

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes, [REDACTED] applicant's grand-daughter.

1. My name is [REDACTED]. As a child in care I was known as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1959. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

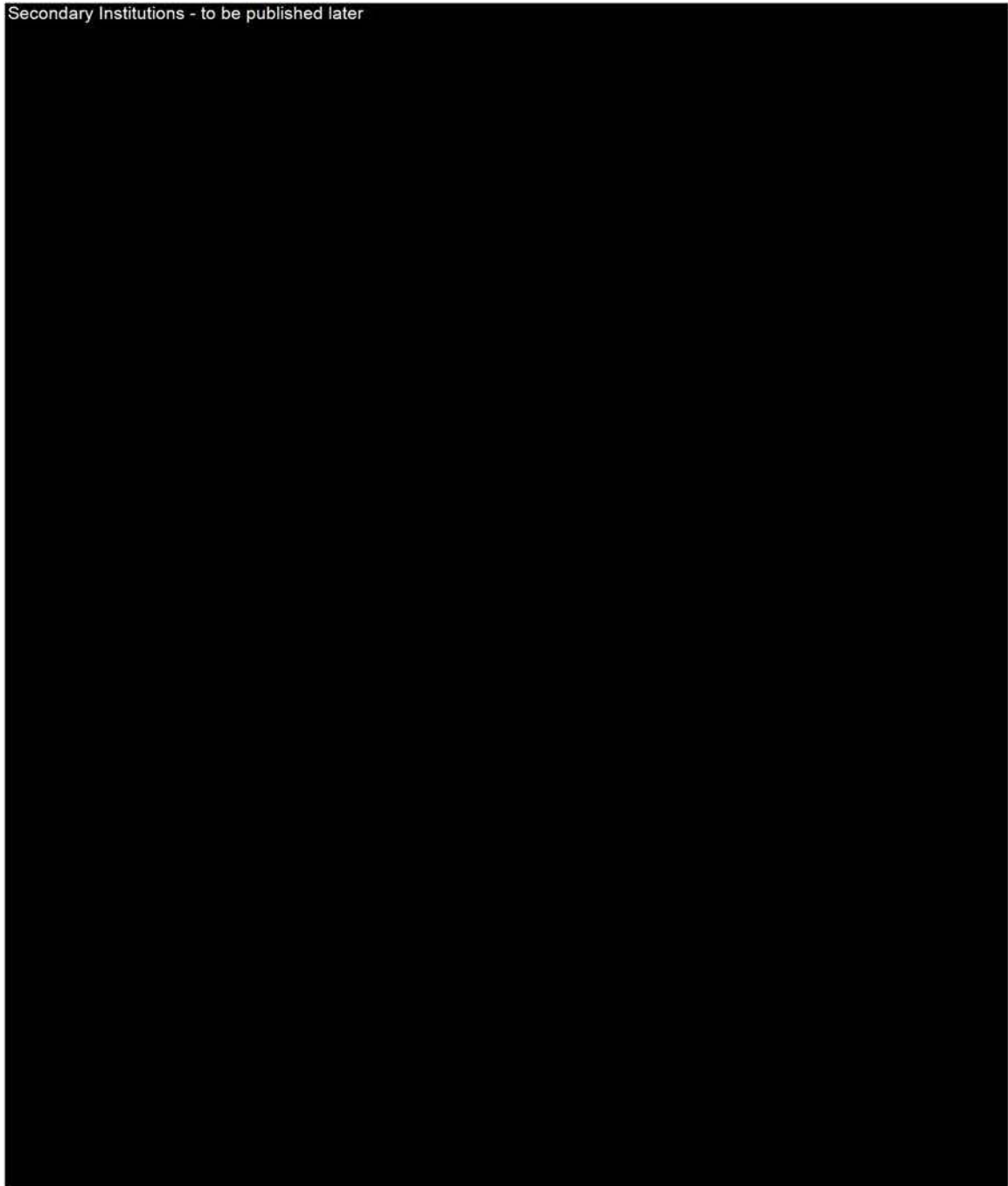
Life before going into care

2. I was brought up in Edinburgh. My parents were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] My mother's maiden name was [REDACTED]. I was the youngest of eight children. My siblings were called [REDACTED]. They were all a lot older than me.
3. Our home life was horrendous. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a heavy drinker. There was pure neglect at home. We weren't properly fed. We were covered in lice and fleas. Something must have happened because social services got involved and took me away. I was three or four years old. I was filthy, dirty and starving but that was better than what I was put into.
4. I don't know if social services were involved with our family before that. I don't know whether I was voluntarily given up. My brothers and sisters didn't go through the care system, apart from my brother [REDACTED].
5. I was put into a children's home for a short time. I don't know where this was. Then I was moved to a convent. I don't know which convent this was but I have read press

coverage of what happened in Nazareth House, Aberdeen and I think this might have been where I was.

Unknown Institution

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Unknown Institution –Foster Care with [REDACTED]

29. I went to live with foster parents called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Kennoway in Fife when I was aged about five. I don't know why I was moved from the home. They had a daughter who was older than me called [REDACTED]. She had left school. I was happy there. I remember getting cuddled and this was my first experience of any affection. It was Mrs [REDACTED] who showed me affection. She must have been a lovely lady.
30. I had toys to play with. I had a dolly in a pram. I never had toys before. I had my own room. I remember playing in the garden. I went to school. I was happy for the first time in my life. The bedwetting continued but she just handled it. She couldn't understand why I was terrified when I wet the bed. I remember she was so kind. I couldn't believe she never battered me for wetting the bed.
31. Mrs [REDACTED] used to buy me bath crystals which were a dolly. The bath crystals were inside the body and it had a doll's head. They used to make the bathwater go pink. I thought this was great. She gave me nice food. She baked every day. She was a proper loving, caring person. That's the way it should be.

32. I remember saying goodbye to Mrs [REDACTED] and she was in bed. I think she was ill and this is why I had to leave because she couldn't look after me anymore. I remember crying. I wasn't with the [REDACTED] for long.

Foster Care with FCT-FCS

33. I then moved to the monster's house in Linlithgow. The family were called FCT-FCS
34. I think I remember getting on a ferry boat to this house with a woman but maybe that was going to the convent.
35. I shared a room with a girl. I don't know if it was their daughter or another foster child. I think her name was [REDACTED] as well. I remember sitting opposite her at the breakfast and dinner table. I can't remember having much to do with her. The family had older children who visited but they didn't stay in the house. They had grown up children. Two daughters and a son in the navy. The son would stare at me all the time when he visited but he never touched me. He was weird. I was scared of him.
36. Mr FCS used to bring graph paper home from his work for us to draw on but I don't know what he did as an occupation. Mrs FCT worked as well. I remember her getting angry because I got poorly at school and she had to collect me. I don't remember anything about the school I attended.
37. The other girl and I were once sent to a Saturday matinee at the cinema. We made our own way there. We didn't go to school together. After school we would watch a bit of television and wash the dishes then we would go to bed.
38. The bedwetting continued. I used to make my own bed to try and hide it, thinking I wouldn't get caught. I was scared coming out of school knowing she would find the wet bed. Mrs FCT would batter me with a paddle brush because I wet the bed. She was horrible. She hated me for wetting the bed. She would scream and shout.

39. If she found I had wet the bed before she went to school she would say that she would deal with me later. I don't think she wanted me crying before I went to school in case anybody noticed. I knew what was waiting for me when I came out of school.
40. I shared a double bed with the other girl. This is when the sexual abuse started. At night in bed. Mr FCS always tucked us into bed. He would walk round the bed to get to me. He touched me down below. He did this every night in bed. I can't remember him touching the other girl.
41. Mr FCS would abuse me during the day if he wasn't working. He would abuse me any time he got the opportunity. He also abused me in a big cupboard which was in a big hallway. He gave me sweets every time before he abused me. I didn't know what he was doing to me. I didn't fight him. I don't think his wife knew about the abuse. She was a horrible woman.
42. The garden shed was another favourite place of his to abuse me. He used to ask me to come into the garden shed to help him with the plants just to get me on my own.
43. One day I was home from school and in bed because I was poorly. He tried to have sex with me but he stopped for some reason. I remember him pulling off me.
44. I remember one Christmas there. I got a couple of presents which I thought was great. This was my first experience of getting a Christmas present.
45. I think I spent about a year with the FCT-FCS

Leaving Foster Care

46. My mother took me to my older brother's wedding in around 1967 or 1968 but she never brought me back to the FCT-FCS afterwards. I think she wanted to try and look

after me but it was a disaster. I felt sorry for her in a way. She always worked but my father drank the money. I think I was there about a year.

47. I think the school finally intervened. There was a nurse we called 'Nitty Nora' who would check us over and keep an eye on our health. We were sent out of school because we were crawling with fleas, nits and body and head lice and starving hungry.
48. I believe my mother was taken up for cruelty. I remember being in court and seeing my mother crying. This was probably because I was going back into care. My brother, [REDACTED] was there too. He was put in care too but somewhere else. I don't know where. I was the only one put in care originally. She kept her precious son until then.
49. I would rather have put up with my family rather than what they put me into. My mother wasn't violent but my father was a pig. If she was a cleaner woman it wouldn't have been so bad but she was filthy dirty. I remember going camping with some other children when I was back with my mum. We were taken by adults. This was probably to help children who lived in rough areas. We stayed at home for a few months. I don't remember social workers or going to any hearings.

Foster Care with the [REDACTED]

50. My brother [REDACTED] and I were both taken to foster care in Bonnyrigg. The family were called [REDACTED] and they lived in [REDACTED]. I remember there being a Christmas tree up when I arrived. Mrs [REDACTED] wasn't too bad. They also fostered two little black boys. There was a big fight over them. One of them wouldn't use the toilet. They were eventually removed from their care. That left [REDACTED] and I plus her daughter who was aged about sixteen. I shared a room with her. They had two other daughters as well but they didn't live at home.

51. The bedwetting continued until I was ten years old. She wasn't happy when I wet the bed. She was angry about the bed wetting but she never hit me. She didn't batter me but I felt I was an inconvenience.
52. We were given the same food every day. Cock-a-leekie soup and rhubarb tart. It wasn't as bad as before. It was bearable. There was no real neglect but no love shown.
53. I attended the local primary school with my brother. We walked there. We had school dinners. We had toys and there was a television. We had a normal family life. We stayed here just under a year. We were there over Christmas and we got presents.
54. We were fostered out to someone else for two weeks during the summer while the LXN-LXO went on holiday. The man was in the Salvation Army. He was as mad as a hatter. I loved him. His wife was super as well. They lived in Gilmerton. They took us for day trips to the seaside and the cinema. They were in it for the children. I think the others were in it for the money. I loved it here and I didn't want to go back to the LXN-LXO
55. I never celebrated my birthday in any of the homes.

Leaving Foster Care

56. My mother came to visit us at the LXN-LXO and she took us away. She never brought us back. I was disappointed I wasn't going to get to play with my Christmas presents. I was eleven years old.

Calders Childrens Home, Sighthill

57.	Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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The Good Shepherd, Colinton

60.	Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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64. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
65. I got a job as a typist and I worked in Edinburgh.
66. I never talked to anybody in The Good Shepherd about my previous experiences.

Life after being in care

67. I met my husband when I was sixteen and we married six months later. He was the only man in my life. The first time I got love and affection was from my husband.
68. My husband was in the army. We got married in November and moved to Germany in January. I was happy with my husband. I loved the bones of him but I didn't see the other side of him until we went to Germany. This was alcohol. It was horrendous. I found out years later that he was a womaniser. I had my suspicions when we were married. I don't know how I came through it. He was horrible but I stuck by him.
69. We had three children. Two girls and a boy. The first few months of marriage were super. I was happy and content. Things changed between us when I fell pregnant. The real him came out. He knew I had no family to turn to when things went wrong and he used it to his advantage. I had nowhere to turn. I had a horrendous life with him and I just put up with it. Our time in Germany was horrendous for years and years.
70. I lost contact with my family when I moved to Germany. They didn't want to know me. It was strange. I was the odd one out. I didn't fit in. I have no contact with them now. There was something not right with me and that family. I don't look anything like the rest of the family.

71. When my husband left the army he went to Heathrow to do VIP flights for royalty. He was away all the time and I knew what he was up to but he was a good provider and a good father. I knew my time would come when the children had gone. I could maybe make the break.
72. I have never been a confident person. I felt that I was used to being mistreated even when my husband did it. I was used to that sort of treatment but it hurt even more because I loved him. He was supposed to love and take care of me and he didn't. I never had a happy life until my children came along but then he spoiled it.
73. I didn't know if I was doing the right thing by staying with him but my children adored him. I was married for thirty four years. We have been separated for eight years. We aren't divorced. He can't do enough for me now that I have gone. I could have put up with the drinking but not with the womanising.
74. Things went wrong with my oldest daughter and I ended up looking after my granddaughter, [REDACTED]. She was six when I took her in. When [REDACTED] left home three years ago all my problems started. I have a lot of time on my hands and I started thinking about things that happened to me when I was in care.

Impact

75. I don't trust anybody and I have passed this on to my children. I didn't allow them sleepovers until they were in their teens. I passed the anxiety on to my daughter when she was pregnant. My worry and stress is passed on to them. My son doesn't know anything about the abuse I suffered while in care. I always tell them to watch their children and don't leave them with anybody. It goes on. I pass it on. The anxiety that I have passed on is because of my time in care.
76. When I moved from England I got into a real depression. I didn't want to leave England. I missed my children and grandchildren. I didn't settle in Scotland and that's when the depression got really bad.

- 77. I get angry all of a sudden. I feel that I am not going to get any justice. I think I need help. I'm not coping with it. I am on anti-depressants. I haven't told my doctor about the abuse.
- 78. I have had nightmares, mostly about FCS [REDACTED] for the last couple of years. I see a dark figure in the doorway with red eyes. This figure comes towards me and then he's on top of me. I can't breathe. I feel as though I am suffocating and then I waken up. It's a recurring nightmare.

Records

- 79. I haven't got my records yet but I am going to ask Future Pathways for their help.

Lessons to be Learned

- 80. I would like justice for me. I would like somebody on my side for a change. Somebody to listen to my side which has never been heard before. I feel like somebody is going to fight my corner just for once now that I have spoken to the Inquiry.

Other information

- 81. 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 FEF

Dated 31-07-2019

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