

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EMG [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is EMG [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1968. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### *Background*

2. I was born in Glasgow and went to Blairtumnock Primary in Easterhouse then Westwood Secondary. My father's name was FHL [REDACTED] and my mother was called FHU [REDACTED] Both have since passed away. I have two brothers called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] is the oldest and is two and a half years older than me and [REDACTED] is ten months older than me. [REDACTED] is registered blind. [REDACTED] went on to join the army when he grew up. We stayed at [REDACTED] until my parents moved to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Baillieston in 1989 by which time I had left the house.
4. I am presently unemployed and have been for four or five years but previously worked in a warehouse and before that worked in customer service. I had mental health problems which was brought on by stress at work but am now actively seeking employment again.

### *Parents becoming Foster Carers*

5. I was sixteen when my parents decided to become foster carers in 1984. I don't know why they wanted to become foster carers but they loved children and me and my brothers were of the age where we would soon be moving out so that probably had

something to do with it. They spoke to me about it and I said I was fine with it and thought it was a good idea. [REDACTED] had left the house by then when he joined the army.

### *Training*

6. My parents used to go to half-day parent training meetings before becoming foster parents but I don't recall how often they went. At the time I was busy doing voluntary work at [REDACTED] School for the physically disabled getting wheelchairs on and off the bus. My dad was also doing voluntary work for the school and was driving for them.
7. I don't know if my parents received any training material but a female social worker used to call in, maybe four or five times during the two years that I was there. I wouldn't be in the room when she spoke to my parents.
8. I don't know of any qualifications that my parents had. My dad left school at fifteen and my mum left when she was sixteen. The only training they had with regards to fostering is what I've already said though I know they did go to a couple of training sessions while they were fostering.

### *Foster Home Household*

9. The home at [REDACTED] Easterhouse was a three-bedroom flat on the second floor. When you entered the front door there was a bedroom in front of you and a bathroom to the right. Then there was a bedroom that my parents used. You then walked up the hall where you had a kitchen then a third bedroom that [REDACTED] and I used. At the top of the hall was the living room. Bunkbeds were put in the first room for any children coming in and a cot was put in the living room for any babies that arrived.
10. My parents moved to [REDACTED] Baillieston in 1989 which was four-in-a-block though both myself and my brother [REDACTED] had moved out by then. I would have had nothing to do with any kids fostered by my parents at that time as I had moved to Livingston.

### *Children Fostered*

11. My parents fostered children aged from new-born up to about seven or eight years of age and I think FHO [REDACTED] was the oldest at twelve years of age. Most of the children were there only short-term. I was seventeen when she arrived and I think this was about eight months after my parents had started fostering and I think she was there for about nine months, I'm not sure.
12. My parents started fostering in 1984 and stopped doing it in 1992. I left the family home in 1986. I would say that in the two years I was there they fostered about fifteen or twenty children.
13. The most children that my parents would foster at any one time would be five, four in the bedroom and one in the cot. Some of those I remember was a baby who was only a few days old who I only recall as [REDACTED] who slept in the cot and was only there for a few weeks.
14. There was also [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and a fifth child who I don't remember much about. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were twins and were with my parents for about a year. [REDACTED] was given back to his mum as a part of some sort of deal that allowed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to be adopted.
15. [REDACTED] was about ten and was there with her wee sister when FHO [REDACTED] was with my parents. They were only there for about three weeks. There were also other children one of whom was [REDACTED] an eight year old from Garthamlock and [REDACTED] who was perhaps the red-haired girl FHO [REDACTED] mentions in her statement and who was actually also looked after by my aunt who stayed in the close next door. There was another child called [REDACTED]

### *Placement Preparation*

16. My parents usually got emergency placements and would just receive a call saying that a child was being brought round. I don't know what sort of information my parents

were given about the children they were about to foster but on the odd occasion my mum would tell myself and [REDACTED] that the children coming had been physically abused and would tell us not to be fighting as teenage brothers tended to do.

17. No social workers spoke to me and [REDACTED] about the children coming and we never met any of them prior to their arrival. The kids would just arrive and we would introduce ourselves and maybe have a wee chat with them. I think checks were done on both me and [REDACTED] and my parents before they started fostering but I can't be certain.

#### *Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements*

18. As I said, the foster children slept in bunk-beds in the third bedroom and there was a cot in the living room for the babies. The children would get up at 6:30 am then get washed, fed then ready for school. My dad was full time involved in helping with the fostering other than when he was volunteering doing the driving for the school and drove most of the foster children to school though FHO [REDACTED] took the bus.
19. After school they would change out of the uniforms and would have something to eat about 4:30 pm. Those under ten would be in bed at about 8:00 pm.

#### *Chores*

20. Mum did most of the housework and we would help out by doing the hoovering, dusting and things like that. The house was always tidy. The foster children didn't have any chores to do though the older ones might be told to keep their room tidy or to pick up their dirty washing and take it to the washing machine.

#### *Bedwetting*

21. [REDACTED] was about eight and was a bed wetter and was really bad for it. My parents put a plastic cover on his mattress. When he wet the bed they would take his sheet off and his pyjamas and wash them every day. It was the only way they could deal with it though I don't know if they ever took him to see a doctor about it. They would never

have given [REDACTED] a row for wetting the bed. I think the social workers had told my mum and dad about [REDACTED] being a bed wetter and said it was his way of controlling the only thing he could control in his life as everything else was controlled for him.

#### *Washing and Bathing*

22. Mum was in charge of the bathing of the children which she did every night before they went to bed. [REDACTED] was bathed every morning because he used to wet the bed. The older girls bathed themselves and the bathroom door had a lock on it for privacy. They could have a bath whenever they wanted.

#### *Clothes and Shoes*

23. My parents had clothes to fit children of various sizes which social workers provided and my mum washed and ironed all the kid's clothing. Sometimes my parents would buy the kids clothes if they could afford it and the children always seemed to be smart enough. Sometimes the kids would have some possessions on them when they arrived but not often.

#### *Mealtimes*

24. Mum did all the cooking and taught us how to cook. We didn't always eat the same things as maybe we would have spicy food which the kids wouldn't like. The food was always good as mum was a great cook, really good, and her mince and tatties were to die for. She was also a great baker and would often bake cakes.
25. I have no recollection of any of the kids having any issues with the food. Now and again they wouldn't want to eat their vegetables but mum would just put tomato sauce on them and they would eat it that way.

### *Leisure Time*

26. There was a big football pitch nearby that they could play on while mum watched from the veranda and there were also toys for them to play with and sledges they used in the winter. I don't think any of them were involved in clubs or anything like that. I can't remember anything specific the kids did at the weekends but I would have been off doing my own thing anyway. The kids could watch TV though it was always turned over at 6:00 pm for the news.

### *Trips and Holidays*

27. I think my mum and dad sometimes took the children to the baths at Easterhouse but they didn't take them away on trips. Grandad had a caravan in Anstruther that my parents took some of the children to but I was never there at the same time as any of the foster children. I stopped going to the caravan when I was fourteen because there was nothing to do there and I would go to Blackpool with one of my friends while my parents were at the caravan.
28. The caravan had two bedrooms one of which had bunkbeds and the dining room could also be converted in to a bedroom. My parents would take the kids there for a week once a year but, like I say, I didn't like it so would stay with a friend while they were at the caravan. When I was older I would maybe decorate the house while my parents were away.

### *Schooling*

29. Social workers tried to keep the kids at the schools they were already attending but it depended on where they had come from. The [REDACTED] kids went to Barlanark Primary and when my parents moved to Baillieston mum would walk them there to ensure they stayed at the same primary.
30. I think my parents went to parent's evenings at the schools. Mum helped the children with their homework as she was very numeric. Homework was usually done after the

kids got home from school and got changed out of their uniforms and was done in the kitchen.

#### *Healthcare*

31. Mum and dad took the children to the doctors but I don't know which doctors they were taken to see. I don't recall any of the kids being ill or hurt or having to go to hospital.

#### *Christmas and Birthdays*

32. Christmas was fun and the kid's eyes would light up when they saw their presents. Social workers paid for the presents but it was my mum who would go out and buy them. Decorations were always put up. Dinner was normally at about 3:00 pm and it was turkey, ham and such things. The atmosphere in the house at Christmas was always great. I don't recall if or how birthdays were celebrated.

#### *Discipline*

33. The kids would be sent to their rooms by my mum for about ten minutes if they were naughty, for instance if they were fighting or not doing as they were told. If two of them were involved one would be sent to their room and the other told to sit in the living room but it was never for long. There was no physical punishments ever handed out.

#### *Relationship with Foster Children*

34. I did babysit some of the children now and again, maybe once a month when my mum and dad would go up to my auntie's house. Most of the time the kids would be in bed by the time my parents went out. In FHO's statement she says "FHL-FHU both liked to drink a lot of alcohol. They drank every weekend in the house or sometimes they went out to the family".
35. That's not true. They didn't drink every weekend, they couldn't afford to drink every weekend plus they had the kids to look after. That is not a true statement though the

████████ family were my aunt who also fostered children. Sometimes when my mum was visiting her she would take some of the children and they would play with the children my aunt fostered.

36. I didn't really have a relationship with any of the foster children as I was seventeen and had things of my own to be interested in. I would say that mum and dad were as loving with the children as they were with me and my brothers. They weren't treated any differently and would often be given a cuddle by my mum if one of them had a fall or something like that.
37. FHO ██████ in her statement says "*They all said things about me all the time. FHU ██████ would say things like 'no wonder your mum didn't want you' and 'no wonder your dad's dead'. Then FHL ██████ started saying those things as well*". That is total rubbish. When I read her statement I just thought that no way did my mum say anything like that. There was no way any such thing was ever said to any of the children.

#### *Contact with Family (other than siblings)*

38. I don't know if the children kept in contact with their parents though ██████████ mum came to see her but that was supervised. I don't remember what sort of relationship FHO ██████ had with her mum. In her statement FHO ██████ says "*My mum accused me of having sex with other bairns and I was telling FHL-FHU ██████████ all things like that, saying I was a "wee midden" whatever that was back then. EMG ██████████ told me all that*".
39. I don't recall that and knew nothing about FHO ██████'s parents. I couldn't tell you what sort of relationship my parents had with FHO ██████'s mum.

#### *Visitors*

40. I don't remember the children having any visitors other than the social workers who would call the house before they dropped in. I never spoke to any of the social workers



who I think came once or twice a week for about half an hour. They spoke to mum and dad but I don't recall seeing them talking to any of the children.

#### *Records*

41. If my parents kept records concerning the children they fostered then I wasn't aware of it.

#### *Moving Placement*

42. I don't know why the kids would be moved on though sometimes they were adopted or their grandparents would take custody of them. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were adopted by [REDACTED] and her husband who, prior to adopting them, would come over to the house to visit them. [REDACTED] is now in the Merchant Navy and [REDACTED] is a nurse. I don't keep in touch with them but they did keep in touch with my dad before he died. I don't remember my parents keeping in touch with any of the other kids after they left.

#### **Convictions**

43. I don't have any convictions relating to the abuse of children or any convictions relating to children at all.

#### **Allegations of Abuse**

#### *Awareness of Abuse*

44. I am not aware of any of the children fostered by my parents being abused in any way. I never saw or heard anything in the way that the children were dealt with that caused me any concern.

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

45. Nobody has ever made a complaint against me in connection with any of the children fostered by my parents being abused, there was nothing that ever happened for anybody to complain about.

*Reporting to Police/Criminal Proceedings*

46. No report has ever been made to the police about children being abused while being fostered by my parents.

*Prior Statements*

47. This is the first statement I have ever given to anybody about any allegations concerning the children fostered by my parents.

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

48. I have read the statement made by FHO [REDACTED] and note that she says EMG [REDACTED] was just a pure beast. He asked me if I knew how to kiss a boy then said he would show me. I said I didn't want to be shown, but then he started to kiss me. He started touching me. Everyone else was out the house and it was just me and EMG [REDACTED].
49. That never ever happened. I don't recall ever being alone with FHO [REDACTED] I remember her as a cheeky wee sod who was forever asking me for cigarettes to which I always said no. Her head teacher told my mum that she was using lunch money to buy cigarettes.
50. FHO [REDACTED] also says "He kissed me and touched me in places I didn't want to be touched. He tried to have sex with me but I didn't want that. He had his hands inside my clothes and he asked me to strip down but I didn't do that. He had all his clothes on when he was doing it". That did not happen, it simply didn't happen.

51. In another part of her statement FHO says "EMG did that in the house and he also took me to Anstruther caravan park and touched me up in a caravan there. We were at the caravan park for a week's holiday. He tried to have sex me with there as well, but I told him no. I wasn't like that, I wasn't brought up like that. He kept forcing himself trying to kiss me but I wasn't having it and I kept pushing him away". That didn't happen and couldn't have as I was never in Anstruther when any of the foster children were there,
52. FHO then adds "I told FHL-FHU about EMG touching me after we came back from Anstruther caravan park, but they didn't believe a word of it. They didn't want to believe it and called me a liar. EMG denied it and kept on denying he did anything to me".
53. This also didn't happen and I have no recollection of FHO making any such allegations at the time. It was only when I read her statement that I became aware of her making such allegations. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of these things, they simply didn't happen. I have no idea as to the circumstances of FHO leaving the foster care of my parents or where she went afterwards.
54. I have not got a clue why FHO would say the things she has said about me and my mum and dad. I am especially annoyed and amazed that she would make any allegations against my mum and dad. I couldn't believe she was saying such things. They met up with her about ten years after she left and she had had three kids by that time. They had a cup of tea with her in her house and apparently the meeting was extremely cordial.

### **Helping the Inquiry**

55. There's nothing much else I feel I could say that would help the Inquiry.

**Other information**

56. 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.

EMG

Signed.

Dated.....30/05/2022.....