we were in Nazareth House and they should have been checking everything was okay when we were back in Glasgow.

119. I tried not to talk about the abuse by Uncle [REDACTED]. The memories flared up when my daughter was eleven or twelve. I looked at her and wondered how he could have done that to me when I was the same age. I wondered if the abuse had really happened. I phoned the NSPCC. I told them about the memories I had of my uncle, which I had buried for so long. I asked if there was any way it might not have happened, but they said it was a definite memory. I did tell my granny what Uncle [REDACTED] had done when I was older. I think she found it hard to believe because he was her son. [REDACTED] died a few years ago.

120. I don't know how well I'd have done at school if I'd stayed in Glasgow. I remember being at school in Glasgow, shaking. I didn't have that in Aberdeen. I could go home and I could go to bed and I could study as much as I wanted to study. I'm not sure

my results would have been great, but I should have stayed and done the rest of my exams. I should have told somebody what was happening with the older boys. Maybe if Sister [LJI] had been there or maybe if social workers had visited me, I would have told somebody.

121. My sister, [LUA] works to recruit foster carers in Australia. She has an insight into certain things. She says that nowadays, cutting my hair would be seen as abuse. She asked how it made me feel. I told her I couldn't remember and that it didn't affect me. She said I wouldn't go to school, so I must have felt embarrassed. I told her that I did feel embarrassed, but that I didn't think about it. I told her that I always felt safe at Nazareth House. My sister said, "Well, why did you leave then?"
122. I took my children to my sister's for a holiday in 2005. My sister was looking on the internet about Cameron Fyfe and a court case involving Nazareth House. I had a weird sensation. I came back and went to my GP. He did tests and he thought I was suffering from stress. He said that he could give me a number if I felt that I needed it. I said I'd come back if I needed to, but I never felt the need. I'd never had that feeling before, but I know it's there now and I can control it.
123. I've always had a good relationship with my sister. When I left her to go back to Glasgow, it did have an impact on her life. She already had abandonment issues because of my mum. When [LVB] went into Sister [LKH]'s group, it did change our relationship with him. My brother [LVB] has always been easily led, so that might have happened anyway. He sniffed glue when he was younger and I think he has smoked cannabis. Sometimes, I wonder if when a family is split up, it affects boys more. He used to draw grave stones with my mum's name on them.
124. Because I was in care, I didn't really have any role models when I became a parent. I did have Uncle [] and Auntie []. They had treated me like one of their family. I knew I really hurt Auntie [] when I didn't go to stay with them, but I couldn't explain it to her at the time. Over the years, we didn't keep in touch all the time. We dropped in on her when my mother died, ten years ago. She just got beds ready for us. We drove up to Tombae to reminisce. A year or two ago, [] died suddenly.

I went to the funeral in Dunfermline. When Aunty [REDACTED] came out at the end, she sobbed and sobbed and sobbed when she saw me. I think it was because I was called [REDACTED] and we were so close in age.

125. Being in care isn't the same as being at home. It can't be helped. My first choice would have been to stay with my mum. My step dad doesn't like to talk about our childhoods. He feels like he took my mum away from us and it was his fault. But it could have been much worse for us. If I'd stayed in Glasgow, I wouldn't be the person that I am today.

Reporting of Abuse

126. I told my sister, [REDACTED] LUA that I had been abused by Uncle [REDACTED] when we were both adults. I told my gran about Uncle [REDACTED] abuse when she was quite old and I was grown up. I think she knew that it was true. One of the Sisters from the convent in Dumfries, Sister Irene, attended Mass at our parish church. When Uncle [REDACTED] died, I told her that he had abused me. She said that I should have let somebody know in case it happened to somebody else. I started to worry that it might have happened to somebody else, but then I thought that it couldn't have because he didn't have access to other children. It got me thinking. I spoke to my sister and my cousin, [REDACTED] about Uncle [REDACTED] but nothing had happened to them but nothing had.

Records

127. I've never recovered my records. When [REDACTED] LUA was getting married, she discovered that the church where she was baptised had burnt down and the records had been destroyed. I think she tried to trace her records with the Sisters of Nazareth, but the records are vague. It would be nice to know what was written about us and whether the social workers were speaking to the Sisters. My friend, [REDACTED] has a lot of photos in albums with dates beside them. She has sent some to us over the years.

Lessons to be Learned

128. I think the social work department need to visit children more. If they're having discussions about children, they should speak to the children. Even if they don't discuss everything with the child, they should ask them what they think. I also think there were signs when we were young. If my dad hadn't taken us into care voluntarily, when was that going to happen? If somebody had asked me if I wanted to go back to Glasgow, I would have said no. Children should be involved in decisions that are made about them because it's their lives.

129. I hope that lessons have been learned by now, but it does worry me when you hear what happened in Rochdale and places like that. It used to be drink. Now there are drugs as well. I know they do try to keep children with their families for as long as they can and it's difficult to get it right.

130. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] If people are saying that things happened to them when they were children and they remember those things happening, then their memories are their memories. They have the right to speak up. I have positive memories of Nazareth House but there were children there before me or at the same time as me who might have had different experience. I think they all need to be heard.

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

Signed [REDACTED] LTO

Dated..... 27/06/2018