

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FCR [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is FCR [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Oakbank Hospital in Glasgow. I lived with my mother, [REDACTED], my father, [REDACTED] and my six brothers and sisters at [REDACTED] Glasgow. [REDACTED] was between Maryhill and Bearsden. My siblings are [REDACTED], she is eleven years older than me, [REDACTED] she is five years older than me, [REDACTED] was four years older than me and has now passed away, [REDACTED], who I call [REDACTED] is fourteen months older than me, I'm in the middle, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are twins and they are two years and eight months younger than me. My mother didn't marry my father, he was already married. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are full sisters to each other. My father is not their father.
3. My brothers, sisters and I lived in a bubble. Although we were in Glasgow, we weren't near anything. We were quite wild. When my mother was alive, life was good. Our family was very poor but my sisters, brothers and I didn't know. My father was a telephone engineer with the General Post Office (GPO). My mother bought the cottage at [REDACTED] from British Rail. It was a tiny cottage. My brothers, sister and I had lots of pets, rabbits, hens and a tortoise that should have been called Houdini, it escaped that often. [REDACTED] was nearby. It was a huge park that we

were in all the time. My father fitted a captain's bell outside the house and, when my mother rang the bell, we all ran home. The railway ran up both sides of our land and we were often found walking up the railway line. The drivers all knew us and looked out for us. When a train went by, you always got a wave and a toot from the driver. My brothers and I walked to primary school. School was good. It was long way away.

4. I have found out a lot of things as an adult. My father had two families to keep. I have a German step-mother called [REDACTED] and four half-sisters. That's who my father was married to when he was with my mother. My half-sisters are [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We didn't meet them until much later. My sisters, brothers and I thought that everything was fine. We were happy. Later on in life, you find out that it wasn't as good as you thought it was. My mother did a good job keeping everything away from us. Looking back as an adult, you can see there were undercurrents that we weren't aware of.
5. We stayed at [REDACTED] until my mother died in [REDACTED] 1963, when I was seven years old. By the time the twins were born, I believe my mother was ill. My mother had cancer. My mother went around the house with crutches and latterly in a wheelchair. It all happened quite quickly. Apparently, my mother was ill for some time but we weren't aware of it.
6. My brother [REDACTED] was horrible, [REDACTED] was great. One day the twins and I were at home and my other sisters and brothers were at school. The twins and I would listen to 'Listen with Mother' on the radio. On that day, [REDACTED] started screaming. My mother went rushing into [REDACTED] fell and, after that, she was in a wheel chair. My mother was then bed-ridden.
7. My sister, brothers and I used to say, "Cheerio", to our mother in the morning before we went to school. We went in one morning, as normal. I was trying to say, "Cheerio", and there was no answer from my mother. I later found out that my father let us go in to a dead woman. I've never liked my father and, since I found that out, I absolutely despise him. My sisters, brothers and I came home from school that day and there

was a coffin, on the table. My sisters, brothers and I were shoved through to the bedroom.

8. My sisters, brothers and I weren't told that my mother had died. We weren't told anything. To us, our mother had disappeared. People came to the house a couple of days later and stood around the box crying. The box disappeared and so did the people. I suppose it was them going to the funeral and coming back. After that, my granddad said he and my granny were taking [REDACTED]. My father tried to say no and my granddad took his jacket off to have a fight with my father. My father had no legal standing with [REDACTED] because she wasn't his child. So [REDACTED] went with my grandparents. My father had thrown [REDACTED] out of the house before my mother died. The minister had to go and tell [REDACTED] that our mother had died.
9. Suddenly [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and the twins disappeared. Nobody wanted a girl, so at first I was left with my father. My father took my bed and put it in his bedroom. I had to sleep in the same room as my father, looking at the bed my mother died in. For many years, my father told me that the social workers took my brothers and I from him. I've since found out from my records that my father went to Glasgow Corporation because he couldn't cope. He was useless. At some point, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to a foster mother, who was oddly called Mrs [REDACTED]. Mrs [REDACTED] was great with them. The twins went to a woman called [REDACTED] soon after my mother died. I went to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a couple of months later. We called her [REDACTED]. My father went back to his wife.

Foster Care – [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Hyndland, Glasgow

10. I was seven years old when I went to stay with [REDACTED]. People came to the house but I didn't know who they were. I was loaded into a car and taken away. I never knew what was happening. You were never told anything. [REDACTED]'s house was a big townhouse with three levels. It was a dark house. I don't remember a lot about being at [REDACTED]'s house, other than feeling not wanted. [REDACTED] didn't want me there. I remember going to [REDACTED]'s house and coming away. The twins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

were there too. We went in and out of the back door. We weren't at [FBH] s for long.

11. [FBH] was horrible. She was vile to my brothers and I and she hated me. I don't know why she was allowed to foster kids. I didn't know why [FBH] hated me until I read my records and saw that nobody would take me. Her two kids, [] and [], were horrible as well. [] was the same age as me and [] was the same age as the twins. [FBH] s mother visited a lot or might have lived in the house. [FBH] s mother was really good to my brothers and I.
12. [FBH] was always very snappy at the twins and I. She was never nice to us. She obviously didn't want the twins and I there. My instinct was to protect my wee brothers. [FBH] didn't like me because I stuck up for my brothers. I don't remember the twins and I ever doing anything to merit the way [FBH] treated us. I spent a lot of time with the twins. At seven years old, I seemed to be their mum. From then on, I looked after the twins.
13. [FBH] treated her own children differently, they were spoiled rotten. [] and [] were spoken to differently, they had their toys, and the twins and I had nothing. One day, [FBH] s mother was at the house. [] had a 'Silver Cross', coach-built dolls pram. It was beautiful. [] didn't play with it, so I wanted to play with it. [FBH] was snapping at me for that. [FBH] s mother said to let me play with it. The twins and I stayed in the same house as [] and [] but we were separate, we never mingled.
14. I went to Hyndland School. It was a primary and secondary school. I liked school, apart from [] and his pals, it was a happy place. [] was in my class. I had a lot of bother with boils and I had a lot on my backside. [], found out. [] and his pals at school used to kick me in the backside. [] was the instigator. One day, [] and his pals were caught by a prefect who reported them to the headmaster. I was called to the headmaster's office. The headmaster had [] and his pals lined up. The headmaster told me to take a seat and all the boys were whacked on the backside. [] and his pals didn't touch me again. Very quickly

after that, the twins and I were taken back home to our father. I think the headmaster reported what had happened to the social work.

15. I don't remember any visits from social workers or my father. The twins and I didn't see our other brothers and sisters. We didn't know where they had disappeared to. I lived every day wondering where my mother had gone and where were my sisters and my big brothers? Why were we not at home with them? I only realised my mother had passed away with the passage of time. When my mother was alive, [REDACTED] always said I was a spoiled brat, which I wasn't. Gradually I realised my mother wasn't coming back and I thought it was my fault because I was a spoiled brat.
16. I didn't tell anyone that I was unhappy in foster care. There was no-one to tell. We didn't have a voice.

Returning to our father at [REDACTED], Glasgow

17. I don't remember being spoken to about going back to [REDACTED] and my father. I was glad I was back home but I was scared because I didn't know where everybody had gone. The twins and I were there, where was everybody else? I remember a fear that I couldn't explain.
18. I went back to school, briefly. My father was useless and couldn't cope with me. The headmistress set it up that the prefects would see to me at school in the morning. The prefects brushed my hair, it was long and full of curls, then they would get me to brush my teeth.
19. I was only at my fathers for a couple of weeks and then twins and I were off again. A man and a woman turned up. We were put into a car and taken to Dundonald House. I felt terror. No-one told us what was happening. I was asking myself, why were we out of the house now and where were we going?

20. My father told me that his last words to my mother, on her deathbed, was that he promised to keep us all together. My father always told me that the social workers had taken us away. My brothers and I going into care didn't happen that way. My father put us into care. He did it.

Dundonald House, Dundonald, Ayrshire

21. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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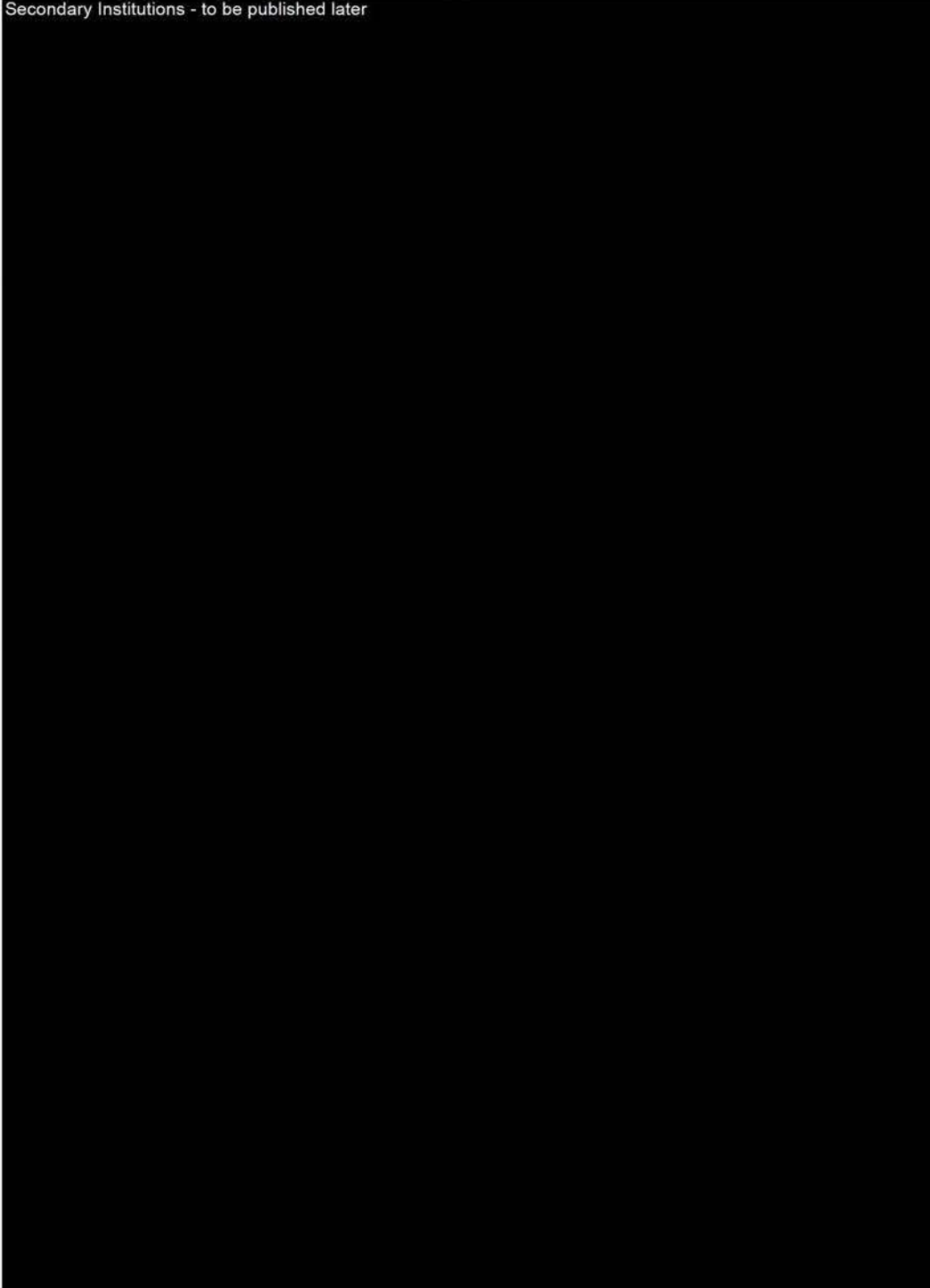
24. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Dundonald House

47. The twins and I were taken in a car from Dundonald to [REDACTED] in Knightswood, Glasgow. I was eight years old.

Life after being in care

Living with my father and step-family at [REDACTED] Glasgow

48. I thought, after Dundonald, that the twins and I were going home and we were going to be a family again. Instead, we turned up at this house and there was this horrible

woman there. She was called [REDACTED] and she was my father's wife. The twins and I went into the house and there were a lot of people in it. I wondered who they all were. We grew up calling my father's wife 'Mrs Hitler', although not to her face. I still call her Mrs Hitler to this day. [REDACTED] despised the lot of us. Although it was hell in Dundonald, we would have been better left there. I had seven of years of hell with that woman.

49. Living at [REDACTED] were my father, his wife and her four daughters. It was a sheer relief to see my two big brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. With the twins and I there, the five of us were back together again. I didn't understand why my father and this scary looking woman were telling us to call her 'mum'. I thought, she's not my mum, where is my mum?
50. My half-sister [REDACTED] was lovely. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], my other half-sisters, were a pair of sadistic bitches. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] beat the crap out of all of us, and me in particular, on a regular basis. [REDACTED] is six years older than me and [REDACTED] is four years old older than me.
51. Life with my father was really grim. I don't remember social work coming near us. Our teachers were a leather trouser belt and a garden cane. [REDACTED] beat my brothers and I with the belt and cane, she was sadistic and took great delight in beating us. [REDACTED] beat [REDACTED] so badly for wetting the bed that his leg was bleeding and covered in wheals. [REDACTED] told my brothers and I, daily, that we were bastards, that we were shite and our mother was a whore.
52. My father had a really bad temper and uncontrolled outbursts. My father would use a belt and his fists to beat my brothers and I. One time, my father threw me off the walls and the stone floors of the house. I thought that was it, I was dead. When [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got my father off me, [REDACTED] carried me upstairs to bed. It was the first time she did anything other than batter me.
53. My brothers and I were all adopted by different neighbours. My brothers and I told our neighbours that we were being hit in the house and the neighbours looked out for us. People couldn't interfere then.

54. I went to Bankhead Primary School and Victoria Drive Secondary School. I liked primary school. There was no-one to tell about the beatings at home. The headmaster at Victoria Drive Secondary School, Mr Imrie, asked me into his office to find out why I was sick every morning. I told him that [REDACTED] fed me a disgusting porridge made from the scrapings from the processing factory floor. Mr Imrie gave me a letter to give to [REDACTED] saying she wasn't to give me the porridge. I got another beating for that. After that, I got cornflakes and thumped every morning. My brothers and I weren't properly clothed. The food was vile and my brothers and I had to sit in a row to eat and not talk.
55. When I was eleven years old, I was sent away to school in Bute. [REDACTED] was sent to Dunoon. I was told I was being sent to Bute because of the home situation and because I was always ill and was going away to be built up. I think it was because [REDACTED] and I took the situation at [REDACTED] worse than my other brothers. [REDACTED] and I couldn't cope. I don't know who sent me to Bute or how long I stayed there for. If anyone was to have highlighted that [REDACTED] and I were wrecks, I think it would have been school. The school in Bute was a big old mansion. I loved it there. When the staff said I was going back to [REDACTED], I tried to run away because I didn't want to go back.
56. [REDACTED] got kicked out of my father's house after a huge row. He was a disappointment to my father as he couldn't get his O Levels and follow my father into the GPO. [REDACTED] was always disappearing and coming back. [REDACTED] had a fight with my father and my father reported [REDACTED] to the police. ^{EHC} [REDACTED], a social worker, became involved with [REDACTED] after that. [REDACTED] and I didn't trust him. [REDACTED] told me later that, looking back, he feels ^{EHC} [REDACTED] was grooming him.
57. The head teacher at Victoria Drive Secondary School wanted me to stay on and do my O Levels. I didn't want to because it would mean following my father into the GPO. I left school just before my fifteenth birthday. I wanted to go to Glasgow School of Art but my father said I wouldn't make a living playing with a paintbrush.

Leaving [REDACTED] Glasgow

58. Two days before my fifteenth birthday, I went for a job interview with [REDACTED], as an office junior. The interview was on Friday and on Monday I started work. A couple of weeks later, [REDACTED] threw my father, the twins and me out of the house. We were homeless. We lived in a caravan at [REDACTED] for a couple of weeks. Then my father got a flat in [REDACTED] in Springburn, Glasgow. The flat was condemned and about to be pulled down. That was grim. There was an outside toilet and a gas leak. My father locked my brothers and I in the flat at night and went back to the house at [REDACTED].
59. From there, we went to a ground floor flat in [REDACTED] in Maryhill. My father was still going back to [REDACTED]. There was never enough food. I had to hand over all of my wages, so I got a job in a garage at the weekend and worked seven days a week. Just before my sixteenth birthday, my father went away to Germany with [REDACTED] and left us alone in the house. EHC [REDACTED] came to the house with a woman and we were taken to my sister [REDACTED]'s house until they came back. I never saw a social worker at [REDACTED], other than the two times EHC [REDACTED] came to the house.

Life after leaving home

60. When I was seventeen years old, it was just my father, the twins and I in the house. My father was still violent all the time. My father kicked me up and down the street for speaking to some boys. I left my father's house and went up to my Granny's house. I got a bedsit after that. I never saw much of him after that.
61. When I was seventeen, I became pregnant. I knew nothing and was about to have to learn it all fast. I went from bringing up the twins to bringing up my own. I married a very violent man, [REDACTED], he was a psychopath. I thought I knew him, he was my cousin, I didn't know him at all. Here was another world of beatings. I was eighteen years old in [REDACTED] and became a mother in [REDACTED]. We lived in Drumchapel. We

had two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My husband, [REDACTED] wouldn't work and I had years of living with no money for rent, food or coal for the fire.

62. I got a better house in Drumchapel and [REDACTED] walked out. [REDACTED] went to Arbroath. [REDACTED] talked me into giving our marriage one last try and, in 1981, I gave up my job and flat in Drumchapel and came to Arbroath. Nine days later, [REDACTED] went away with my sister-in-law. [REDACTED] and I were married for thirteen years and together for six and a half years. Divorces were difficult to get at that time.
63. After my divorce, I got married again to a man called [REDACTED]. I was pregnant and, having grown up illegitimate, I didn't want to force that on a child of mine. I had two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was seeing a psychiatric nurse and we went as a family. The psychiatric nurse said there was nothing wrong with [REDACTED] but I needed help. Eighteen months after we were married, I threw [REDACTED] out of the house. I was fed up being a punch bag. I'd been a punch bag all my life. I got into a relationship with someone in Carnoustie and they were also violent towards me. I got rid of him as well.
64. I've worked on and off. I had to leave the biscuit factory when I was pregnant. I worked as a kitchen assistant in the [REDACTED] Restaurant in Glasgow. When I moved to Arbroath I worked in a chip shop and a box factory.
65. In 1995, I went to Dundee College. I did an Art and Design course and did academic courses in English, Maths, Philosophy and Photography. I went on to do Interior Design. I had a hard time with the folk in the class. I wasn't getting on with any of them. It was down to the tutor. I was going to leave but [REDACTED] persuaded me to see the course leader. For the last few weeks of the course, I sat in a classroom on my own to finish the course. I did a Higher National Diploma in Interior Design at Glasgow College of Building and Printing. It was hard, I was a single parent driving up and down to Glasgow every day. I went from there to Strathclyde University to do Architecture. I did Fine Art at Angus College.
66. I did up to third year of Architecture. I don't have my degree, I was too ill to complete it. In 2002, I was back and forwards to hospital in Dundee. I got enough to practise

but didn't go back for honours. It was a long, hard slog to not get a job at the end of it. I don't believe any learning is ever wasted.

67. My grand-daughter, [REDACTED] came to live with me unofficially when she was fifteen months old. Officially, on [REDACTED] 2010, at seventeen months old, [REDACTED] came to live with me permanently.

Counselling and Health

68. I was diagnosed with clinical depression when I was seventeen years old. I'm on anti-depressants just now. I take anti-depressants when I'm going through a bad phase.
69. One night in 1990, after leaving the box factory, I had a total breakdown. I don't remember anything after I clocked out. [REDACTED] heard me crying all the way up the road. [REDACTED] got me in the house and a doctor was called. The doctor wanted to send me to a psychiatric hospital, for two weeks complete rest but [REDACTED] wouldn't agree to it. My own doctor came to see me on the Monday and got me through everything.
70. My doctor said he'd been waiting for me to have a breakdown for years. I had an appointment to see him once a month. My doctor talked to me and put me on anti-depressants. When things went pear shaped with my daughter, [REDACTED], my doctor helped me through that. My doctor referred me to the swimming pool, it was as much for my mental health as my physical health, to meet people.
71. In 2002, I discovered I had intraventricular cysts in my brain. I couldn't get a job if I had to tell an employer I had cysts in my brain. The cysts are not growing in size, they are growing in number. It's the same thing. The cysts are in the fluid sac in the middle of the brain. One day, there'll be no room left and that'll be it.
72. I have M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) and bad asthma. I take three inhalers and pills for asthma. I had an emergency, life-saving hysterectomy and contracted sepsis afterwards.

73. In April last year, I did a twelve week course with Penumbra, a mental health charity. I go to the Moira Anderson Foundation once a month. I've been going for about a year. The Moira Anderson Foundation was set up for victims of sexual abuse. They've branched out to counselling all childhood abuse now.
74. [REDACTED] the man who takes your initial application at Penumbra, runs a well-being café in Carnoustie on a Saturday morning. He's got me going to that. I've surprised myself because I like it. There's no pressure, you can go to the café if you want. If you don't turn up, [REDACTED] will phone you to find out if you're alright.

Impact

75. A common thread, throughout my childhood, is that my brothers and I were never told anything about anything. My brothers and I were never told where we were going and why. It always felt like we were Victorian waifs, like something out of 'Oliver'. Another common thread is total neglect. In my entire life, I never told my father anything.
76. My brothers and I didn't know that [REDACTED] was with our Granny and Grandad or that [REDACTED] was with her pal, we just never saw them again. My relationships with my brothers and sisters have been very much affected by the time I spent in care. When we went to [REDACTED], the twins and I had my two big brothers back. We still didn't have our two big sisters. [REDACTED] found [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. At first, he refused to take me to see [REDACTED] but eventually he did. After that, I visited [REDACTED] a lot and saw [REDACTED] sometimes.
77. Today, I can't stand [REDACTED]. I see [REDACTED] a lot. We go on holidays together. I haven't seen the twins for many years. The twins don't want anything to do with me. I tried to get in contact with [REDACTED] on Facebook and he blocked me. I don't know why. [REDACTED] and I contacted [REDACTED] when my brother, [REDACTED] died. [REDACTED] said he wasn't interested and he wouldn't be interested when my father died either. My father decided that I had to do his funeral and I phoned [REDACTED] to tell him our father died. [REDACTED] said he didn't care. I haven't spoken to [REDACTED] since then.

78. [REDACTED] and I are desperate to see each other. [REDACTED] emigrated to Australia. He emigrated because of our life. I haven't seen [REDACTED] for 35 years. We didn't keep in touch for a long time. [REDACTED] has moved about and I've moved about. We found each other on Facebook a few years ago and keep in touch with each other through private messaging. It's hard, we know if we see each other, it'll be the last time.

79. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

80. Being in care screwed me up. I carry my time in foster care and [REDACTED] everywhere I go. Being in care is a large part of my having made crap choices in relationships. From my time in care and with my father, I don't like who I am today. I always live with fear, of what, I don't know. I try not to think about my time in foster care. I think about it more now, since I went to Future Pathways.

81. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

82. Out of the whole thing, living at [REDACTED] were the worst years of my life. I didn't mix with other kids at school, I didn't know how to. I played a bit with the kids at Bankhead but not when I went to Victoria Drive. I kept myself to myself. My life was different to the other kids. I didn't have a mum and I wanted my mum back. We didn't get presents for Christmas.

83. My education was definitely affected by my time in care. I went on to get an education later on in life. I decided I wasn't going to be denied my education. It was a lot harder as a single parent. I lived all my life being told that I was stupid, fat and ugly. I wanted to prove I wasn't stupid by going to college.

84. My father and [REDACTED] are dead now. [REDACTED] got an [REDACTED] for good works to the church. She did [REDACTED] and other offices. [REDACTED] kept me off secondary school and sent me to the church and offices with the papers she had translated. [REDACTED] was the most evil woman that you ever met in your life. The people at the church knew about [REDACTED] beating my brothers and I. I told the minister's wife.
85. My whole family has had disastrous marriages. I have difficulty making friends. I'm very insular. I can't cope with a lot of noise and people. My brothers and I were never allowed to make any noise at home.
86. I'm fiercely over-protective of my kids. [REDACTED] said I suffocated him. He didn't get out to play until he was seven years old. We lived on a busy road. [REDACTED] didn't hold it against me. [REDACTED] has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) He can be really difficult to deal with. Our relationship is getting there. After my emergency hysterectomy and sepsis, [REDACTED] did a lot of growing up. [REDACTED] comes and goes to my house because [REDACTED] his daughter, is there. I do everything I can to help him be a good dad.
87. [REDACTED] is very disturbed. Her father was a psychopath. I think [REDACTED] has too much of him in her. I did everything I could. I took her to a psychiatrist when she was seven years old. I was told she was a disturbed child who would grow up into a disturbed adult and that there was nothing I could do about it. The psychiatrist said I tried too hard. [REDACTED] wanted to go into care when she was fifteen years old. I was pregnant and [REDACTED] didn't want another baby in the house. [REDACTED] wanted it just to be her and I in the house. She was a risk to her brothers.
88. I couldn't take any more and phoned the social work department, telling them to bring the papers with them to take her into care. I have lost my daughter. I honestly believe if [REDACTED] had stayed at home, she would have got rid of one of her brothers at least. For the sake of the boys, I had to give up on [REDACTED]. That's a failure I have to live with. I know what I've been through in care and I've put [REDACTED] in care.

89. I fought with social workers all the time about my grand-daughter, [REDACTED]. Social workers think you should agree with everything they say. I told them they didn't have a hope in hell of that. There was no way social workers were putting [REDACTED] through what they put me through. I will take on anybody when it comes to [REDACTED]. Social workers are still getting it wrong. Why was [REDACTED] mum was allowed to have her for seventeen months, with the abuse she was putting [REDACTED] through? [REDACTED] lived in squalor.
90. I find it difficult to deal with [REDACTED] because of my past. I tried to help [REDACTED] mum, my son [REDACTED] girlfriend, it wasn't making any difference. I phoned and told social work that the house was in a mess. In 2010, [REDACTED] was removed from her mother after a meeting with police, social workers and health visitors. [REDACTED] mum asked if [REDACTED] could go to me. [REDACTED] would have gone to a children's home in Stirling if I hadn't taken her, so I did.
91. To be absolutely honest, I didn't want [REDACTED]. I've been bringing up kids all my life. I wanted a break. How could I see a child with my blood going into social work care, with my past? [REDACTED] would have gone to Stirling where we'd probably never see her again. I thought I had to take her.
92. [REDACTED] goes to her mum at the weekend. I had to agree to that, although I bitterly regret it. I thought because my brothers and I were denied seeing our family, I didn't have the right to deny [REDACTED] seeing her mother.

Involvement with Survivor Groups

93. The National Confidential Forum came on the news and I phoned first thing in the morning. I went to Forum because I was sitting on my bed, unable to do anything. Until I went to the Forum and told them about my experience in care, I had never told anyone anything about my time in care. That was two years ago. My brothers didn't even know, they still don't know.

94. I'm a voluntary worker [REDACTED] at Future Pathways. After I had been at the Forum, I was given a flyer with Future Pathways' details and told they were there to help survivors. I phoned them and Shona Bruce came to see me. Shona was my support worker. She was brilliant. I found out there was an advisory group and said I would join it. I'll be there as long as they want or need me.
95. I deal with survivors independently of Future Pathways. [REDACTED] and I work together. [REDACTED] set up a Facebook page for [REDACTED] We help people who are struggling. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] and I are getting training from Future Pathways to help others and keep ourselves safe.

Records

96. I have gone through Birthlink to try to get my records. Birthlink got my social work records from Glasgow Corporation. I found out through them that my father sent a letter to me dated 22nd October 1964 at Dundonald and I never got it. The letter is within my records. The letter was telling me that the twins and I were coming home, my father had a nice big house and we were going to be a family again with our mum. All these years later, I've got a letter that I should have had in 1964.
97. Ayrshire Council won't give me any records. Ayrshire Council say they don't have my records from Dundonald. They have implied that they have the twin's records but the council won't give me them. If the council have records for the twins, they must have them for me. The twins and I were there together. Apparently, Ayrshire Council are bad for this.

Lessons to be Learned

- 98. Teachers at school should have picked up on my brothers and I all being nervous wrecks, when we lived at [REDACTED]. If there was a noise, I would jump out of my skin.

- 99. In an ideal world, social workers should be scrapped and we should start again. The social work system doesn't work. We should start again with a better system. Everyone says you should listen to the child. That's a double-edged sword. Nobody listened to my brothers and I when we needed help. They listened to [REDACTED] when she didn't need help, and they believed her. The pendulum hasn't stopped in the middle, it's gone too far the other way.

- 100. I don't know how you would make the social work system work but it doesn't work as it is. Social workers should be better trained and shouldn't adhere by the theory books as gospel. Social workers don't live in the real world. We have to have a system that will protect children.

Other information

- 101. It's too late for my brothers and I but I hope that, by coming forward to the Inquiry, I can help change things for children in the future.

- 102. 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] FCR

Dated... 15th May 2019