

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

JCJ

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is JCJ though everybody calls me JCJ. My date of birth is 1949. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### *Background*

2. I was born in Edinburgh. My wife's name is and we had two children called and . Sadly died last year of cancer at the age of fifty. was the eldest child and will be 52 this year.
3. In 1964, at the age of fifteen I started work as an apprentice joiner but didn't like it and only did it for about a year and a bit. I then did another couple of small jobs and worked in for a while. I then became an apprentice when I was eighteen and did this for the rest of my life forming my own business which at one time employed people. I am still working to this day.
4. When I was in my early teens the family moved to in Portobello. My mother's name was JCI and my father was called . I would say they were in their early 50's when we moved to Portobello. Mum was a stay at home mother and dad was a brickie's labourer after he left the navy.
5. Thomas William Hazlett  
When we moved to Portobello Thomas was still living

### **Life before sharing home with foster children**

6. Those living in the house when we moved to Portobello were my mother and father, me, an old guy called [REDACTED] who had stayed with us in Edinburgh and was what would be called "slow" in those days and Thomas and his wife and their son.
7. The outside of the house, which was detached, looked like a cottage and you went through a vestibule where there were then two rooms on the left and two rooms on the right which were used as bedrooms. Upstairs from there were two further bedrooms while downstairs was a living room, kitchen, scullery and bathroom. There was a glass-house to the right of the house and also a chalet up at the back of the garden where Old [REDACTED] stayed. It was like a large garden hut but was carpeted and walled inside.
8. When we moved to Portobello I was thirteen and found it difficult to settle. I had enjoyed my previous school in Edinburgh but didn't enjoy Portobello High when I went there. In addition, all my friends were still back in Edinburgh. From the age of fourteen I couldn't settle in Portobello and was forever going back to our old place to see my old pals. That was where I met my wife [REDACTED] and we got engaged when I was sixteen.

### **Parents becoming foster carers**

9. My parents became foster parents in about 1964. I'm sure they sat me down and told me of their intention to foster other kids. It wasn't a problem for me. Mum always loved kids and I think that, because I was becoming an adult and getting a job, she still wanted to have kids in the house. She thereafter fostered kids until she died in 1979 at the age of 65. My dad died in 2004 at the age of 92.
10. I don't remember anything about the process or the training my parents went through to become foster parents or what sort of support, if any, that they received. I remember when I came back from school there would be welfare people but that was during the time they fostered. If my parents got money for fostering then I wasn't aware of it but I assume they did.

*Children Fostered*

11. There were some short-stay youngsters but whether or not my parents got to choose who they fostered I couldn't say. The children ranged in age from babies to at least one teenager whose name I don't recall. I couldn't say exactly how many children my mother fostered but she once got a commendation for having fostered 100 kids. I think the maximum fostered at any one time was [REDACTED] unless mum took on a baby in an emergency.
12. [REDACTED] were the first children they fostered and were [REDACTED] years old respectively. I am still very good friends with [REDACTED] who started work in the mines but then worked for my company for many years. [REDACTED] stayed with us until 1979. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] brothers, were another two I recall and they came in the mid-70's and stayed with us until 1982.
13. Shirley and [REDACTED] stayed with us in the 60's but I couldn't point them out to you if they were stood in front of me. They say that they were with us from 1965 until 1968 but I don't think that's right. In April 68 my mother was going to be in hospital for a few weeks for an operation on her ankle and I was looking forward to having the house to myself and get my girlfriend down to stay.
14. When I said that this to my mum she said "over my dead body" and told me to bring my marriage forward to [REDACTED] 1968. [REDACTED] and I then took the two bedrooms upstairs in preparation to getting married. That's why I'm sure Shirley and [REDACTED] weren't in the house at that time.

*Placement preparation*

15. I don't know how much notice my parents got about kids coming into the house, it wasn't something I would have been interested in. I certainly didn't know anything about any of the kids' backgrounds and my mum was a very private person and wouldn't have told me about such things. I don't know what sort of assistance they

received but I do remember that I got bought a new bike one time. I never met the kids before they arrived and I think everybody just settled into things when new kids arrived.

*Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements*

16. I don't know what the daily routine for everybody in the house was because I would be out to work early in the morning and not back until the back of 5:00 pm. There was one bedroom used as 'Bed and Breakfast' during the summer months but I don't recall it being used that much.
17. From Monday to Friday it was my mother who would get up early at 5:30 am and wake me at 7:00 am and I would be out of the house by 7:10 am. Because of this my father slept in the second bedroom on the left of the hall from Monday to Friday but they slept in the same bedroom at the weekend.
18. From Monday to Friday my father shared a room with [REDACTED] while I shared a room with [REDACTED]. When new kids first arrived they went into the bedroom on the right of the hall. Thomas and his family used the upstairs furthest away bedroom up until 1967 when they got a council house. Shirley and [REDACTED] used the first bedroom you came to upstairs and that's the only room I recall them using.
19. I know nothing about any of the foster kids wetting their beds. The toilet was on the landing on the way downstairs and had a bath, a basin and a toilet. There was also a toilet outside that the old guy [REDACTED] used. I see that FAE [REDACTED] says that they were only allowed to use the bathroom on their first night and that, after that, they were forced to use the outside toilet. I have no recollection of that. Everybody in the house had full access to the indoor toilet.
20. I see in Shirley's statement when talking about bed wetting she says "***We were moved because [REDACTED] did & had to sleep with wet sheets***"  
I have no recollection of that.

21. Also on the subject of bed wetting I see that [REDACTED] says "***I wet the bed [REDACTED] first night and everything changed instantly... I was shouted at and called dirty names by [REDACTED] who treated me like a freak. From that day forward we were not allowed to use the inside bathroom and had to use the outside toilet.***"

Again, I have no recollection of that.

#### Chores

22. I don't know if any of the foster kids had chores to do but I would have to clean the downstairs windows and keep the garden tidy. I suppose the foster kids might have to wash the dishes on the odd occasion.
23. I see in Shirley's statement she says '***While we were in that house we were unpaid labour. We had to change all the guests' beds, we cleaned their rooms, we did the laundry and we did their breakfasts in the morning. We also cleaned and set the coal fires. We were basically slaves there.***'

That is not true unless my mother had a change of personality during the day when I wasn't there.

24. I also see that in [REDACTED] statement she says '***I had to be first up each morning at 5.30 am to prepare [REDACTED] 's breakfast before he went to work. I then had to make toast and tea for us [REDACTED] kids before setting a breakfast tray for [REDACTED] who was in the front bedroom. I had to boil her an egg for exactly three and a half minutes with salt, toast, butter, jam and a pot of tea and take the tray to her bedroom before school. I had to do that every single morning. I also had to make the breakfasts for the guests in the summertime and take it to their rooms. I used to have to do the grocery shopping. [REDACTED] had a credit book and she would write a list of all the shopping and I would take it to the Co-op on the High Street. That was my job every weekend to take this massive shopping trolley basket.***'

This is also not true. I would get up early to make my own breakfast if I had any.

*Washing and Bathing*

25. I see that in her statement Shirley says "***In the summer we had to wash outside in an old washing machine full of rain water. In the winter we were allowed to wash at the pantry sink***".

I don't see how you would have got to the toilet in there as there was no room.

*Clothes and Shoes*

26. I don't know who provided the clothes for the foster children but it was possibly my mother as she was very good on the sewing machine. Other than that I know nothing else about the children's clothes.

*Mealtimes*

27. We ate in the kitchen downstairs but we never all ate together. My dad and I would get home at the same time when we worked together for the first year and would eat together. Mum was a great cook and did all the cooking and was especially good at making soup which we had regularly. I never witnessed any of the children not eating their food.

*Leisure Time*

28. The kids spent most of their time playing outside in the big garden. They had toys and books and each had a tricycle. I don't know if they went on outings or to the pictures and I don't think the girls were in the Brownies or anything like that though [REDACTED] went to the Cubs and Scouts. I don't know if any of them received pocket money.

*Trips and Holidays*

29. We didn't go away on trips or have week-long holidays. I wouldn't have been interested in such things anyway as I preferred to spend time with my girlfriend.

*Schooling*

30. The children went to [REDACTED] Primary School in Portobello but I don't know which part of it. I don't know anything about the girls' involvement with school or whether or not they did homework. I don't recall if any of the children went to church. I did go to the Methodist Church when I was ten but after moving to Portobello we didn't go.

*Healthcare*

31. I see in Shirley's statement she says '***In 1966 I was taken very ill with rheumatic fever which went untreated and so ended up with chorea. My nervous system just broke down. The only reason JCI [REDACTED] eventually took me to a doctor was because I dropped her breakfast tray when I collapsed in front of her one morning ... I remember in the hospital they said that if the rheumatic fever had been dealt with I would not have developed chorea ... Eventually, I think because I was not getting any better, I was taken into the Sick Kids hospital where I remained from December 1966 until early 1967. My notes record that I was in a very disturbed way. I was then taken to the Astley Ainslie Hospital to recuperate for two or three months. I remained on medication for a long time***'.

I don't recall any of the children being ill but I assume they would all have been registered with our own family doctor. Similarly with the dentist.

32. I have no recollection of that and I think I would have remembered if Shirley hadn't been in the house for several months.

*Christmas and Birthdays*

33. There were festivities in the house at Christmas and it was chicken we ate in those days. Everybody would be in the same room and we ate from plates on our knee in the first room on the left. The kids were all given presents at Christmas but I don't remember anything about anybody's birthday and I don't recall any birthday parties. No other celebrations spring to mind.

*Discipline*

34. I certainly didn't hand out any physical discipline to any of the foster children and it wasn't the sort of thing my mum would get involved in. I don't recall seeing any of the children being disciplined and certainly not in a physical way. There was also no naughty step or anything like that. If my parents ever did deal out discipline it would have been my mother because my father was very soft hearted.

*Relationship with Foster Children*

35. I got on well with [REDACTED] but never really got involved with Shirley and [REDACTED] probably because they were lassies. I would speak to them but that was about it. I don't think the foster children were dealt in any way differently from the way my parents dealt with me.

*Contact with Family (other than siblings)*

36. In late '67 I recall a couple of times, after Shirley and [FAE] had left us, I'm sure Shirley came back to visit my mother a couple of times. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] One guy did show up one time and I believe he was [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] but he was drunk and my step-brother sent him on his way. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Visitors*

37. I do recall that sometimes when I went home from work there would be people who I thought might be welfare people but I took nothing to do with them or their involvement with Shirley and [FAE]
38. I see from Shirley's statement she says that Social workers came loads of times and [FAE] says "**Social workers or such like came to see us but it was not more than twice**" and adds "**one occasion when the social worker did visit, the [REDACTED] of us**



were told by JCI [REDACTED] to come into the lounge to speak to her. What had happened was that JCI [REDACTED] knew they were coming and told us that after they arrived we should all go into the living room and, in front of the social worker; we were to ask for permission to go to the beach. JCI [REDACTED] said she would give us permission to go but under no circumstances were we to actually go. She was just trying to impress the social worker. We still went to the beach that day despite what she had said”.

39. FAE [REDACTED] goes on to say JCJ [REDACTED] or his mother would always be present & would ‘drill’ girls in what to say before & JCJ [REDACTED] would warn what would happen if complaints made” while Shirley adds “I have no recollection of them asking me any questions outside the presence of one of the JCI-SPO [REDACTED]”.

That’s not right, none of that happened.

#### *Moving Placement*

40. When any of the children moved on I wasn’t made aware of where they were going and I assume my mum’s attitude would have been that it had nothing to do with me.

#### **Convictions**

41. I have no criminal convictions.

#### **Allegations of Abuse**

##### *Awareness of Abuse*

42. This whole scenario has caused a lot of distress to me and my wife. I have read the statements from Shirley and FAE [REDACTED] and none of what they are alleging is true. Why would Shirley have gone back to visit my mother if what she was saying is true? I am

sure that something did happen to Shirley and [FAE] in their life but not while they stayed with us.

43. I never witnessed nor was I aware of any abuse to any of the children fostered by my parents. I wasn't aware of any of them being abused.

*Allegations of Abuse for which there has been no Criminal Conviction*

44. A complaint was made against me in 2014 or 2015 and I was asked to attend at St Leonard's Police Office which I did. I was interviewed by two plain clothes officers. I was advised by a lawyer to say "No Comment" to all questions put to me which I did. The allegation of assaulting Shirley with a broom was put to me and I said "No Comment" but I couldn't have commented because no such thing had happened. After I was interviewed I heard nothing more from the police.
45. An anonymous letter was put through our letter box which said '*We know what you did*'. I think this was before I was interviewed by the police. The letter also said '*You vile B*'. I took it to the police but they couldn't ID who had sent it. After I was interviewed I thought it might have been Shirley who sent it but I also thought the letter might have been aimed at [REDACTED] Thomas which I will explain at the end of this statement.
46. This letter was shared openly with my family prior to me taking it to the police. A while after I was contacted by the police which I thought was to do with a theft of business property that I had reported. I was told that it was to do with an allegation of sexual abuse and my first response was to ask "Is it that bastard Thomas Hazlett again?" but I was told that no, the allegation was against me. This would be in 2016.
47. I contacted the solicitors George Moore and company and spoke with Mr Richard Souter who arranged for a solicitor to represent me at a police interview. At the interview I was advised that the allegation had been made by a Shirley [REDACTED]. Prior to the interview I was advised by the solicitor to continually say 'No Comment' which I did.

48. I did remember [REDACTED] staying with my mother and believe they came to stay in 1965 but don't remember them still being there early in 1968 when I got married. One of the girls stayed in contact with my mother for a while and I believe that that was Shirley.

*Prior Statements*

49. I have never given a previous statement to anybody.

*Specific Allegations Against you that have been made to the Inquiry*

50. **FAE** says in her statement **JCJ** was a [REDACTED] and he would ... expect us to **massage his bare feet ... for anything from 15 minutes to 2 hours ... if we did it wrong he would batter us'**.  
That never happened.
51. Shirley says in her statement "**There was an occasion when **JCJ** literally told **FAE** to break a photo over his head. He dared her to do it and she did. Every single night after that she had to sit until bed time looking at this photo'** and **FAE** adds in her statement '**... **JCJ** dragged me out of bed one morning and told me I wasn't going to school that day. He took me to the kitchen and handed me the photo. The glass was still broken. He told me I was to stand there and look at it all day and if I took my eyes off it I knew what I would get. Throughout the day of me looking at it, he was coming in and out. He would shout my name and when I didn't look up I would get slapped, and when I ignored him he would slap me and hit me with shoes and whatever came to hand. This went on all day ... From that day on the abuse got worse. It was just every day we got beaten by him for nothing ... with belts, sticks, sweeping brushes and anything that came**

**to hand ... when he was beating me or [REDACTED] he always made [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] watch.'**

That never happened and my mind is not affected by the passage of time. I never witnessed any foster child being assaulted in that house.

52. **FAE [REDACTED] also says in her statement 'I got my hand caught in the mangle (on the washing machine) and you could hear the bones crunching ... I was screaming at the pain in my hand and didn't know how to stop this machine but JCJ [REDACTED] just stood there laughing at me and did nothing ... Every time Shirley tried to stop the machine he would threaten to batter her if she did'.**

That never happened.

53. **FAE [REDACTED] goes on to say in her statement 'Hot and cold baths were a regular punishment ... (JCJ [REDACTED]) would strip us naked and then force us to climb into a bath of boiling hot water or he would physically put us in. The water was so hot it would cause blisters and then we'd have to get out and he'd fill the bath with cold water and put us back in. If we said something he didn't like he'd repeat the process. One time my feet and legs were all blistered and he stood on the blisters to burst them before bandaging them all up'.**

That never happened. I never saw bandages or anything like that on any of the foster children.

54. **FAE [REDACTED] goes on to say 'My teacher's watch went missing and ... because I wouldn't admit to it, all that night it was the hot and cold bath treatment. Eventually I told him I had taken it even though I hadn't. I just couldn't take the hot and cold bath treatment anymore ... he battered me again with the belt till I was black and blue. He hit me all over and my arms were so sore I couldn't move them the next day. And then it was back to the hot and cold baths.'**

That didn't happen.

55. **FAE [REDACTED] says in her statement 'I remember one day, I think [REDACTED] and a social worker were there. JCJ [REDACTED] asked us in front of them what we wanted for dinner and Shirley said "the same as usual: two pieces and jam and a cup of**

*tea". The next day we were pulled out of school at lunch time ... When we got home that woman made us eat so much food we were throwing up. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You name it, she had it on the table and she made us eat and eat and eat. And that night [REDACTED] [REDACTED] battered us again. Shirley got the worst of it because she had made the comment in front of people ... the next day we were given the remains of all the food she had laid out. She was trying to feed me rice pudding. She was forcing me to eat it and I would vomit and she'd catch it in the bowl and spoon feed it back into me. She just forced the rice, vomit and all, back into my mouth. And the more I vomited the more [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would batter me because I wasn't eating it'.*

None of that happened. Categorically, it did not happen.

56. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] adds [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *main thing was to make us drink this mixture called "Gregory's Powder" ... if you vomited, you got the belt again until you drank it without being sick. That's how it was. That was daily life in there. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would try and make us vomit back into the glass and try and make us drink it.'*

That didn't happen. I did look up Gregory's Powder which apparently is for upset stomachs.

57. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] goes on to say in her statement '*Another time [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had made me stand in a corner for most of the day. My dad came to the house that evening and wanted to take us out. I was crying to him and said no my legs were too sore to walk after standing all day. When he left [REDACTED] [REDACTED] shaved all my hair off, the whole lot, until there was nothing left on my head. He made me go into school the next day with a woollen hat on to hide my head.'*

That didn't happen. I have no recollection of any of the girls going to school with a woollen hat. I wouldn't have seen such a thing as I would have been in work.

58. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] adds '*It was also the way [REDACTED] [REDACTED] used to talk to us. You were this or that and you were here because your mum and dad didn't want you. He'd say we didn't even know where my mum was and that it was only out of the kindness of their hearts that they'd taken us in. He'd say we were useless. If I wet myself he'd call me "pissy pants". He'd call us names. We were always being degraded and ridiculed. He'd slag off my mum and run down my dad; telling us things we*

***didn't even know about them. All of this was constant. So it wasn't just physical abuse but mental and emotional abuse'***

No, this simply isn't true.

59. **FAE** says in her statement ***'The worst beating I got was the day after a thunder storm ... I was so scared of the thunder and lightning I didn't care... I ran into the kitchen and sat playing and talking with the wee dogs ... I pushed my knee against the door to try to open it and cracked the glass ... The next day **JCJ** got me, Shirley and **[REDACTED]** in the kitchen and screamed at us, demanding to know who had broken the glass pane ... I didn't want **[REDACTED]** to get beaten for something I had done so when **JCJ** came back into the kitchen I admitted that it had been me ... **JCJ** began shouting and swearing and saying he'd warned me. He stripped me naked, made me bend over a stool and beat me all over my body with his leather belt. He thrashed me all over my back until I was bleeding. From the top of my shoulders down to my thighs, there wasn't a single part of me he didn't thrash. I was screaming. I thought I was going to die ... Shirley was crying and screaming at him to stop and tried to drag him off me but each time she did he battered her with the belt ... At one point **[REDACTED]** were trying to help me off the stool and so he started hitting them with the belt so they just stood there crying ... The next day I went to school but **JCJ** told me I wasn't to do PE. My teacher Mrs Buchan ... insisted and took me to get a spare PE kit ... I lifted my skirt a little bit and she saw some the injuries ... That's when the police were called and we were taken back home ... Later that night I didn't get beaten with the belt by **JCJ** but I got slapped because it had all come out. He was demanding to know what I had told them. I said I had told them nothing'***

60. Further to this, Shirley says in her statement ***'... I remember the day in 1968 when I was pulled out of school and taken to the headmaster's office before being taken home by the police who had been informed of injuries found on **FAE** .. **JCJ** came downstairs and then took us up into the front lounge. He dragged **[REDACTED]** to watch as usual. He stripped **FAE** naked then took his belt and beat her all over her body with it. **FAE** was wriggling like a worm and was hit all over the body rather than just her bum. He was holding her by the hair. I was screaming***

**at him to stop. I honestly thought she was going to die. He told me to shut up or I was next but I did not care. I just wanted him to stop. The bruises were coming up as he hit her and the welts from the studs on his belt were appearing as he hit her. He left her black. He only stopped when his mother told him to or maybe because he just got tired because this went on for about half an hour. I thought he was going to kill her. JCI [REDACTED] watched the beating. I cannot remember if [REDACTED] were there or not. I felt physically sick looking at the state of her. And she was not allowed to cry. If she did he battered her more'**

This never happened and I have no recollection whatsoever of the police ever coming to the door.

61. In Shirley's statement she says **"Getting battered by JCI [REDACTED] was a regular occurrence. He was very hands on from the start and he was the punisher. She told him to punish and he did. It would be a punch or a kick or both or a real hefty slap... Another thing JCI [REDACTED] used to do to humiliate you was, if it was just you getting punished, he'd strip you down to your underwear and batter you in front of the others.'**

This didn't happen.

62. Shirley goes on to say **'Because of my condition and no-one coming to take me to the toilet, I would wet the bed and JCI [REDACTED] would batter me for it. And if I wet the bed it would be stripped and I would be left to lie on a soaking wet mattress.'**

I never witnessed anything like that. I have no recollection of Shirley ever being seriously ill.

63. Shirley then says **'One time FAE [REDACTED] were caught stealing at Portobello shows, the [REDACTED] of them were battered for it. I had not been there because I was in bed at the time with this chorea but I was dragged out of bed and got a beating as well. That was the way it was – if they got battered then I had to be battered too regardless'**.

No, this isn't true.

64. **FAE** says in her statement, *'I remember one time seeing **JCJ** grab Shirley by the hair and drag her out to the shed ... He shouted at me to come and made me stand and watch **[REDACTED]** He pulled up Shirley's skirt and pulled her pants off. I think she was wearing her pleated school tunic at the time. He grabbed a garden brush with a long handle and was trying to shove it up Shirley's bum. I don't know if he penetrated her but Shirley was screaming and struggling so much that I think he maybe didn't manage to actually put it inside her. He kept hitting her with the brush handle and the more she struggled the more he hit her. I was screaming telling him to stop so I got battered with the brush as well'*
65. With regards to the same alleged incident Shirley says *'... **JCJ** dragged me to the garden shed and told me to drop my knickers, which I did. He was very angry and I could not work out why... **JCJ** grabbed the yard brush and pushed me over the workbench. I thought he was going to smack me with the yard brush so did as I was told. Suddenly he started poking the handle against my bum while shouting all the time and telling me that he would show me how this sex thing really was. He was screaming at me and I was screaming out of fear and panic... He called me a liar and battered me. He kept trying to push the handle in to me and I started to scream thinking he was going to have sex with me using the brush handle in my bum. He just kept going pushing it harder and harder and I carried on screaming until he stopped, possibly because he was scared the neighbours might have heard me screaming. He slapped my bare bum, my legs, and face then marched me back into bed'*

This is the incident the police interviewed me about. I didn't see such a thing happen and certainly did no such thing. With all this battering surely somebody would have seen something. School teachers, nurses, police anybody.

66. Shirley says in her statement *'The last time I spoke to **JCJ** was in 2011. I sent him an e-mail ... A couple of days later **JCJ** called me ... I asked him to confirm I was very unwell and that he had made me that "fabulous wee bed" in the garden. He said "yeah, yeah it was summer and it was so much better*



*for you to be out in the fresh air. You slept better and you were so much calmer” ... I said “when you gave [FAE] the belt, it was for breaking that window”. He replied “yeah but we couldn’t tell the coppers that because we couldn’t get the Social to pay for the broken window”. He added something along the lines that it would have been complicated and the Social would have been asking why, if they had an inside toilet, [FAE] was going outside to do the toilet ... I then asked him why he felt it necessary to poke me in the bum with the sweeping brush and he hung up ...’*

I did not receive such an e-mail and no such telephone conversation took place. I did have a telephone conversation with Shirley but it went nothing like that. The call we did have took place in 2013 or 2014 and that was the last time I spoke to her.

67. A while before the police interview I had received a telephone call at my office. The caller identified herself as Shirley [REDACTED] who said that she [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had been cared for by my mother and father. We made small talk. The caller then said that she was emigrating and was going to write a book and asked if we could talk again sometime. We agreed to talk the following weekend.
68. We spoke the following weekend when she asked if she could include my mother and father in her book. I saw no reason to say no and asked if she would let me know when the book was written. We made further small talk and wished each other well.
69. The first contact from The Child Abuse Inquiry took myself and my wife by surprise and we related it to the police interview from 2016. The bigger shock came when I was told I had to sign a non-disclosure agreement. The signing of this has caused a lot of disagreement between my wife and I. It’s a sad thing to say to my wife of 54 years that I can’t discuss it with her.
70. I don’t know why Shirley and [FAE] left foster care. I think they have said the things they have said because they became aware Thomas Hazlett had been jailed for historical sexual offences and they realise that I have been successful in life and it’s money they are after. They couldn’t get money from Thomas because his whole life was a failure so they are trying to get it out of me.

71. I have read the statements almost every day since I received copies and there are so many anomalies in them. I mean how could two girls get beaten every day with fists, belts and a broom and nobody in authority noticed anything? That makes no sense.

### **Helping the Inquiry**

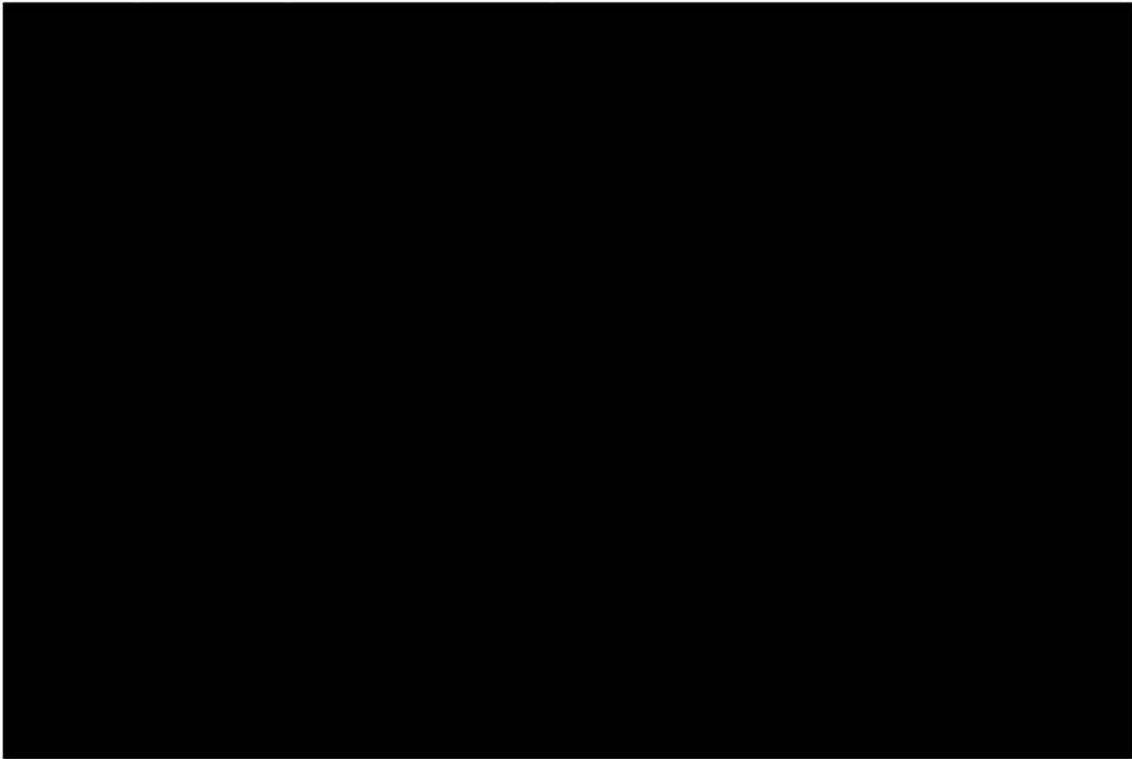
72. I would say that you start with the parents and if there is anything wrong in a family it's the parents that should be spoken to.

### **Other information**

73. ██████████ Thomas was convicted in 1998 of serious sexual abuse of young children, again in 2000 and once more in 2004. In 1998 he was jailed for the abuse of young children and got eight years for offences committed thirty years before. In 2000 he got twelve, eight and three years. None of the charges involved children who had been fostered by my parents.
74. I did not learn of these convictions until I read about them in the press in 1998 and to this day I can't believe he managed to do such things and keep it quiet for thirty years.
75. Thomas's first marriage was to ██████████ and he was about seven years older than her. They and their son ██████████ stayed in our house while waiting to get a council house of their own. This would have been from 1965 through to late 1967. The marriage was very rocky and Thomas more often as not stayed back with my mum and dad rather than his own home.
76. Their marriage failed and Thomas went on to marry another girl called ██████████ who was at least ten years his junior. This marriage also failed. Thomas's convictions of sexual abuse were against his second wife's two young sisters. His first three children ██████████

██████████ and ██████████ had come to stay with my mother and father in 1972 and, in effect, were raised by my mother and father until my mother's death in 1979.

77.



78.

79. In 1971 Thomas was convicted of assaulting his son when they were staying in their council house. The only time I have spoken to him since he was convicted was when



80. 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.

JCJ  
████████████████████

Signed.....

Dated..... 06 June 2022 .....