

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

LBH

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LBH My date of birth is 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was born in Glasgow. Our family lived in Street in Maryhill, Glasgow. I am the eldest of my siblings. I have a sister called who is eighteen months younger than me and a brother called who is three years younger than me. My mother's maiden name was When she married my father she became My father's name is
3. My mother had a difficult life before she got married. She had been in prison and borstal. She had depression. Her mother had been murdered when she was twelve by prostitutes living in the same block. They had battered her to death using their high heels. She was the eldest of her siblings and had to try to look after them.
4. My mother married my father in 1969. They were both young. My mother was nineteen and my father was eighteen years old. I was born two months later in the My mother never wanted me. She always said that I had "ruined her life." When she was pregnant with me, she lived near the red light district down at George's Cross, Glasgow. She would pretend that she was a prostitute so that she could mug men. I asked her "How could you have done that?" and she said that she

didn't care what happened because she didn't want me anyway. She didn't care about me at all.

5. When I was three years old, I went missing. I was found at the local priests house. My grandfather lived on [REDACTED] Street on a hill near a Catholic Church called St Theresa's. The priest lived in a house behind St Theresa's. It was located up behind the chapel and Chapel Hall, behind some trees. I can vaguely remember it. A three year old would not have known that the priest's house was there because you couldn't see it from the street. I remember asking my father about it and where he was when this happened. How could a three year old have been left alone to go about by themselves? My father said that he was at work.
6. I think we moved to [REDACTED] street after that. It was the same street as where my grandfather lived. We were at one end of the street and my grandfather lived at the other end. We lived in a one room flat, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] my parents and me.
7. We were living in [REDACTED] street when my father was arrested for attempted murder. I saw it happen. It was because of my mother. My parents had held a party. My mother was a good looking woman and she was also a bit of a flirt. I saw my dad go out of the room for something and then suddenly "all blue murder" broke out. My mother had a big ornamental sword on the wall. My dad took it down and set about a man my mother had been talking to. He wrapped the sword around the man's neck and twisted it in. I remember the police coming. They were looking for my dad but he wasn't there.
8. My father was sent to Saughton Prison. It wasn't long before my mother took up with a man who lived in the next close. My parents divorced whilst my father was in jail. I visited him once at Saughton.
9. I was four years old and starting school at that time. The first primary school I went to was called Hawthorne Primary School in Possil Park, Glasgow. It was a Protestant school. I don't know why my mum sent me there. All of my family were Catholic. My

mother's and my father's family were both Catholic. From what I can remember, school was an escape for me. It was better than being at home.

10. We went to lots of different schools in the area at different times, Hawthorne Primary, Commonhead Primary, St Aloysius, St Theresa's, St Kentigerns, Our Lady's of something, Nazareth House, back to St Theresa's. I can't remember the exact dates of everything. I was at about six or seven different primary schools. It was because we were moving house a lot and I was in and out of Nazareth House. My mother struggled to pay her bills and we always ended up having to move house quickly.
11. There was social work involvement with the family. I don't know when it started. I remember the social workers because we would look forward to them coming at Christmas time. They would always bring us a small present. It was also during the time of "Cash for kids" so they would always bring that too.
12. The social work got involved in our family because my mother used to tell her doctor that she couldn't cope with us. She told the doctor that she was battering us. I remember her battering us. It was a regular occurrence. I remember being with my mother at the doctors when she told the doctor that if the social work didn't take us away, she couldn't be held responsible for her actions. All of my family knew that we were being battered, my uncle, all of my aunties, my granddad, everybody knew. The social work used to take us for days out now and again to give my mother a break.
13. The next time I remember the social work visiting us they took us out of school. I think I was aged seven when that happened. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were also at school. We were all at St Kentigern's school at that time. I remember being called to the headmistress' room. I was told that we were going away somewhere because my mother couldn't cope. We were taken to some office and then on to Nazareth House. I was seven or eight years old.

## **Nazareth House, Cardonald**

14. There was a big gate that we drove through and then up the drive. It was a big Victorian building. It looked like an asylum to me. There were two or three floors although during my time there, I don't remember ever going upstairs. There were lawns and trees, the grounds were large. I think there were other buildings that staff and Nazareth House people lived in.
15. I think I went to Nazareth House twice. The first time it was only for a couple of months. During my second stay, I ran away and stayed with my uncle because my mum wouldn't have me back. I stayed there for a few months until my brother and sister also got out of Nazareth House, then I went back to my mother's.
16. The age range of the children was wide. There were children younger than [REDACTED] right up to teenagers. There were a lot of children but I couldn't say how many in total. I was seven or eight years old when I first arrived. The second time I went it was after the summer of 1978. I was nine when I left for good.

## **Routine at Nazareth House, Cardonald**

### *First day*

17. I remember thinking that it was a big scary looking house. There was a chapel on the right hand side of the building. We went inside the main door, there was a long corridor with lots of rooms coming off it. We met the Mother Superior and another young girl called [REDACTED]. She was the Mother Superior's favourite. I don't remember a social worker being present, I think she had just dropped us off. No one told us how long we would be staying.
18. We were still wearing our school uniforms when I arrived. We didn't have any other clothes with us.

19. I remember the first night. The nun's wouldn't let the boys and girls sleep in the same room. I could hear my brother [REDACTED] crying in the boys dorm. He was only four. I crept into his dorm and into his bed with him that night. A nun called Sister [REDACTED] LHZ came in to check the beds. She found me and called me a "Hoor." She said that I was "dirty" to be sleeping in a bed with a boy.

*Mornings and bedtime*

20. We were woken up at 6.30 am. The nuns would check if you had wet the bed. If the bed was dry, you would then make your bed. We would get washed and brush our teeth. I had never brushed my teeth before Nazareth House. We would then get ready for breakfast and school. We would go across the corridor to the dining room for breakfast.
21. After breakfast we would put our school shoes on. We had soft "sand shoes" for wearing around the house. We would all walk to school together. After school we would walk back to the house to do chores before dinner.
22. Bed time was pretty early. It varied a bit according to your age group. The nun's had their favourites who would be allowed to stay up later. Sometimes the nuns kept their favourites up for ulterior motives.
23. Once you were in bed, the nuns would come to switch the dormitory lights off. You could hear a lot of children crying and being upset. We were told by the nuns to sleep with our arms across our chests. It was to ensure that we didn't touch ourselves. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ was always there, watching. There were always nuns about. They slept on site.

*Bed-wetting*

24. The nuns would check in the morning to see if you had wet the bed. If you had wet the bed, they would make you stand in the middle of the dorm. They would make you hold your sheets up so that everyone could see that you had wet the bed. They

would tell you that you were “dirty” or “pishy”. It was humiliating. Sometimes the nuns would make you sleep in your dirty sheets. It would make you smell of urine all day.

25. If you had wet the bed, you would not get to go for breakfast. I am not sure if it was as a punishment or because you were too busy changing your sheets.
26. I don't remember ever getting up in the middle of the night to go to the toilet. You didn't want to draw attention to yourself. If you wet the bed you would just stay in your wet bed to avoid seeing the nuns.

### *Bathing*

27. The water was always freezing. I remember the baths being very cold. We did not have a bath every night, you would go for a bath on a particular day.

### *Showers/Privacy*

28. There were always a lot of staff wandering around the home doing laundry and chores. I think the staff were probably complicit in the abuse. I think some of them were probably involved in abuse themselves. They would come in and look at us in the baths. People that weren't nuns just wandered in and out all of the time. We were never given any privacy or personal space. There was a male gardener who helped in the garden. There were other people I didn't know who just wandered about. They were “volunteers” apparently.

### *Dormitories*

29. The dorms had quite a lot of children in each one. We slept on single beds, not bunk beds. I can't remember if my sister was in the same dorm as me. There was one nun called “Big Sister” who was in charge of the dormitories. It was Sister LHZ

*Food*

30. We would eat all of our meals at Nazareth House in the dining room. At breakfast we would mainly eat porridge. I can't remember if we had lunch at school or back at the house. We never got much food at tea time. What you did get you were grateful for.
31. I was used to being starved but the food at Nazareth House was the worst of the worst. Sometimes you just couldn't eat it so the nuns would force feed you. They used brute strength. They would grab you and force the food down your throat. I remember seeing [REDACTED] crying and being sick in the dining room.

*School*

32. We always arrived at school far too early. We would get there at 8 am or 8.15 am but school didn't start until 9 am. It was always freezing cold. It felt horrible because everyone knew where we came from.
33. I remember going to three schools. I went to Our Lady of something Primary School whilst I was at Nazareth House and St Kentigern's Primary and St Aloysius Primary when I went home. I can't remember if [REDACTED] went to the same school as [REDACTED] and me. I liked school everywhere that I went.
34. I can't remember if we had homework. I never needed any help with homework anyway. I don't remember getting any help with anything.

*Leisure time*

35. I remember being taken to the swing park sometimes in the evenings. We were allowed to watch TV in the TV room at weekends.

*Siblings/Friendships*

36. We were not encouraged to mix with our siblings. My siblings sought me out at meal times because I was the eldest. It was discouraged by the nuns.
37. The other children would talk about the nuns and what was happening to them. If a nun saw us chatting or making friends they would stop it. We were not encouraged to forge close relationships.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

38. I am not sure if I was at Nazareth House for Christmas, I can't remember. I was there for [REDACTED] birthday on [REDACTED]. It was not marked and there were no celebrations. I think my mother was supposed to come to visit us but she didn't.

*Visits/Inspections*

39. Parents were allowed to visit on a Saturday afternoon. The children would have to sit in the dining room to wait for their parents. I think my mother came to visit us a couple of times but I am not sure. She might not have been allowed to visit us. She was a danger.
40. I do not remember any social work visits or visits from other outside agencies or family. We might have but I don't know.

*Chores*

41. We would have to do chores after school and also at the weekend. We would clean and tidy wherever the nuns and staff told us to. The grounds were large and sometimes we were sent to pick up leaves. We were not allowed to play in the grounds. We were only allowed to collect leaves and litter. We had to polish our school shoes at the weekend.



*Religious Instruction*

42. We had prayers before everything. We would have prayers before breakfast in the morning and before dinner at night and also on Feast Days. There was chapel on Sunday. There was no choice about it, you did what you were told.

*Healthcare*

43. I remember going back to the home from school one day with a brown envelope. The school had sent me back. I think I went to Sister [REDACTED] LGC and gave her the envelope. She battered me for being "dirty". In hindsight, I think it was for having head lice.
44. I do not recall having any health or dental checks at Nazareth House.

*Running Away*

45. I remember running away on a Saturday. Someone was meant to be visiting us that day but I ran away in the morning. There was [REDACTED] LJE who sat next to me. He was older than me and wore glasses. He kept trying to touch me, grab me and pinch me at the dinner table. He had previously done other things to me. On this day he had a teaspoon and was hitting me. He just kept hitting me and wouldn't stop. The nuns didn't do anything to prevent bullying, they just let it happen. Quite a lot of interfering went on between the older and younger children. [REDACTED] LJE [REDACTED] just thought he could get away with anything.
46. This boy's behaviour was "the straw that broke the camel's back". I just ran out of the front door onto a busy street. I think it was Paisley Road West. I spoke to a woman on the street and asked her for some money for the bus fare. She gave it to me and stood with me until I got on the bus. I took the bus to my mother's house on [REDACTED] street. My mother refused to take me back. I told her about what was going on at Nazareth House and she called me a liar. She said that I was "a selfish, horrible, wee bastard" for running away and leaving my younger siblings alone at the

home. I was a “liar” for saying things about the nuns and staff. She said she wouldn’t take me back to live with her so I was going back to the home.

47. I was hysterical so my uncle took me to stay with him and his girlfriend for a while. They took me in so I didn’t have to go back to the home. They had three boys already so it was very hard. We all shared the same room but nothing untoward happened. It was the most settled time for me. I went to St Aloysius Primary whilst I was staying at my uncle’s. My mother was still living on [REDACTED] Street at that time.
48. My mother had moved to [REDACTED] Street by that time which was the same street that my uncle lived on. I was living my uncle and attending St Kentigern’s Primary School. My sister and brother, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were still at Nazareth House. Whilst I was at St Kentigern’s I was given a school project to do. It was a project about the different countries participating in the World Cup. I had Argentina. Argentina then won the World Cup. At the end of term, the school gave my project to another pupil. After I left Nazareth House for good I returned to St Kentigern’s but I didn’t get my project back. I remember being devastated.

### **Abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald**

#### *Physical/Verbal abuse*

49. We would be disciplined if we attempted to answer back, were insolent, or even if we looked at the nuns in a way that they didn’t like. They would constantly call us “spawn of the devil”, “harlots” or “Jezebels”. I had never heard words like that before. There was constant verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
50. We were physically knocked off our feet by the nuns pretty regularly. I am surprised that there weren’t more significant injuries or that a wean wasn’t killed. I saw the nuns physically beating the other children and my siblings regularly. We had to wear

sand shoes in the home. The nuns would use the sand shoes to beat us. I remember wetting the bed and being set upon by one of the nuns with a sand shoe.

51. The nuns would also use their keys and beads and a crucifix that hung from their belts to hit us. They were heavy and the nuns would swing them at us. They would hit us on the body with anything they could get their hands on. They would hit us everywhere except the face. It would leave marks and bruises.
52. Sister [REDACTED] LGD, Sister [REDACTED] LGC and Sister [REDACTED] LHZ were the worst. The younger nuns who hadn't been there that long were not that bad. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ was really, really bad. It was her that dragged me out of my brother's bed on the first day. She was also the worst for punishing us for bed-wetting. She wasn't the Mother Superior but she was quite senior. She held a lot of sway with what went on in Nazareth House.

#### *Sexual abuse*

53. [REDACTED] LJE was manipulative. If there were no nuns about he would take me over to a quiet area. He would pull my hair-bobble out of my hair. I would tell him to give it back and he would put the hair-bobble around his penis. He would say "Come and get it if you want it". The boy was older than me, he was maybe thirteen or fourteen. I never told anyone about what this boy was doing to me.
54. In confession I told the [REDACTED] LHS about the physical and emotional abuse at Nazareth House. It was the "Our Lady's of something Church." I can't remember what the something was. The [REDACTED] LHS told the nuns at Nazareth House what I had said. I got battered when I got back to the home. The nuns told me to keep my mouth shut. They called me "dirty", "a wee slut" and said that no one would believe me and everyone would believe them.
55. The next time that I went to confession the [REDACTED] LHS "had a go". I had drawn a picture of the chapel for him and I had taken it with me to show him. I sat in a cubicle with the grill between [REDACTED] LHS and me. I told him that I had the picture. After confession, he

came out of his side of the cubicle and came into mine. I gave him the picture. I don't know how but he ended up standing behind me. He was looking at the picture and I could feel him right up close behind me. Then I could feel him put his hands down my pants. He had a cassock on over his trousers. I could feel that he was rubbing himself against me. I remember I felt something hot, wet and sticky.

56. When I left the confession box to go back to the convent I was bleeding down below. I had to go to the doctors about it. I was eight or nine years old. [REDACTED] LHS [REDACTED] was in his forties or fifties. He was [REDACTED]. I can't remember his name. That was the first time that it happened, I can't remember if happened again after that.

### **Leaving Nazareth House, Cardonald**

57. I left when I ran away in the autumn of 1978. I lived with my uncle initially .My siblings remained at Nazareth House for a few more months. I was nine, [REDACTED] was seven and [REDACTED] was five years old. When they left, my mum wanted me back with but I didn't want to live with her. I did go back and realised she wanted me there to look after my younger siblings. We didn't live on [REDACTED] street anymore as our mother and step-father had moved to [REDACTED] Street.
58. I don't remember any social work contact whilst we were in the home but there was social work involvement after we left. The social work remained involved with our family for some time although the visits were not regular. [REDACTED] ended up in St Johns when he was about thirteen or fourteen years old. That is the last I can remember of the social work. St John's was a residential school for boys in Easterhouse, Glasgow.

### **Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House, Cardonald**

59. When I ran away, I told everybody why I had ran away. I told my mum, my step-dad and my uncle [REDACTED] what was going on at Nazareth House. They all knew. They were all complicit. My mother told me that I was a liar and that she didn't believe me. My step-dad said that I was just saying it to not go back. I think my uncle [REDACTED] believed me. I felt ashamed because I had left my younger brother and sister in the home.
60. I went to the police a couple of years ago. A police woman called Susan got in touch to ask me to give a statement. I have not given them a formal statement yet. I am planning to give them a formal statement in January 2018.

### **Life after being in care**

61. It was terrible. My mother was in and out of a psychiatric hospital all her days. We used to go up and visit her. Our step-father was an alcoholic. He was called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We were not looked after. Quite often we would come home from school and there would be nobody home so we would have to sit outside. We were not fed. My sister said to me recently how she keeps getting flashbacks of crying in the street because she was so hungry. My mother and step-father used to laugh about it.
62. There was a lot of violence in the house. My mother was extremely violent. I remember one night she was arguing with my step-father. My mother told me to go into the kitchen and get the carving knife. I said no, I wouldn't go to get it. She punched me. I went to get the knife for her and I remember standing in the hallway. She was in the bedroom. I stood there with the knife and I didn't know what to do with it. She said "Give me that knife cos it's either going in you or going in him. If I have to come and take it off you, it will be you that will be getting it". I gave her the knife and she stabbed my step-father and punctured his lungs. I remember seeing him lying in a pool of blood. The ambulance came and took him away from the

house. My step-father blamed me all my days for that. He said it was my fault that he got stabbed. I was nine years old.

63. At that time, my father had just been released from jail for attempted murder. He said that he would take the blame for the stabbing so that my mother didn't go to jail. In the end, my mother got my step-father to pretend that he had been "jumped" and apply for criminal injuries. The police knew that it was made up but no one was ever arrested. My mum always said that she would get away with it anyway because she was in and out of psychiatric hospitals. She knew that she wouldn't go to jail.
64. When we left Nazareth House, I went back to St Kentigern's school. We were bullied because we were "wee tramps." The other children knew that we had been in children's homes. School wasn't great but it was better than being at home. We then went to a secondary school called St Augustine's in Milton for a while, then on to Saracen's Secondary and then back to St Augustine's Secondary school. My mother was still moving around Springburn quite a bit.
65. My step-father [REDACTED] was supposed to be looking after us whilst my mother was in hospital. He was out drinking most of the time so I became [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] primary carer. I think that is the only reason that my mum let me back in the house. I remember pulling out all of the dirty school uniforms on a Sunday night otherwise they wouldn't get washed. It was me that took my siblings to school every day. [REDACTED] would take [REDACTED] to school when I went to high school.
66. Life was still terrible at home but I did really well at high school. I got voted onto the school council by the other pupils. I was well thought of at school. I wanted to stay on at school to finish my education. The school wanted me to stay on too. My guidance teacher Mr Campbell begged and pleaded with my mum to let me stay. He said "She could do anything she wanted" but my mum said "No she has to work." I did quite well in my standard grades and left school after that.

67. I don't know why I stuck around with my mum after that, I should have just left home when I was sixteen but I didn't have the strength or the wherewithal to do anything. There was no social work involvement anymore with our family by that time.
68. After school I worked full time as a trainee manageress at R S McColl's. I stayed at my grandfather's house quite a lot. He had two daughters the same age as me and my sister as he had been married three times. I stayed with my grandfather to get away from my mother. When I was eighteen years old I found out that my grandfather was dying of cancer. I gave up my job to move in and look after him. He had been a caretaker at the local health centre and knew all the district nurses. He did not want the nurses that he had worked with taking him to the toilet and giving him bed-baths. Me and his third wife looked after him. I left my job and cared for him for about six months. I was nineteen years old.
69. When my grandfather was dying I couldn't sleep. I kept waking up at 4.15 in the morning. I didn't know why I was having these sleep problems so one night I took some of my grandfather's pills to help me sleep. It wasn't to take an overdose or anything. My mother and my uncle used to sit up drinking whilst my grandfather was in his bed. They wouldn't put him in a hospital. I would be cooking and clearing things up in the kitchen and around the house. I was in the kitchen and fell asleep leaning against the cooker because I had taken those tablets. I still have a massive scar on my arm from the burn. My mother came into the kitchen and saw me. She battered me, that is how I woke up. She kicked me up and down the hall. An ambulance came and took me to hospital. I was seen by psychiatrists because they thought I had tried to kill myself. I told them that I hadn't been trying to commit suicide, I was just exhausted and wanted a sleep. They told my mum and my uncle that I wasn't physically or mentally fit to look after my grandfather any more.
70. The hospital kept me in overnight and in the morning I went home to my mother's house. My uncle phoned me up and told me to get back down to my grandfather's. My grandfather had dementia and I was the only one who understood him. They just couldn't cope with him. I went back to care for him even though the hospital said that I shouldn't. My grandfather died six months later.

71. After my grandfather died, I drifted about part time jobs for a while and homeless units. I began taking recreational drugs and drinking a lot . I never took hard drugs but I was slipping and knew I had to do something. I decided to move. I left Glasgow and I moved to Blackpool to work. I was aged 24.
72. I was only in Blackpool for a week when I met the father of my son [REDACTED] I had previously been told that I couldn't have children. I'd spent five years having fertility treatment. I met [REDACTED] dad in July and by October I found out that I was pregnant. I couldn't believe it, I was delighted. I gave up drinking and got engaged to [REDACTED] father. I didn't want my son to be born in England, I wanted him to be Scottish so we moved back to Glasgow.
73. [REDACTED] was born in 1995 but I suffered from post-natal depression. I wouldn't let anyone near [REDACTED]. I held him constantly. I couldn't sleep at night unless I had my hand on his chest to feel his breathing. No one was allowed to take him out. Nobody was allowed to keep him overnight. I had the same anxiety about his safety until he was eighteen years old. I think [REDACTED] has suffered as a result. He is twenty-two now, he is a highly intelligent boy but has a lot of social anxiety.
74. [REDACTED] father and I split up when [REDACTED] was about three. I moved back to Springburn to the same close as my sister.
75. I had a big argument with my sister one night. It erupted into violence and we were fighting. My mother came up to my house and started calling me everything. She called me a cow and a slut. She said "You might be locked behind that door now but see the first chance I get I'm going to leave you lying in a pool of blood, you slut. And see your boy, I'm going to make sure he sees me doing it." That was when [REDACTED] was only three years old.
76. I had to seek refuge at Women's Aid [REDACTED]. I stayed there for six months and nobody knew where we were. [REDACTED] Dad had moved to Bolton. I then got a house in Maryhill, Glasgow so we moved there. I have lived in Maryhill



ever since. [REDACTED] has only been to two schools, one primary school and one secondary school.

77. When [REDACTED] was five, I got back together with [REDACTED] Dad. I enrolled at [REDACTED] college and [REDACTED] went to school. I got an honours degree in business management and then a Masters in Education. I then went back to the college as a lecturer [REDACTED]. I wanted to get a job that I could do 9am to 5pm and get all of the school holidays. This was so that I could look after [REDACTED] when he wasn't at school. I wasn't going to let him out of my sight. I was working my life around [REDACTED] until I had a nervous breakdown.
78. My mother died in March 2002. It was at the time that I was leaving college. I was glad she died. She was murdered. My sister found her in the house on a Monday morning. My mother had been drinking with someone on the Saturday night. Whoever had been with her was very forensically aware as they had turned the heating up full blast. They had obviously known that it would affect the decomposition. She had been strangled with a ligature. I remember seeing her coming out of the house on a stretcher. She was taken to an ambulance. I remember asking the ambulance staff if she was dead. They looked at me as if I was daft. She had had multiple suicide attempts. Over the years I had found her umpteen times with her wrists slashed or when she had taken an overdose. She tried to throw herself out of the window of her car on the motorway. It was unbelievable. We saw it all the time.
79. The police let us all into the house where my mother's body was. They messed up the whole investigation. They never found who did it. I remember the police had to take us all, including our young cousins into the police station to be fingerprinted. We still don't know to this day what happened. We don't know who killed my mother but it must have been someone that she knew. She had been drinking with them in her house. My mother lay in the morgue for six weeks. She was murdered in the [REDACTED] but she didn't get buried until the [REDACTED]

80. My mother's parting gift to me was to try to ruin my wedding. I was getting married to [REDACTED] father. I got married in the July, a few months after her death. Just previous to her being murdered, she had phoned me up. I think it was a week before her murder. It was the last time I ever spoke to her. She told me that she didn't want my step dad walking me down the aisle because she wasn't talking to him. She said that if he did walk me down the aisle, she wouldn't be at my wedding. I told her that she wouldn't be at my wedding anyway. She didn't know the date of my wedding or where we were getting married. Somehow she found out where I was having my wedding reception. She phoned up the venue and cancelled it. That was her last act before she died. She said that I "had never been much of a daughter" and I said she "had never been much of a mother."
81. I saw my father once after he had been released from Saughton. It was at my grandfather's house. He kind of faded into the background after that because my mum had taken up with my step-father. My father told me recently that he didn't know about the homes until years after we had left.

## **Impact**

### *Marriage difficulties*

82. I had difficulties within my marriage from early on. My husband had been mad about me and begged me to marry him before we got married. When my husband told me that he loved me, I didn't believe him. I thought how can he? I'm dirty and I'm used. That's what I felt like. We didn't have much of a sex life. There were always difficulties.
83. I had already begun to go downhill when Jack McConnell was First Minister. It was around 2002 when he made a speech in the Scottish Parliament about child abuse in Scotland. My husband kept asking me what was wrong. I told him that what Jack McConnell was talking about had happened to me. I told him about my experiences and the abuse I had suffered. My husband said to me "If I had known that you were

like that I wouldn't have married you." I was shocked. I couldn't look at him after that. We slept in different rooms from that day on. It took us three years to split up, before he would leave. [REDACTED] was twelve when he did leave. Right up until [REDACTED] was eighteen, I never went out with anyone else, I just stayed in my house. I had no family, it was just me and [REDACTED]

### *Career*

84. After the breakdown of my marriage, I hit the bottle and wasn't looking after myself at all. I got pneumonia and had to give up work. I took voluntary redundancy. I got myself into a lot of debt and my doctor started to prescribe me sleeping tablets and anti-depressants. I said to my doctor that I didn't know whether I could ever teach again. We talked about it. I don't think I've got it in me now to stand up in front of thirty or forty male mechanical engineers. I've got a pension because of my illness. After going through University for six years, I lost my house, my marriage and my career.

### *Religious impact*

85. I visited the chapel at Our Lady's about two years ago. Archbishop Conti was doing mass that day for someone who had passed away. I was sat in the kitchen at the priests house drinking a cup of tea. The priest came in and asked if I was alright. As soon as I started telling him about the abuse I had suffered, he wasn't interested. He said "Things were different back then" and turned around straight out of the door. That was the their whole attitude. I don't even know why I had gone there, I had no faith left at all. I have not had a faith for years.
86. I ended up contacting the Archdiocese two years ago. I went back twice. I saw two women there but they weren't sympathetic at all. They said I should get in touch with the police. I just didn't feel that I could talk to them and I left in an awful state. They didn't check to see if I was ok. I ended up calling them six weeks later and giving them an earful.

*Mental Health*

87. I have had intrusive thoughts for years. I keep having flash-backs and nightmares. If I smell incense it triggers a flash-back straight away. I had a nightmare last week about my mother forgetting my birthday when I was six or seven. I remember I got up and I didn't have a present. I hadn't thought of that since it happened. I think about Nazareth House every day now. I very rarely leave my house.
88. I have tried to bring the cycle of abuse to an end and tried to raise my son differently. I am still hyper-vigilant about him. He has suffered badly from my mental health difficulties. He has definitely borne the brunt of what happened to me. I have asked Future Pathways to help find counselling for him as well as me.
89. I saw my GP when I had post-natal depression. I think I was offered some help with a psychologist but it didn't last long. I was prescribed anti-depressants and sleeping tablets. I went back to see my GP about two years ago, just after I had seen the archdiocese. I was agitated and upset by the Church's attitude. I was referred to a psychologist at Anchor House in Glasgow. I was diagnosed with Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I also have Anxiety and Depression. The psychologist I was seeing has now moved so I am waiting for a new one to be assigned to me. I see a therapist called Margaret through Future Pathways. I am due to start a procedure called "Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing" (EMDR) soon but I am scared what memories it might bring up.

*Physical Health*

90. I have had gynaecological problems ever since my experience with [REDACTED] LHS in the confession box when I was eight years old. I was told that I couldn't have children, I only have one son.

*Siblings/Family*

91. My siblings have only recently begun to talk to me about what happened to them at Nazareth House. I think I already knew but didn't want to think about it. I felt guilty because I had run away and left them at the home.
92. I have always had a difficult relationship with my sister [REDACTED]. It was as if I was the black sheep of the family. The older [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got the more they treated me like my mother treated me. They would get away with it. My sister never had any respect for me. She said to me a couple of weeks ago "I wish we could be sisters the way sisters really should be." I said "Do you not realise that I looked out for you all your days. You were the one that chose for it to be like this." We have only recently started speaking again.
93. When I had [REDACTED] I stopped speaking to my mother altogether. I didn't want her having an influence over [REDACTED] life.

**Records**

94. I have been in touch with Future Pathways since March. I have been disappointed with the support they have provided so far. I have not yet been given a support worker. They have not offered me any help to find my records. I think it is a disgrace that so many records have "gone missing". I think Future Pathways should get themselves together to help others. My son [REDACTED] is also still waiting for some support from Future Pathways.

**Other information**

95. I hope that the social work department and the city councils are all brought to task as well as the perpetrators of the abuse. The social work and the city councils were the

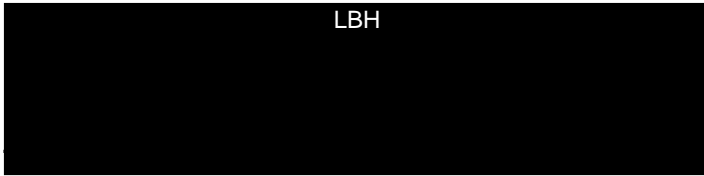
ones that put us in the homes in the first place. I feel that they are not being mentioned as much as the perpetrators.

96. I think children should have a say in where they go. I don't think they should just be put anywhere and left. I think they should be asked where they would feel safe. If they want to stay with their family or relatives, a foster family or children's home. The Children's Rights Act 1995 was created after what had happened in the 1970's. They sacked a lot of people in the hope that it would never happen again.

97. 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.

LBH

Signed.....



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Dated.....

11/1/18

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