

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDC [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is FDC [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1972. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.


Life before going into care

2. I was born in [REDACTED] Stirling. My parents were [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] though I heard years later that he may not have been my father. My two older brothers were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I had a younger brother and sister called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
3. Family life wasn't good that I remember and my mum was always out drinking. She liked to enjoy herself. My dad wasn't happy about it and used to take his temper out on us. He would hit us with whatever came to hand. This happened just about every day.
4. Things had been that bad that my older brother [REDACTED] went to stay with my gran. My gran had actually taken him away. On one occasion, when I was six or seven my dad came home from work screaming about money. Myself and [REDACTED] immediately ran upstairs. I was quickest and managed to hide behind the door but [REDACTED] was too slow.
5. My dad grabbed [REDACTED] by the head and started shouting about money and banging [REDACTED] head off the wall until [REDACTED] stopped moving. I shouted to him to stop and ran out

of the bedroom but only got to the top of the stairs when my dad caught me and threw me down the whole flight of stairs.

6. When I got to the bottom I was able to move and ran along the hall to hide in the small electricity cupboard. However, my dad reached in, grabbed me and started punching and kicking into me. All I recall is seeing him grab a spade and seeing my mum behind him.
7. The next thing I remember was waking up in hospital and hearing people talking about all my injuries and how many I had. I know my dad wasn't supposed to but he took me out of hospital. I went to school the next day, Bannockburn Primary, but a social worker came to the school and I was taken into care.
8. That bit is actually quite confusing and I think the social worker was called Ron Bowie. There may have been previous social work involvement with our family but I'm not sure.
9. My brother [REDACTED] had also been taken to hospital and from there was taken to, I think, a place called Balerno. I think this was a special school and that [REDACTED] was taken there because of the injuries he had sustained. Whether or not there was police involvement I'm not sure. I was very young at the time.
10. The social worker took myself, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the social work office in Murrayfield Place in Stirling. We were then taken to Weedings Hall in Polmont.

Weedings Hall, Polmont – 1978/1979

11. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19.

20.

21.

22.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

23.

24.

25.

26.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

40.

41.

Leaving Weedings Hall, Polmont

42. After I had been there for just over two years I was told that a couple who had taken me out the previous weekend were going to foster me. They were called [FJW-SPO] [FJW-SPO] and the first thing they did was change my name to [FJW-SPO]. I always thought the name change was an attempt to prevent my parents finding me.
43. This was just before my ninth birthday and I remember Mr Bowie gave me a guitar when I was leaving. [FJW-SPO] were in their early 40's and had taken me out once or twice before and seemed to be really nice. I believe it was Mr Bowie who took me to their house in Sauchie.

Foster Care with the [FJW-SPO] – 1979/1981

44. When I arrived at the [FJW-SPO] they showed me to my room and I remember seeing a lot of really detailed Airfix model planes. I also got to try out my guitar. Everything seemed nice and they seemed to be nice people. It certainly seemed to be better than where I had been for the previous two years. The [FJW-SPO] had no children of their own.
45. Everything was good and I even remember just before my ninth birthday the [FJW-SPO] gave me £20 to go and buy myself a pair of Kangoo trousers. I had never seen that much money before never mind been trusted with such an amount.

School

46. I went to Deerpark School in Sauchie. I tried to fit in but I was covering up who I was. Everyone, including Mr Bowie, was now calling me [REDACTED] and I found that hard to deal with. I couldn't tell anybody where I was from and started telling lies about myself and my background.
47. However, I soon got found out and started to struggle at school, especially with the bullying. Telling lies and being found out just made things worse.

Abuse

48. I then started to wet the bed and this led to them taking me into their bed at night because mine would be wet. [FJW] [REDACTED] would cuddle up to me and after a while he started holding me. All this while his wife [REDACTED] was in a deep sleep at the other end of the bed.
49. I started trying to avoid going into their bed. It was always [FJW] who got me up when I wet the bed and I'm not sure [REDACTED] even knew about it until she woke up in the morning. If she did know I certainly didn't realise it.

50. FJW started to go further and further until it got to the point that he was penetrating me with his penis. I couldn't handle this. I could take a punch or a slap and had done so most of my life but I didn't know how to deal with this sexual abuse. To this day I can't understand why he would do that.
51. It got to the point that when we got up in the morning I would rush to get into the shower and use the shampoo to wash my backside. The FJW-SPO used to wonder why the shampoo was always running out so quickly.
52. On one occasion the three of us went to Cleethorpes and it was just me and FJW that were in the bed while [REDACTED] slept on the couch. He again abused me and I was terrified it might happen again so I got up in the middle of the night and went downstairs and cuddled into [REDACTED] I knew he couldn't touch me there.
53. During the day you couldn't meet two nicer people. [REDACTED] in particular was so nice and I honestly believe that she didn't know what was going on. Other than what was happening at night, being there was really nice. I was always fed and clothed and I was never physically punished by them.

Visits/Reporting abuse at The FJW-SPO

54. Mr Bowie would come to see me occasionally. He usually spoke to the FJW-SPO first and then I would be brought into the room. I would also see him on my own and, while I didn't tell him everything, I did tell him that FJW was taking me into his bed and touching me.
55. Mr Bowie said that I was just angry and that none of this was happening. He must have known that I wasn't making it up and it was obvious that something was wrong. I started acting up in school.
56. I remember hearing that the FJW-SPO were going to adopt me though I can't recall who told me. Because of what was happening at night this terrified me and I cycled all

the way from Sauchie to Bannockburn to where my parents stayed. This was quite a distance for a ten year old.

Leaving The FJW-SPO

57. I don't know if that's when Mr Bowie eventually realised that something was wrong but shortly thereafter I was told that I was going back to Weedings Hall. [REDACTED] seemed to be genuinely upset that I was leaving. I had been there about 2.5 to 3 years

Weedings Hall, Polmont – 1981/1982

58. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]

59. [REDACTED]

60. [REDACTED]

61. [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

62.

63.

64.

Leaving Weedings Hall Polmont – 1982

65. After I had been back at Weedings Hall for a while they started to prepare me for going home. By this time [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were already back home. Mr Bowie took me home a couple of times a month for about two or three months. He would take me there in the morning and come back and get me in the evening.

66. I knew that by going back to my parents there was a good chance of me getting a beating [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Whether I wanted to return home or not was not taken into consideration. I was simply told I was going home.

67. When I was back home my mum would be getting drunk and my dad was working from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. When he got home they were always fighting and it was a horrible atmosphere. Social work came out to see me once or twice and things got so bad I asked them to put me and [REDACTED] back in care.
68. As often as not I would go away fishing for a day or so but I was never missed. I still got the odd slap from my dad but not as bad as before and by the time I turned thirteen it stopped altogether mainly because I was 6 feet tall and he was only 5' 4".
69. One thing I would like to mention about when I got back home related to a local road sweeper. There was a shed about 500 yards from our back door and my mum asked me to go round and get some bin bags off this guy.
70. I ran round to the shed and, [REDACTED] I think his name was, said "I'll give you four bin bags if you pleasure me". He had locked the door on me. I kicked the door open and ran back to my mum's. I told her what had happened.
71. The police got involved and [REDACTED] ended up being charged and done with two or three offences. Although he was found guilty he was still allowed back to sweep the streets.
72. When I was fourteen I left home and joined [REDACTED] the funfair people. What had happened was that I had gone to a CB club and I met the guy [REDACTED] from the home. That was it for me and I decided to leave Stirling. With the shows I travelled about and I would only go home once every three or four months though never overnight.
73. Because I was missing school I was sent to Bannockburn Day Unit. However because they knew my family background they seemed to be of the view that as I was surviving and getting on. So they just left me to my own devices.
74. For three years I stole and committed fraud just to survive. I did this until I was old enough to get benefits.

Life after being in care

75. In December 1986 I moved into a bed and breakfast and that was me out of the house. I travelled about for a few years and joined the army at eighteen though I bought myself out after a year.
76. By this time I had two daughters and I moved to Alexandria and became a stay at home dad. I studied electronic engineering and became a mechanic. I also worked in countless bars and even had my own bar at one point.

Impact

77. I have had dark times when I recall my childhood. I have tried to commit suicide a couple of times. On one occasion I was very close to succeeding. I look back and I wonder how far I could have gone in my life. I know for fact that given a different life I could have done so much more than what I have achieved.
78. I've always found that the best way to deal with it is to keep myself busy. There's hardly a day goes by that I don't think about it and what happened to my brother [REDACTED] However if I keep my mind occupied then it helps.

Reporting of Abuse

79. I have spoken to a Detective Constable about [REDACTED] FJW However, at the time I had to go in to hospital for an emergency operation which I am still recovering from. I will get back to the DC when I am recovered. When he was taking my statement he also started asking me about my time in care which I will discuss with him when we meet again.

Records

- 80. I've thought about getting my records but I don't know how to go about it. I think they would reaffirm what my memories are and it would be interesting to see what social work reports have to say.

Lessons to be Learned

- 81. Children should be listened to. Also, people should look for the signs that show that things aren't right. There are always signs if people would only look for them. Children should also have an input into what is happening to them. I would have loved to have had some input but I was never listened to.
- 82. 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.

FDC


Signed.....

Dated..... 28/9/18