

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

JBZ

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is JBZ My maiden name was JBZ My date of birth is 1952. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Background

2. I married my husband, JBY in 1979. We stayed in the Irvine area before moving down to in Irvine thirty years ago. I became a foster carer about a year after we moved into that house, so it would have been about 1993. I think I fostered for about ten years, but I'm not sure.
3. I left school with my English, arithmetic and domestic science O'Levels. I then started training to become a nurse. When I qualified as a nurse, I met my husband. He was working as an engineer and I never got rid of him. I had my oldest daughter, within a year of getting married. She's now 42 and my other daughters, and are 39 and 33. I started childminding in between having my second and third daughters.

### *Becoming a foster carer*

4. Before becoming a foster carer I had been a child minder for about eight or nine years. I just thought that fostering was the next step. We've always had kids round about us. When we lived in our previous, there were always lots of kids round the house. They always sort of congregated in our home. I didn't have any qualification in childcare

before becoming a foster carer. We didn't need any specific experience or qualifications.

5. When we decided to become foster carers, we applied to the council in Irvine. The council took it from there. They sent us forms to fill out. We were then visited by someone from the council. I think it was Bob Galloway, who ended up being our support worker when we became foster carers. He came out and told us a bit about fostering. It was to see what we thought of it and see what he thought of us. He checked the house to ensure that it was okay. I think we had another couple of interviews in the house and then we were accepted. I can't remember whether we needed any references or whether there were any background checks. It took about a year from our first contact with the council until we were approved.

### *Training*

6. We didn't get any training prior to becoming foster carers. After we became foster carers, we would go to the odd training day. Over the years, I don't think there were more than seven or eight of those, if that. It would be the odd half day or the odd full day. There really wasn't much training provided at all. I think one of the courses did cover child protection. I do remember there being some guidance about appropriate levels of discipline. It was all put together with things like what to do at bath times. That guidance was given after we'd started fostering. I don't feel that we were given adequate information and training before we started fostering. Nowadays, I think there is more training before you start.
7. Once we'd been approved as foster carers, there weren't really any ongoing checks to ensure that we were still suitable. Nobody ever came to the house to inspect it or anything like that. Bob Galloway was our point of contact if we did need anything.

### *Foster care arrangements*

8. I didn't really consider myself to be employed as a foster carer. I thought of myself as a carer for children who needed help. I felt that the children were there to be looked after like my own children were looked after.

### *Financial support*

9. I think the financial support was about £30 a month for each child. It may have been more than that, but I can't remember. I'm not sure who paid us that money. It might have come from Elliott House in Irvine. The money was put into everything that was needed in the house, food, days out or whatever we were doing. A lot of the children arrived with very little clothing. We would ask the council for money for clothes and we would maybe get about £20. That money took weeks to arrive so the monthly money would also get used for things like that if it was needed. I would keep receipts for things like clothing and it would eventually be reimbursed.
10. I thought that the financial provision was adequate, it just took the council a wee while to get there. It was the same when a new child came in. We didn't start getting paid for quite a while. The staff at the council were always busy so you had to remind them about the money.

### *Foster home household*

11. When I started fostering, [REDACTED] was eleven and [REDACTED] was four. My oldest daughter, [REDACTED] was seventeen years old and staying with her fiancée by that time. The council didn't play a role in preparing [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for us fostering, but the girls would know when a foster child was due to arrive. Because [REDACTED] was a bit older, she was good at helping me with the children as well.
12. My husband, <sup>JBY</sup>[REDACTED] fostered with me, but he also had a full-time job as an engineer. We didn't see much of him because he worked long hours. He was often on-call and

could be sent away up north. I think he was on-call every second weekend. Sometimes he would be home for dinner but not always.

13. Our house is a terraced house with an upstairs and a downstairs. Downstairs there is a kitchen and living room which has two steps up into what we call the dining room. The dining room was always used as a toy room. Upstairs, there is a bedroom and a bathroom on the right-hand side. On the left-hand side there is a single bedroom and then a double bedroom. At that time, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared the big room. When we started fostering, they moved into the smaller bedroom and the big room was kept for the foster kids. It was set up with bunk beds.

#### *Children fostered*

14. We were given a choice about the age range of the children we fostered. They were always supposed to be younger than [REDACTED] my youngest daughter, who was four at the time. We did get a few children who were slightly older, but that was okay. The oldest child we looked after was about nine. It was an emergency placement and he came with his little sister. In hindsight, we should have said no to that placement. It turned out that the girl was in [REDACTED] class at primary school. When the children returned home, the girl and her family badly bullied [REDACTED]. We did speak to the school, but they just said that she'd had a hard upbringing. [REDACTED] had a miserable time with it.
15. We were supposed to foster no more than two children at a time, but quite often we would have three. We were meant to be doing short-term fostering, but we had a little boy, [REDACTED] with us for two and a half years. [REDACTED] was six weeks old when he first came to live with us. He got adopted when he was two and a half. That was hard. I think we looked after about seventeen children while we fostered. Some of them came back to us for a second stay, so we might have dealt with about twenty placements in total. We tended to get girls more often than boys. I think it was just the way it worked out.

16. I have been asked to speak to the Inquiry because of a statement given to them by FED [REDACTED] I think FED [REDACTED] came to us in about 1997, 1998 but I'm really not sure. I think he was about four years old when he was with us. He attended nursery. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were with us at that time and they were about six and three. [REDACTED] was about eight and [REDACTED] was about fourteen.

*Placement preparation*

17. We would get a phone call to say that a boy or a girl was needing to be placed. They would ask if we had space. We did have a choice and could say that we already had enough. I don't think I ever did say no because we always had space. If we were able to accept the placement, they would ask us to get things ready. We would then get a phone call later on to say that they were on their way. We wouldn't be told names or anything at that point. We never met the child before they were placed with us. They always just arrived.
18. Some social workers were really good and provided quite a lot of background information about the child. Others didn't really tell you much, other than that they were coming to you. Most children came with very little in the way of belongings. It was sad. We weren't given any written information about them. Sometimes, we were told why they were being placed with us. It very much depended on the social worker. We would have benefitted from being given more information about the child, especially when a child was withdrawn and hard to settle. I didn't know why and how to help them. Some children came in and settled straight away. Other children took a few days to come out of their shell.

*Daily routine and sleeping arrangements*

19. Sometimes, we would change the sleeping arrangements, depending on the gender of the children coming to stay. For example, when FED [REDACTED] came to stay we put him into the single bedroom. We already had two girls staying with us, aged six and three. We spoke to the social worker and he told us to put our girls in with the other two girls and keep FED [REDACTED] on his own. We just assumed he asked us to do that because FED [REDACTED] was

a boy. The bunkbeds that had been in there were moved into the other room and a single bed was put into his room. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] didn't usually share with foster children, but they did on that occasion so that [REDACTED] FED had his own room.

20. When we looked after [REDACTED] who was six weeks old when he came to us, he was in a cot in our bedroom. I was doing night time feeds and things like that. He moved into his own room when he was a bit older.
21. Some of the children we fostered wet the bed. The social work department would get us mattress protectors. We weren't given any guidance on how to deal with it, but we had experience of similar things with our own children. We would get children up last thing at night to go to the toilet and encourage them to go to the toilet as much as they needed. We would discourage them from drinking too much before bedtime.
22. JBY [REDACTED] was always up early and away to his work in the morning. I would get up and go downstairs first thing in the morning. I would get the heating and the fire on. I would get the breakfast laid out and ready in the kitchen. We'd built a low breakfast bar at the end of the kitchen so the kids could sit there and have their breakfast. After I'd done that I'd go back upstairs and wake up the children. I'd get them downstairs for breakfast and then take them back upstairs to get washed. Their clothes were looked out the night before. They could either get dressed upstairs or in front of the fire downstairs.
23. When children came home from school or nursery, they would get changed into their play clothes or whatever they wanted to put on. There was always juice or milk and cakes or sandwiches. We would do their homework and then they could get outside to play if it was nice weather. Our garden was up a set of stairs so they weren't allowed up in the garden unless there was an adult with them. We had a big patio area outside the back door, so they could play there. Years ago, we built a corrugated plastic roof onto the patio so it was like a shelter. There were easels, floor chalk and different games that children play out there.

### *Mealtimes*

24. I prepared the food for the children, although some of the children liked to help me when I was baking. I don't remember having any kids who struggled to eat their meals. Most of them were good eaters. I would ask them what they wanted and they all agreed on what they would have that night. That's what I would make. The kids would eat their meals at the breakfast bar.

### *Leisure time*

25. We provided toys for the children. They would sit together to watch television. We would take some of the children swimming at the Magnum Centre in Irvine. Others, we weren't sure about taking because they could be a bit wild at times. The children were a bit too young to get pocket money, but we gave them money to get sweets.

### *Trips and holidays*

26. We always had lots of days out because we had a camper van. We used to go up to Largs. We would go to Kelburn Country Park and there was plenty of room for the kids to run about and plenty of things for them to do. We did that quite a lot in the summer, if JBY was off work and we got the chance.
27. We used to take the kids on holiday. On one occasion, we went to St. Andrew's. We booked a big static caravan. We were fostering [REDACTED] and two sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the time. It was a great big caravan on a farm at the back of a farmhouse. There were piglets on the farm. Every morning when we got up, the piglets would have escaped. The kids would be out in their jammies and wellies, chasing the piglets around and trying to catch them. They would help picking up the eggs. A young couple owned the farm. The woman was really nice. She let me use the bath in the house for the kids.
28. We also had a holiday camping in Devon. We were fostering a girl called [REDACTED] at the time. We went to Blackpool for a long weekend with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We didn't

get extra funding to take the kids on holiday. We would give the kids holiday money. Sometimes, if their mum or dad was happy they were going on holiday, they gave them spending money. That didn't happen very often. If my mum and dad were giving holiday money to my children, they would give money to the foster kids as well.

### *Schooling*

29. Social workers tried to keep children at their own schools or nurseries when they came into foster care. A driver used to come and take the children to school. I think [REDACTED] was still at nursery when he came to us, but I can't remember which nursery. I think we had one girl, [REDACTED] who had to move schools because she had too far to travel. She moved to [REDACTED] school and they used to go off to school together quite happily. The only child I looked after who was too young for nursery or school was [REDACTED]. He'd be trundled out in the pram to get the others to school and back.
30. [REDACTED] was still at nursery when she came to us. Her sister, [REDACTED] was about six. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had some educational problems at school. It was something that their school made us aware of rather than the social work department. They still managed to go to primary school, but they had some problems with learning. I think we were told about those after they'd stayed with us for a wee while. I think we were also told that they had a life-limiting condition. They moved on and they were taken on as permanent foster children somewhere else. It was out of the district and away from their family.

### *Healthcare*

31. Children were normally taken to their own GP by their social worker just after they had arrived. Most of the children who came to us were emergency placements so it was often arranged for the very next day. The children who came to stay with us were generally healthy. We would take them to our own GP if they did need medical attention. We mainly took them for vaccinations and things like that. A couple of times, we had to take them to the doctor because of head lice.



*Christmas and birthdays*

32. We always had a wee birthday party for the children. I would always phone up the child's social worker and let them know they could come over. Some social workers would come to the birthday party. Some came in for two minutes and went away again, others stayed for a couple of hours. It varied a great deal.
33. If it was summertime, we had a party out the back door. We would have presents, balloons and banners, party food, a birthday cake and the barbeque would be on. If the weather wasn't nice, we held the party in the dining room and the living room. The parties were fun. The department didn't give us a separate budget for birthday parties or birthday presents so JBY and I paid for them.
34. Some of the children saw their parents on their birthdays, some didn't. It just depended. I don't think they ever came for the birthday parties. Some would come with the social worker and take their kids away. Usually, they went to McDonald's.
35. Christmas was chaos. Our living room is quite small and narrow. When the children went to bed at night, they were all wound up. I would get them all wound up with the Santa stuff. I then had to try and find space to put all their presents. The floor, settee and chairs were just covered with presents. I would sneak down in the morning, get the lights on and the fire on. I would go upstairs and wake the children up, telling them they needed to come and see if Santa had been. They would come downstairs and it would be absolute chaos. We had to put a big black bag in the middle of the room so we could put all the paper in it.
36. We did have a video of FED on Christmas day. I think it must be up in the loft somewhere. We gave a copy of it to the social worker at the time. and were there. FED was sitting at the side of the fire. and were ripping open their presents, but FED wouldn't touch anything. It took us a good half hour to finally get him to open some presents. He just wasn't keen on opening them. He then got into it.

37. The rest of the day went downhill from there. My mum and dad always came over for Christmas. We would have cheese and crackers, crisps and dips and cakes and stuff at lunchtime. In the afternoon, we would all sit round the table and have a big meal. It was just wild. It was very noisy. We didn't receive any extra payments for Christmas.

*Discipline*

38. I would try to talk to children and explain why they shouldn't do certain things. For example, I might do that if they went up to the garden when they weren't supposed to and when they knew that it was dangerous. They would then get a time-out to sit and read a book. That was what I was told to do by the social work department. I think it was just talked about, rather than it being a part of a training day. I really didn't need to use discipline or time-outs very often. The children were all pretty good.

*Relationship with foster children*

39. I just left it up to the children to decide what they wanted to call me. Some of them called me mum, some of them called me [REDACTED] JBZ [REDACTED]. It varied. Some of them didn't use any names for me. I think I had a good relationship with the children that I fostered. They were just treated like our kids. They were brought in as part of the family. They all knew where everything was and they knew exactly where to go to get it. They could go into the kitchen and help themselves to snacks and things.
40. I would give the children cuddles and emotional support. Social workers told us that we should try not to give cuddles, but if you had a wee one who was crying and breaking their heart, you weren't going to stand back. The social workers would say that we should try not to have the children on our knees and things like that, but if you had a three or four year old who was upset then you had to try and comfort them in some way. I had to give them a cuddle and try and help them.
41. My biological children and the foster children got on really well. I remember [REDACTED] FED [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got about fifty wee hairbands. They sat behind me and put

them in my hair. There's a picture of me somewhere and I had all these bits of hair sticking out. It took me hours to get the bands back out of my hair.

#### *Family contact*

42. Family contact arrangements varied from child to child. Contact was pre-arranged. We didn't really have any input into contact arrangements. Our views weren't really taken into account when it came to contact, but it would get brought up at Children's Panels or any meetings that were held. They would ask our opinion on how the kids had been getting on, but that was it. I don't think they ever listened very much to what we were saying. We looked after a girl called [REDACTED]. She was getting bribed by her mum to behave and tell the social workers that she wanted to go and stay with her mum. Her mum said that she was going to buy her a puppy. We did tell the social worker, but they didn't bother.
43. We took [REDACTED] to Devon on holiday. On the day we were leaving, one of the girl's purses disappeared. It had all her holiday money in it. We thought we'd lost it. It wasn't until we got back that [REDACTED] said she had hidden it. She went and got the purse. Her mum had told her to do everything she could to spoil the holiday. The mum had never had her on holiday and she didn't want us to take her on holiday. It was a bit sad for her.
44. If contact was going to take place, we would get a phone call from the social worker to say that parents were going to come on a certain day. We would get the child ready and tell them where they were going. Sometimes they came and sometimes they didn't. Some parents came to the door and collected their child. Some would come in and sit for a wee while before taking them out. Some came with a social worker.
45. When [REDACTED] mum came back on the scene, she came on her own for a wee while. We had to stop her coming because she stole a box of tablets one day and a bottle of vodka and some beer on another day. It must have been getting near Christmas so we had the alcohol in the house. A neighbour had seen her walking up the street and

putting the bottles under her jacket. We told the social worker what had been happening. After that, [REDACTED] mother disappeared.

46. [REDACTED] had some contact with his mum at the contact centre. I had to supply things for her to make his lunch. She wasn't happy because it wasn't what she would have fed him, but that was what I was told to give him.
47. We had a brother and sister stay with us, who were primary school age. Their family would come to the door, demanding money to take their kids out for the afternoon. We weren't told that we would have to deal with families in this way before we started fostering, but most of the time it was okay.
48. The kids we looked after were quite young, but some of them did like to phone their parents. We looked after a little girl called [REDACTED] who used to phone her mum. She was about five years old. She would ask if she could phone her mum and I would dial the number for her.
49. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stayed with us for about a year, a year and a half. It turned out I had gone to school with their mum. She died while they were staying with us. The social worker came round and spoke to them. I tried to help them as well. I don't know if it really sunk in with them at the time. They hadn't been seeing a lot of their mum because she had been having problems.

### *Siblings*

50. Sometimes we had siblings living with us. We had two sisters for a while. They went home and then they came back to us. Their brother had been with another foster family, but they were on holiday at that time. We took him as well for about a week, which meant rearranging the bedrooms so he had his own room.
51. The council did make provision to keep siblings together. If they weren't living together, contact was arranged. The sisters who stayed with us used to see their brother quite

a lot when he lived with different foster carers. The social worker would come and take them out for contact. The older sister was also at the same school as the brother.

#### *Visitors*

52. Some of the children's social workers came to the house to visit them. Some of them really didn't bother. Some social workers were very good and came every week, if they could. There were other social workers who we didn't see for weeks and weeks and weeks. Occasionally, they would phone up but that was it. There was definitely a lack of consistency. I know that the social workers were ran off their feet, but they should have spent more time coming to see the kids. A lot of the time, the kids would be very shy when their social worker visited. They didn't remember who the social worker was.
53. Some social workers spoke to children on their own when they visited. They would ask to speak to them and I either left the room or they took them up to their bedroom and spoke to them there. It was really down to the social worker. I think a few would visit unannounced. If they had been visiting someone else and they were passing, they would just nip in and say hello. I can't remember there being any inspections. Nobody ever came to check that the house was still fit for purpose. If we needed a chest of drawers or a bed, we would let our worker know and they would arrange it if they could.

#### *Review of care/placement*

54. I'm not aware of our social worker, Bob Galloway, having contact with social workers for the children in our care. When Children's Panels took place, I would attend along with the child's parents, the child, if he or she was old enough, the Panel members and the child's social worker. We would be asked our opinion on how the child was getting on, but I'm not sure how much our views were taken into account.

#### *Records*

55. I wasn't required to keep formal records, but I kept diaries at the time. I think the department asked me to keep diaries. I would write everything down as it happened. I

would keep a note of any medical appointments I took the children to. I would write what kind of mood they had been in, whether they had had a bad day, what they had told me about school or parental contact. I would write in the diary most days or if something happened. Nobody ever asked to see the diaries, but I would sometimes be asked what was in them if there was a meeting about the child coming up. A lot of the time, social workers were so busy that they couldn't visit the children very often. They would phone up and ask what had been going on and what we'd been doing.

56. We got rid of all the diaries we kept for children in our care after we stopped fostering. We burnt them. We shredded any paperwork we held for the kids.

### *Moving placement*

57. When kids were leaving our care, the notice given to us varied. [REDACTED] was being adopted so we were aware that parents had been found for him. He went on visits to the people he was going to live with. His adoptive parents came to us as well and took him out. We took him up to their house. They already had another adopted boy. We got quite friendly with them. When he left, they came and took him and that was it.
58. We had known that the department were looking for adoptive parents for [REDACTED]. We had spoken about keeping [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had been living with his aunt and uncle before we fostered him. They wanted us to have him full-time but it was felt that it was better that he moved further away, because the family knew where we were. We knew well in advance that he was going, but we weren't really given any guidelines as to how to prepare him. We made a big folder book with pictures from when he had been tiny up until the day he left. We bought him a Quaich with all our names engraved on it.
59. Similarly, we knew they were looking for adoptive parents for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We were told that they had found parents for them in Largs. We met them before [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] met them, to see what we thought. The father was a lot older so I think it was just to see if we thought the home was suitable. They were really nice people and everything was fine. If we had said that we didn't think the adoptive parents were

suitable, I doubt that our views would have been taken into account. There were visits back and forth, but [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went quite quickly. They were really quite settled and comfortable with their new parents. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also visited the people in their long-term placement before they left us.

60. When children left, they took their own things with them. They usually left with more than they had come in with. We kept a great big pile of teddies so that if kids arrived and they didn't have their own teddies, they had something to cuddle in a strange bed. They could help themselves to a teddy. Instead of one, they would end up with a bed-full. They took any clothes, toys and books away with them.
61. I do remember that [REDACTED] was a bit inappropriate with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were outside playing on the patio. I looked out a window from the utility room. [REDACTED] was standing with his pants down at his ankles. He had taken [REDACTED] pants down and he was trying to get [REDACTED] to touch his private parts. I asked him to stop doing it and took him inside. I asked him to come and sit down so we could talk for a wee while. I told him that it wasn't nice to do things like that. I thought that had worked.
62. Weeks later, [REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] trying to get [REDACTED] to touch him again. It happened a few times. I tried to speak to [REDACTED] social worker. I can't remember what her name was. I left messages and messages at her office and got nowhere. I don't know whether she was too busy or whether she was on holiday, but I never got a reply at all. I then contacted our support social worker and said that I was needing help dealing with [REDACTED] behaviour. I think it was still Bob Galloway at that time. He told me to phone the senior social worker and see what she said. It turned out Bob had had a big fallout with the senior social worker in that office. He didn't want to cause any trouble by complaining. I felt like what I was saying was viewed as a complaint, but it was help that we wanted.
63. I phoned the senior social worker and told her what had been happening. I can't remember her name. Her immediate response was that they would come and take [REDACTED] away and that was it. I told her that we didn't want him to be taken away. We were looking for advice on how to react and how to help him. We wanted to keep him

but for him to receive help. They wouldn't do it. They said that they didn't have time and they would take him away. I thought her reaction was horrible, not just for us but for FED

64. I was provided with a copy of FED statement to the Inquiry prior to my interview. I got the shock of my life when I read what had happened to poor FED before he came to stay with us. He said that he had been sexually abused by his mother's boyfriend and that was recorded in social work notes at the time. If that was what had happened to him and then they just came and tore him away, it was very unfair on him. We would have benefitted from knowing that information before he was placed with us. If we had known the full background, we would have asked for some kind of training. We would have asked how to deal with certain behaviours, if anything was to happen.

#### *Complaints*

65. I didn't really think there was a channel to go through if we had concerns or we needed support. We would phone up our support worker and that was it.

#### *Stopping work as a foster carer*

66. Because of our experiences with FED and what the department did in response, we decided to stop fostering. We also had another boy come to stay with us who was a lot of work. His family weren't very nice and we had some bother with them. We didn't get support from the social work department with that situation either. My children were getting older, my parents both had dementia and I just felt that it was enough. I needed peace and quiet. I stopped fostering in about 2003.



## **Allegations of abuse**

### *Awareness of abuse*

67. In all my time as a foster carer, nothing that I would consider to be abuse took place. I didn't witness anything that would constitute abuse. I never used any form of physical chastisement. I would never have used it on my own kids and my parents never used it on me. I never saw my husband using any form of physical chastisement. We rarely saw my husband because he was always working.

### *Reporting of abuse*

68. If the children had a concern, they could speak to their social worker when they visited. I'm not aware that I've ever been the subject of any complaint about alleged abuse of foster children. When I read FED statement, I was shocked to learn that he had been to the police on two occasions to report things that happened in our home. The police have never contacted us about this. Nothing else that I'm aware of has ever been reported to the police in relation to my time as a foster carer. I've never previously given a statement about my time as a foster carer.

### *Specific allegations that have been made to the Inquiry – FED*

69. FED came to us when he was about four years old. I think it was in 1997 or 1998. I think he was with us for six to nine months, something like that. I remember him having a few social work visits. I do remember the social worker coming for his birthday. I remember the children were wild during FED party. They were running back and forward between the two rooms and jumping off the steps, trying to fly. I think it was FED fifth birthday.
70. FED stated to the Inquiry, "I slept in a bedroom with the two girls. I was sleeping on a mattress on the floor." That is not the case. FED had his own room and it was set up for him before he arrived. and slept in a room with two sets of bunkbeds. There wasn't a mattress on the floor. There was never an occasion

when a child slept on a mattress on the floor in our house. I don't think we even had a spare mattress, other than maybe an airbed for camping.

71. In his statement, FED said, *"I remember when I left JBY/JBZ foster care placement I had fewer clothes than I had when I went in. A social worker commented in my records that JBY/JBZ received allowances for clothing but this was never passed to me."* FED took the clothes that he had with him. In fact, I think there were two big black bags. He took his toys and books. He left with the same as everybody else left with. Everything that was bought for our foster children, they took with them. When children arrived, if you asked for clothing money you eventually got £20 or £30 and that was to do them. You had to show receipts for clothing purchased to get the money.
72. FED has also stated, *"I do remember that my mother visited on one occasion and brought me a present of a keyring with a whale on it. It was one of the few things from my mother. The other two girls in the foster home stole it from me and I remember being very distraught. The foster parents didn't seem to bother. I managed to find the keyring myself but it was again taken off me and I never saw it again."* FED mum never visited the house. I'm not sure whether FED had any contact with his mum while he stayed with us. I think he might have had contact with the social worker, but I can't remember him going to see his mum at all. I can't remember anything about a keyring at all. If there had been a dispute like that, I would have sat and talked to the children but there really was nothing like that at all. They all got on quite well.
73. FED stated, *"While I was in the care of JBY/JBZ I was subjected to physical, psychological and emotional abuse. I was never the subject of sexual abuse. Most of the abuse came from Mr JBY"* There was nothing like that. JBY was rarely there, but we would never hurt kids in any way. We would never do that. I feel sorry that that's the life he thinks he had with us. I really do feel sorry for him.
74. He also said, *"I remember being handcuffed to a rabbit hutch in the back garden. Mr JBY was a security guard at the airport and he had a set of handcuffs. Mr JBY did this on more than one occasion and used to leave me handcuffed to the rabbit hutch in all weathers. I think he punished me because I was too active running and*

*playing in the house. I was like any other child that age.” He was just like any other child that age, but we had to watch because he kept falling and tripping. He was full pelt. We never had handcuffs. My husband was never a security guard. We had purple fluffy handcuffs in the house five years ago for [REDACTED] hen night, but that’s the only time we’ve ever had handcuffs. [REDACTED] talks about there being a big garden with rabbit hutches in it. We never had rabbits when [REDACTED] was with us. We did have a rabbit when [REDACTED] was three and we stayed at our previous house, but I swore I would never have a rabbit again in my life. They’re nothing but work. We never kept rabbits at the address at [REDACTED] and that was where [REDACTED] came to stay with us.*

75. [REDACTED] stated to the Inquiry, *“Mr [REDACTED] wore steel toe-capped boots and on one occasion, he deliberately stood on my toe and broke all the nail. It was very painful. Because I complained he then handcuffed me to the rabbit hutch for a couple of hours.”* That didn’t happen. I really don’t know where he’s got it from. I don’t know what to say. Mr [REDACTED] didn’t have any steel toe-capped boots.

76. He said, *“When my mother would visit she would often bring a toy for me. For some reason [REDACTED] did not like this and used to take the toy from me. I remember on one occasion they took a Buzz Lightyear which my mother had given me. They then put this toy on display on the headboard of their bed and dared me to try and get it back. I knew if I did this I would be skelped.”* We didn’t have a headboard on our bed. We had made the bed ourselves and moved it with us to that house. Children weren’t allowed in our bedroom anyway. We were told by the social work department that we should not allow children in our bedroom, other than when [REDACTED] was a baby. I don’t even think [REDACTED] had a Buzz Lightyear toy and his mum never visited. I don’t know where he’s coming from with this allegation at all.

77. [REDACTED] alleged, *“It was always Mr [REDACTED] that would punish me by hitting. He would hit me with a belt. I would always get belted for allegedly being bad. I think that it happened on a number of occasions.”* That never happened. It just makes me so angry.

78. He said, *JBY/JBZ had a large open-plan kitchen and there was one occasion when they forced me to eat a meal. I was sick and they made me eat the vomit.*  
We don't have a large kitchen. It's quite a small kitchen. We would never make anybody eat vomit. It makes me sick thinking about it. If children didn't like something we gave them to eat, they would just leave it and it went to the dogs.
79. He stated, *"There were two occasions which involved Mr and Mrs JBY/JBZ They made me put on ear muffs to stop the swelling on my face and then they sat on either side of the room and punched me. They did it on at least two occasions. That was the only time that Mrs JBY/JBZ was involved."* That never happened. I don't even know what to say. We would never physically touch a child, ever. I like kids too much and I still do.
80. *FED* said, *"The last day I spent in the care of JBY/JBZ was another occasion when they assaulted me. Just before I was collected by the social work JBY/JBZ made me sit on the stairs and bang my head on the wall. If I stopped doing this they would come and shout at me. When the social worker collected me she took me to the Accident and Emergency Department at Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock. I was treated for mild concussion. JBY/JBZ told the social worker that I'd fallen outside while playing."* How could I make a kid bang his own head off a wall? I didn't do that. *FED* did fall a lot. He always had skint knees, holes in his trousers, bruises and sore hands. He was so fast all the time that he was always tripping up.
81. There were no times when my husband would have been left alone with *FED* We were made aware of the fact that we should both try and be present, apart from during bath times. *JBY* wasn't allowed to bath the children. That was stipulated by the social work department.
82. I don't think that the passage of time has clouded my recollection. I honestly don't know why *FED* would say these things. We would never physically touch kids. I really feel sorry for *FED* if that's how he feels that his life with us was. It wasn't. He had a good time. It took him maybe a week to settle in and come out of his shell. After that, he had a great time. We took him everywhere that we went. He had everything that everybody else was having. If it hadn't been for the hiccup when he behaved

inappropriately towards [REDACTED] he would have been with us until he went to wherever he was going to go.

83. I have read an interview that FED [REDACTED] gave on social media pages. In that interview, he said that boxing gloves were used to punch him in our home. That doesn't appear in his statement to the Inquiry. We didn't have any boxing gloves in the house. It worries me that FED [REDACTED] has given all these different statements to all these different medias. It also worries me that he's been to the police on two occasions. People that knew us then and were friendly with us and knew FED [REDACTED] might be reading this. It was in the local paper as well. People will know that it's us who have been accused. It really is very hurtful.
84. I just can't believe the things that FED [REDACTED] is saying. I don't know where it's coming from. It hurts me that he's saying these things, it really does.

### Helping the Inquiry

85. I think foster parents need a lot more training, although I think there is more training in place nowadays. They need to have more people going in, spot-checking houses, just to make sure everything is okay. They need to support both the carers and the children as well. At times, I felt somewhat abandoned by the social work department.
86. 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..... JBZ [REDACTED] .....

Dated..... 10/3/2022 .....