

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

FDU [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is FDU [REDACTED] When I was in care I was known by the surname FDU [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1985. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was born in Stirling. I lived with my mother, [REDACTED] and father, [REDACTED] My mother is now known by the name [REDACTED] I have a younger brother and sister. At that time my brother was known as [REDACTED] and my sister was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] They have both now changed their names to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is two years younger than me and [REDACTED] seven years younger.
3. The situation at home was abusive. I was abused by my father. He was in and out of jail for hitting me. He would physically assault me and push me down the stairs. He also let his pals touch me. My mother was also abusive towards me. I don't want to go into any more detail than that.
4. I think that I had been on the child protection register from birth so I had a social worker as long as I can remember. My father had been in trouble before I was born so there was obviously concerns. At that time I was going to Bannockburn Primary School.

5. The social workers that I remember having were Reed Martin, Pat Priest, Julie Martin and Ronnie Lee. I tried to tell the social workers what was going on. It seemed every time I was going to say something my mum or dad would walk in the room. If it was a female social worker I didn't know how to tell them what was happening to me. I was also frightened of what my father would do.
6. I knew what was happening to me but I didn't know what to do. My behaviour began to get out of control. I was hitting my mum, brother and sister. I was also running away a lot.
7. I can't really remember what happened when I was taken into care. One of my social workers took me to a foster home. I don't remember the name of the social worker. I think I was about nine years old the first time I went into care.

**Foster care, FWK [REDACTED] Tillicoultry**

*First day*

8. When I first arrived at the foster home I was introduced to the foster carer, FWK [REDACTED]. FWK [REDACTED] She was aged about thirty or forty. FWK [REDACTED] had an adopted daughter, [REDACTED] and another foster child [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was about nine years old and I think that [REDACTED] was maybe five or six. When I first met everyone I just told them to 'f-off'. I went to my room and cried. FWK [REDACTED] came to see me. She was quite supportive at first and told me that she understood why I was upset but I just had to be there.
9. [REDACTED] did a lot of highland dancing competitions. She tried to teach me but I didn't like it. I would have to go to the competitions with her and FWK [REDACTED] I didn't like this either.
10. I didn't really get on with [REDACTED]. I think this was because he was younger and very quiet.

11. The house had three bedrooms. I shared a room with [REDACTED]. There were bunk beds in my room. I had a chest of drawers in the room for my clothes. I had my own clothes that I brought with me.
12. I was at the foster home for a couple weeks before I was told why I was in care. The reason was that my mum couldn't cope with my behaviour. I didn't understand. I had pals that were doing a lot worse than me who weren't in care.

#### *Daily Routine*

13. I would normally get up around half seven for a school day. It would normally be [REDACTED] that would get me up. After having a shower I would make my bed then go downstairs for breakfast. I never slept well. Even now I don't sleep well.
14. I would be given supper before going to bed. This would be hot chocolate and toast or a pop tart. Bedtime was at seven or eight each night. [REDACTED] had a thing that if she had to ask you three times to do something it would mean going to bed fifteen minutes earlier.
15. I used to read books in bed. There was also a television in the room that I could watch.

#### *Schooling*

16. I went to the same primary school at Bannockburn. I had to get a taxi there and back.
17. After school I would do my homework. [REDACTED] would help me with this if I needed it.

#### *Leisure time*

18. I went to the boys brigade in Stirling. This was the same group I had been at when I lived with my mum. I had to stop going when my mum started to take my brother to

this group. I wasn't allowed to see my mum so I had to move to the group at Tillicoultry. This upset me as I had my own pals at Stirling. I didn't know anyone at the other group. I ended up not going anymore.

19. FWK would take me swimming and to the pictures. I didn't really have any friends when I was at the foster home. I didn't like where I was. I did eventually get used to it.

#### *Food*

20. There was a selection of things to eat for breakfast. You could have cereal, porridge and toast, basically what you wanted within reason.
21. If I was at school I would have my lunch there.
22. You were given different things for your tea. We would get pizza, spaghetti bolognese or curry. FWK would always ask you what you wanted for tea and then cook it. Every week ██████████, ██████████ and me were allowed to pick a carry out to have for tea. We would take it in turns each week to choose what we had.
23. There was never any issues at mealtimes. The food was good and there was always an option.

#### *Chores*

24. I was expected to help out in the house with the chores. This would be things like tidying my room or doing the hoovering.

#### *Hygiene*

25. I had a shower every day. This was usually in the morning unless I had overslept. If this happened I would shower at night. I wasn't allowed to lock the door in case something happened. There were no issues with having a bath or shower.

*Healthcare*

26. If I needed the doctor **FWK** would have made an appointment for me. It was the same with the dentist. I can't remember if I ever went to the doctors.

*Trips*

27. I was taken on some day trips to places like the zoo.

*Pocket money/personal possessions*

28. I had some of my teddies and my games console with me. I kept these in my room. There were never any issues with anyone taking them or anything else like that.

*Social work*

29. The social work would visit me every fortnight. This meeting would either take place in the house or I would be taken out by the social worker to a café in Bannockburn. I felt that I could speak to my social worker. When things started to happen to me in the foster home I was too frightened to speak about it. I always thought someone would walk in or **FWK** would turn up at the meeting. In hindsight I wish now that I had spoken with my social worker.

*Visits/family contact*

30. I would see my brother at school. My sister was only three so I never saw as much of her. There was a contact centre I was taken to. This is where I would be allowed to have contact with my brother and sister. This maybe happened every fortnight.
31. I would see my mum occasionally. Sometimes she would make arrangements for my brother and sister to come and see me. This would be at either at the social work

department or the contact centre. My mum would cancel these meetings at short notice if she was drunk.

#### *Review of foster care*

32. Within fourteen days of arriving there was a review of my foster care with FWK. This was carried out by the social work. It was agreed that there would be another meeting three months later. There was normally a social worker, FWK, my mum and me at these reviews. I think that my father was in prison by this time.
33. After the second meeting it was agreed again to extend my foster care by another three months. I then started to play up and running away. This was also when FWK started to abuse me. She didn't seem happy that I was still going to be with her.
34. I did get asked at the reviews why I wasn't happy in foster care. I just said that I was unhappy at being away from my family.

#### *Running away*

35. When I ran away it would normally be the police or the duty social worker who would take me back to FWK. I was never asked why I was running away.

#### *Bed wetting*

36. I wet the bed a couple of times. FWK would get me to take the sheets off. I would go for a bath or shower whilst FWK sorted the bed. FWK never made a big thing about it.

#### **Abuse in foster care**

37. After the second review meeting I started to say to FWK that I didn't want to stay with her. That's when she started to hit me. The first time I think I had called her a stupid cow. She slapped me on this face because of this. I ran to my bedroom. FWK

followed me up and started to hit me with one of my slippers. The slipper had a rubber sole. She hit me all over the body. It lasted about five minutes. When she stopped hitting me FWK just left my room and went downstairs. The next day I was covered in bruises. I had bruises on my stomach, arms and legs.

38. I ran away because of the beating. I went to friends of mine. The police came and picked me up around ten at night. If I had ran away it was usually the same police officers who picked me up. They never asked why I had ran away. I never said anything to them. I knew they wouldn't believe me.
39. About a month later FWK assaulted me again in my bedroom. We had been through to Greenock for one of FWK's dancing competitions. I met one of my dad's family when we were there. He had a go at me for sticking my dad in when he had been hitting me. I ended up running away from him. FWK had to look for me and this meant that FWK missed her dancing competition. The police eventually found me about nine that night. FWK had to pick me up from the police. On the journey back FWK was kicking the back of my chair because she had missed her competition. FWK was shouting at me as well. I ended up hitting FWK This made things worse with FWK
40. When we arrived back at the house. I ran upstairs to my room. FWK came in and started to hit me with her hands all over my body. She tried to take my clothes off and was holding my hands above my head. She started to try and rub her breasts in my face. FWK attempted to put my penis in her mouth. I tried to push her away. I hit her a couple of times to make her stop. She eventually got off me and left the room. This was the last time that she tried anything with me.
41. I never saw FWK mistreat any of the other children in the house. I was out the house a lot because I had to travel back and forward to Bannockburn for school.

**Reporting of abuse**

42. I told my friend at school, [REDACTED] about what had happened to me. I didn't tell anyone else at the time. I didn't think anyone would believe me.
43. In 2011 I spoke with the police and reported what had happened to me with [REDACTED]

**Leaving foster care**

44. [REDACTED] was going to be moving into another house. She asked me if I would help with the decorating. After this I thought that I would be with [REDACTED] for a while.
45. My behaviour was starting to get worse. I was also hitting [REDACTED] a lot. I don't think [REDACTED] could cope with me. I was told by my social worker that because of this I was to move to another foster family.
46. My social worker came to pick me up from [REDACTED]s. I was then taken to my new foster parents. This was with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]

**Foster care – Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] Camelon, Falkirk**

47. I think I was either ten or eleven when I was moved. The [REDACTED] stayed at Camelon. It was just an ordinary house. There were two bedrooms. The [REDACTED] had their own children who were grown up and had left home.
48. I called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] by their first names. I can't remember now what their names were.
49. My brother was moved in with me at the [REDACTED]. Me and my brother shared a room. We had bunk beds. It was good to have a sort of family unit although my



brother was a bit of a stranger to me. I did feel safer. I knew my brother wasn't going to bully me. It was more likely that I would bully him.

#### *Daily routine*

50. The routine with the [REDACTED] was much the same as with [FWK]

#### *Schooling*

51. I was moved school to East Carmuir Primary School. I was nervous as I had to make new friends. I just had to get on with it. I did eventually make some new friends at school. I think that it helped with my brother being at the same school as me.

#### *Leisure time*

52. Mr [REDACTED] would take us swimming. He also took us to the cinema, zoo and snooker.

#### *Bed wetting*

53. My brother used to wet the bed. The [REDACTED] just dealt with this. They would change the sheets and tell [REDACTED] to have a shower. It was never a big issue.

#### *Trips/holidays*

54. We went on holiday to Blackpool. This would be for a week in October.
55. When we were in Blackpool I did something wrong. I can't remember what this was just that the [REDACTED] weren't pleased. They said that they would be contacting the social work when we returned home. This led to me being moved again.

*Running away*

56. I ran away a couple of times. One of these times was when I was at Blackpool. The police found me and took me back.

**Leaving foster care**

57. The [REDACTED] told me that they wanted me to stay with them but I was too hard work. I understand this now. I was bullying my brother quite badly and I was very difficult to look after.
58. I was at school one day when my social worker came to see me. The social worker had my belongings. They told me that I wasn't going back to the [REDACTED] as they were struggling to cope with my behaviour. At that point I was very anxious. I liked them a lot. I suppose that they had to do what was right for them.
59. I didn't see my brother until I went back to school the following week.
60. I was taken straight to Orkney Place Children's Home in Falkirk. I think that I was eleven when I moved to Orkney Place.

**Orkney Place Children's Home, 16-18 Orkney Place, Falkirk**

61. [REDACTED]

62. [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Foster Care - [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Grangemouth**

122. I was twelve years old when I moved in with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They stayed near to the swimming pool in Grangemouth. I think that the address was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Grangemouth.
123. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were both in their fifties. They already had two foster children staying with them along with their own two children. I had my own room.
124. I only stayed there about three months.

**Routine at the foster home**

*Leisure time*

125. In my spare time I played football, rugby and went swimming.

*Trips and holidays*

126. I wasn't allowed to go on holiday with the [REDACTED]s because of my behaviour. When they went on holiday for a week I had to go into a Barnardo's home at Falkirk.

*School*

127. I wasn't allowed to go to school. I think that this due to my behavioural problems. At that time I was quite disruptive.

### Leaving foster care

128. I was only in foster care on this occasion for around three months. The decision to move me from foster care was made at a children's panel meeting. I was at this meeting. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- Secondary Institution The [REDACTED] were foster carers and didn't have the specialist training to support me. I wasn't happy with this decision. The children's panel never listened to me. They always went with what the social work said. I was told that I was going to Aycliffe Young Persons Centre near Durham. I didn't want to go there I wanted to stay in Scotland. Aycliffe was apparently a specialist unit but I was still under the care of the local authority in Scotland.
129. When I went back to the [REDACTED]s after the meeting I was in a bad mood. I thought that the [REDACTED] didn't want me to stay even although they said that they did. I ended up threatening [REDACTED] with a knife. [REDACTED] took the knife off me and shouted at me. I thought he was going to hit me but he didn't. When it all calmed down I apologised to [REDACTED]. I said to [REDACTED] that I thought he was going to hit me. [REDACTED] said he would never do that and he was only angry because of what I did to [REDACTED]
130. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appealed the decision to move me on my behalf. This was unsuccessful.
131. A month before I left the [REDACTED]s I was taken for a visit to Aycliffe. I met some of the staff and some of the young people who were there. I thought that it looked okay.
132. My social worker Pat Priest drove me down to Aycliffe when I moved there. I had some clothes with me. I also had my NES computer.

### Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham

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**St Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle**

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**St Marys Kenmure, Bishopbriggs**

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**Life after being in care**

213. Since leaving the unit I have had a couple of jobs. These have mostly been in catering or retail. I found it difficult holding down a job because of what I had been through when I was in care. The last time I was in employment was 2007.

**Impact**

214. What happened to me in care is constantly on my mind. I have always had difficulty with relationships. I fly off the handle very easily. This is usually because I have taken something that was said the wrong way. The abuse affected my life choices and what I wanted to do.
215. I don't like being out on my own. This scares me.
216. I always question things. I am always wary and suspicious. I have a severe distrust of everyone.
217. I suffer from flashbacks and nightmares because of what happened to me in care. I usually have nightmares once or twice a week. I have just learned to deal with them. I don't think that there is a lot I can do about them.
218. I blame my mum for what happened to me as a child. She should have known what was going on.
219. I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder when I was at St Nicholas. I was also diagnosed with depression in 2007. I take anti-depressants for this.
220. I previously had a cocaine habit. This was because of a build-up of different things.

## Reporting of Abuse

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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## Records

223. I have never tried to get my records from my time in care. I have thought about it but I have just never got round to it.

## Other information

224. I have never been back to any of the care places that I was in. I have never asked the local authority or anyone else for an apology about what happened to me.

225. I have a legal action about my time in care ongoing just now. Thomson solicitors in Glasgow are dealing with this.

## *Counselling*

226. In 2006 I self-referred for counselling through a group called 'Thrive'. My GP had mentioned it but I arranged it myself. This has helped me understand that what happened to me wasn't my fault.

227. I have also had counselling from 'Lifelink' and 'Cope'. This has helped to give me the tools to deal with things. I probably don't use them as much as I should.

*Hopes for the Inquiry*

228. I think it is difficult to make people accountable unless they hold their hands up. I hope the people that did things to me are brought to justice. I think the chances of this happening are slim unless others say what happened to them as well.

229. 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 FDU .....

Dated 04.07.2019 .....