

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FKX

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FKX [REDACTED] FKX is my maiden name. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1950. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I married my husband FKZ [REDACTED] when I was nineteen although my husband has always been known as FKZ [REDACTED].
3. When I left school I went to college and I did bookkeeping and typing. I got a job at Scottish Omnibuses which I think was called SMT then. I was in the typing pool and then I went back to college on day release and did shorthand. I then got the job as the [REDACTED] secretary. I worked there until I was maybe 21-22. The reason I didn't go back is I lost a baby and I just couldn't face people. I then looked after the kids until I was about 38 when I got a wee job running a video shop for a friend of my mums. I did that for a wee while and then when I was forty I got a job in a shoe shop two days a week. I absolutely loved it and I am still friendly with one of the women. I worked there for about 9-10 years until they were closing the shop. I applied for a job running a conservatory village just down the road from us and I got the job. I did that for eight or nine years and I retired at 59.
4. When we were first married FKZ [REDACTED] was a plasterer but then the building trade went down the tubes. He then went to the pit and worked there for about eighteen years. I think it was when he was 38 he went back to being a plasterer and he got a job with the council.

Becoming a Foster Carer

5. I became a foster carer when I was either 23 or 24. I can't remember exactly but it was when I was around those ages. At that time we were living in [REDACTED] in Mayfield. That was the first house we got after we were married.
6. After my first miscarriage [REDACTED] and I lost another baby which had to be buried. The babies had what is called Anencephaly. It was myself, a woman from Danderhall and another from Perth who did all the tests with Dr John Scrimgeour who took us through everything. I think after I lost the fourth or fifth baby they said that I would only have a one in two hundred chance of having a healthy baby. We actually thought there wasn't much chance of us having a baby so we applied to adopt through Edinburgh Corporation.
7. Social work came out to see us and we had a long chat. They then came out to see us again and they kind of got us swayed because we were younger to try fostering to see how we got on. We went with the idea of fostering to start with.
8. It was maybe a few months up to six months from when we first applied until we got approved. I can't really remember how long it took exactly. I think they must have done checks on us but I have no clue what they were. It was so long ago I really can't remember. I would imagine they would have had to get references but I don't know if they did.

Training

9. We didn't need to have any particular qualifications or go through any training to become a foster carer. Sometimes social work would give us some advice and they would tell us what looking after each child would entail such as if they were toilet trained or still wearing nappies.

10. We weren't given any specific child protection training and nor were we given any guidance about disciplining the foster children.

Foster Care Arrangements

11. You always had a choice whether you took on children. They would phone us and it was either yes or no. We didn't have the option to tell social work that we wanted particular age groups or anything like that however I don't know if that was there was no option or we just never did ask for particular types of children.
12. I didn't think of myself as employed. We did it because we actually wanted to have a big family but obviously that didn't happen. It was kind of like you felt you were doing something for someone and I would say we are still like that. We have always done things for people. Fostering was more of a way of life for us rather than a job.
13. The kids' social workers would always come out to our house. We had social workers visiting all the time because after one child left there was always somebody else. It was always different social workers for each child.
14. I really don't know if we had any social worker allocated to us. I just don't remember things like that as we are going back nearly 48 years and we really just go on with it. It was always Edinburgh Corporation that brought the kids. I think it changed to the region at some point.
15. Anytime a new child was coming to live with us we would always speak to the children in the house to let them know.

Financial Support

16. I don't really remember what we got but I don't think it was very much. We didn't do it for the money we did it because we loved kids. We knew a lot of the kids would go back to their mums and dads or somewhere else.

17. I definitely never got any extra money for things like birthdays or Christmases.
18. Nine times out of ten we would never ask social work for any extra money for things like holidays or school trips. I don't know if there was an option to go to social work and ask for money for things like this. One of the kids called ██████ went on the last boat trip with the school. He went to Russia, Finland, Germany and Sweden. I am not sure if social work helped to pay for the trip and we paid for the spending money and clothes or if we paid for it all. I can't quite remember but it might have been we had six months to pay it up.
19. I think social work gave us a set of bunk beds once when we were taking emergency placements but we only had them for a short time and once the kids were older they all had their own furniture.

Your Foster Home Household

20. In our first house in ██████ we had two bedrooms and a box room. We just had our own baby, ██████, who is just under two years younger than FJC ██████ who was our foster child. When ██████ was six weeks old we moved house to ██████, Mayfield as we felt we needed somewhere with more space. At that point our family was ██████, ██████, FJC ██████ and ██████. As ██████ shares the same name as my husband we called him wee ██████ and my husband was big FKZ ██████. I am not sure what ages ██████ and wee ██████ were but around ten and twelve at that point and they were brother and sister.
21. The house at ██████ had a bedroom, toilet, big living room and kitchen downstairs and three bedrooms and toilet upstairs. The house was an absolute tip but it was an exchange and it was the only way we could get a bigger house. We would have had to go on a list and wait a long time. We felt we needed to move for the kids. The house was only ever adapted on what we done. FKZ ██████ is a bit of a 'DIYer' so we got everything done how we wanted but it took us a while. We did the living room and the kids' rooms first. Our room and the kitchen were last. We didn't get any financial

help from social work to do the house and I don't think they came out to check it but we always had the kids' social workers at the house anyway.

Children Fostered

22. I think [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were our first foster kids and it was an emergency placement. Social work came out and asked if we would take them and we were all ready, we had everything. They were maybe four and five and were only with us for a few weeks but they came to stay twice. I can't remember what the reason was for them needing to be fostered but they were lovely kids.

23. After they went away I think it was a laddie from Gorgie and it might have been [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who came back after he left. I really can't remember for sure as it was so long ago. Then we were asked again and we had two wee girls from Leith. They were a joy because they had never seen a garden. I think they thought the whole street was our garden so we had to explain things. They were only four or five and were lovely.

24. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to us when they were eight and ten and [REDACTED] was nineteen when he left. When [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came we were going on holiday and we had booked for three kids because we had two foster boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We had phoned the social work and asked if they had two kids who needed a holiday as we would take them with us. That is how we ended up with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

25. I think ^{FJC}[REDACTED] came next. She was ten months old and came to us in the April and she was with us until she was eighteen. I remember because we took them to Newtongrange gala day. We got the kids all dressed up and ^{FJC}[REDACTED] was there. At that time we also had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I always remember them because social work told us that they always get put into care when it was their birthdays because their mum couldn't afford it. When ^{FJC}[REDACTED] came her mum always insisted that she was to be called ^{FJC}[REDACTED]. We got ^{FJC}[REDACTED] quite early on after starting to foster. I think there may have been other kids I have not mentioned but it is difficult to remember.

26. When ^{FJC} [REDACTED] came there were lots of little things but the social work guided us. We didn't know that she would be a long term placement. Social work said that she would be with us for a wee while until the mum and dad got themselves sorted out. It just never materialised with them. She was brought up as one of our own and I am just devastated she has said all the things she has. She was brought up as my own, she was a sister to my own children and was part of a loving family.
27. We had another girl come to stay with us when ^{FJC} [REDACTED] was with us. She was a concealed birth and her name was [REDACTED]. She and her brother came from a home but they were being adopted. Her brother took a blowtorch to her as he didn't want her to be adopted. [REDACTED] had some other things wrong with her as well. Social work would come and tell us that she was going back to the children's home. They didn't want her to go straight from her adoptive home back to the home she came from which is why she came to us. She had to wear nappies and she went to the special school. We only had her for a few weeks, maybe six, I really can't remember.
28. We had a wee baby called [REDACTED] who had Down's Syndrome but the nurses called the baby [REDACTED] because they didn't think [REDACTED] suited how she was. We called her [REDACTED] because of that and my daughter is actually named after her. ^{FJC} [REDACTED] would have been no more than one when we had [REDACTED]. ^{FKZ} [REDACTED] had to take her to the doctors for a check-up and the doctor said that the baby had a lot wrong with her. He asked to think carefully if we were thinking of keeping her because we were so young. We were only looking after her because the hospital needed the room and they were looking for a placement for her. She was very young when we had her and she would have been about three months old when she left us. I think she went to a residential home. Many years later when [REDACTED] would have been thirteen or fourteen her mother wrote to us. We contacted the social work and learned that [REDACTED] had died when she was five. It may have been that we have spoken as a family about the letter and ^{FJC} [REDACTED] has become aware of [REDACTED] through that as I doubt she would have remembered her otherwise.

29. We had another boy who came because his mum was ill. We knew that most of the kids were only with us for a short time. We also took another wee girl as she was going to be fostered up the next street but they were going away so we took her for a week until they came back. I also remember we had a girl called [REDACTED] come to stay. We had other kids who came to stay with us for shorter periods and I just can't remember them all.
30. [REDACTED] our own baby, was born when FJC [REDACTED] was about two. We didn't have any other long term kids come to stay after FJC [REDACTED]. We then went on to have [REDACTED] and that was a surprise as we didn't think we could have children. After [REDACTED] we thought it was maybe boys I couldn't carry. There is two years between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
31. After [REDACTED] was born we had another wee boy who came right from hospital and he was covered in cigarette burns. The social worker came with him and he had no shoes as she brought him right from hospital. She told me he didn't have anything and asked if I didn't have a clothes bank and I told her we didn't. When we buy for the kids these are their own clothes and when they leave their stuff goes with them. At that time FKZ [REDACTED] didn't drive so we had to get a taxi to Dalkeith to get him a pair of shoes. The wee boy kept saying that his dad killed his wee sister because she broke a plate. We had to speak to the kids and tell them not to listen because some people say things when they have been through a lot. We had him for about two weeks because I think the social work department lost the case and he went back to his mum and dad.
32. I think we had another wee laddie come to stay for a while after [REDACTED] was born and there were three kids who were actually in foster care in Bonnyrigg and they came to us for two weeks. We took them because social work were desperate to get someone and they didn't want to take them too far out of the area. When they went back they kept phoning us at lunch time asking if they could come and live with us but we couldn't take on another three children even though they were lovely.

33. I think we got to the stage when [REDACTED] was around five that that we decided we should concentrate on our own family unit and I would think we would have told social work although I don't remember.
34. FJC [REDACTED] went to school as FJC [REDACTED] and that is the only name we changed. FJC [REDACTED] was her dad's name. We had spoken to the social work about it because we thought we were getting to adopt her. FJC [REDACTED] mum insisted that she was called FJC [REDACTED]. I think her mum's sister was [REDACTED] and that was the reason. Her mum had a strict instruction about her name. That was her name and that was what she was to be called although I do refer to her as FJC [REDACTED] sometimes as she changed her name to FJC [REDACTED] as a teenager but I don't know why. We called her FJC [REDACTED] from the beginning because that was what we were told to do.

Placement Preparation

35. When social work contacted us about taking a child they would always tell us what the circumstances were and what they had wrong with them. I would say we got enough information about each child. I would also say that life back then was so busy so you just got on with things. I can't help it but I am an organiser so I felt I was always ready for any child. I think I would think about it like, what would the child need?
36. I would say we would probably get a day's notice when a child was coming to stay. There might have been the odd time when it was the same day. I think the wee boy who came to us from the hospital was the same day. They wanted to get him out of there. I would say we were reacting quite quickly to situations but I like to be organised and have things in their place.
37. I know that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were under the care of the social work until they were sixteen but I am not sure about FJC [REDACTED]. I am not sure because she was still in education which might mean she was in care for longer but it is hard to remember. I think she was in school until she was seventeen and a half or eighteen. [REDACTED] stayed with us longer which was just a personal arrangement and nothing done through the

his first wage packet funnily enough. When [REDACTED] started working at sixteen she also gave us money to cover her piece.

38. The children who came to us didn't come with their own things such as clothes but we didn't mind. We enjoyed that and we just did what we would do for our own kids. We always tried to make them feel part of the family.
39. We would talk to all the children in the house when we knew another child was coming. We would maybe say that they had a wee problem but would ask them to make them welcome as they would be part of our family for a week or two. We would discuss about having to organise where everyone was sleeping. Everyone was really fine with the kids coming.
40. We never had to let the social work know who our family and friends were or who would be visiting and be part of the children's lives.
41. We were not required to keep any records for the children. We always had the sheet that came with the child but we cleared them all maybe ten years ago. That was just a general thing that had their names on it when they brought any child to us.

Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements

42. Once [REDACTED] came along he was in beside us to start with. He was born with a heart murmur so we were worried. Our room was upstairs. We had FJC [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] together and they always shared a room. [REDACTED] was in the smaller room and [REDACTED] was in the room down the stairs. If we had an emergency placement coming we would ask the kids to share as it was only going to be for about a week. We did have the extra set of bunk beds which did help. When [REDACTED] moved out FJC [REDACTED] got the room downstairs. [REDACTED] was in a room at the top of the stairs, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared a room and when [REDACTED] moved out [REDACTED] moved into the small room.

43. When the kids got home they would do their homework if they had any before going out to play. We had an open house so their friends could come over. I would be getting things ready and I was always washing clothes.
44. Night time was bath time and ^{FKZ} and I would do this depending who was doing what. We would lay the clothes out for school.

Washing and Bathing

45. When the kids were young we would help them to have a bath. and always had their own baths. It was usually ^{FJC}, and would get a bath. We used to have the thing on the taps for washing there and because ^{FKZ} was working in the pit we always had plenty hot water. As they got older they were able to have a bath whenever they wanted to. There was a lock on the bathroom door but there wasn't a lock on the door of the wee toilet downstairs because one of the kids got themselves locked in. The door had a funny lock on it so you couldn't unlock it from the outside. Whoever it was had left the tap running with the plug in and I could see the water. What a carry on, ^{FKZ} had to take the hinges off and take the whole door off. Even now we don't have a lock on the down stairs toilet which is only a toilet and sink.

Clothes and Shoes

46. I don't think we ever got money from social work to get clothes for or ^{FJC}. When and came they had nothing and said that they had always had hand-me-downs. I will always remember she picked red shoes and a red jumper. She picked nice dresses and socks.

Mealtimes

47. Morning time I remember we had a round table and I had to say it wasn't working so we got a table that fitted in the alcove so it had seats all the way round and everyone could get in and get their breakfast. Some wanted toast, some cereal and some

porridge or Ready Brek. I did the breakfasts. Most of the time the kids had lunch at the school.

48. Tea was usually, and it still is, around 5:00 pm. Most of the time when we had our tea we would all sit together round the table. If it was summertime and a nice day and they were wanting something like fish fingers or sausages and chips we would make up cones for the kids and their pals or we would put a blanket outside and they would have a picnic. We included everybody at times like this, even their friends. What was their thing was salad and although it was strange they liked crisps with it so we gave them it. Wherever they got the idea from I don't know but we just tried to go along with things. I felt we were quite a modern family and we wanted to move with times. It was an open house and all their friends were welcome. When I think about it now I don't know how we done it.
49. The kids all liked different things so some days it was two different dinners. ^{FKZ} is a good cook and if he was making mince and tatties and someone said they didn't want that he could make these things just to make it different for them. It would be that some of them liked beans and mashed tatties so he would do that for them and others that liked vegetables would get it with pastry over the top.

Leisure Time

50. I think ^{FJC} was in the Guides and was in the Brownies. I don't think joined any clubs as he just played with his pals and was into football. They spent a lot of time outside with friends and on their bikes. was a bit of a tomboy and played with the lassies across the road. I think she tried to follow her brother about quite a lot. That was how things were back then.
51. ^{FJC} did ballroom and disco dancing from the age of 11-15. It stopped when , her partner, didn't want to do it anymore. This wasn't anything to do with the school it was something we arranged and paid for. We provided the outfits but she

didn't want us to go so she always went with [REDACTED]'s mum. FJC [REDACTED] always kept little things private. I can't explain it but it was how she was.

52. When we got the car we started going to Peebles, Galashiels and Hawick and would go swimming with the kids.
53. Sometimes FKZ [REDACTED] and I would go out on a Saturday but we always had a babysitter. The lady we had when the kids were younger was older than us and we felt she was really nice. We didn't have to check her out with the social work department. I can't think I ever had to say to them who the babysitter was. Maybe we were wrong but we always thought it was a family unit.

Trips and Holidays

54. At the weekends we would go loads of places. I cannot swim and have always been quite frightened of the water. We would go to the Commonwealth Pool and I always made it that I wanted all the kids to be able to swim. Wee [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would go to the big pool and big FKZ [REDACTED] would take [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and FJC [REDACTED] into the smaller pool.
55. We would sometimes go to the swing park at Musselburgh. FKZ [REDACTED] would run round and get a chippy and we would have the blanket laid out whilst the kids played. We would have to get the bus there and back because at that time he didn't drive. We would also go to Portobello on the bus. We always took things like crisps and sandwiches but we would get chips or ice-cream just to make the day out special.

Schooling

56. The kids all went to the same school so they went to The Bryans Primary School which was very close to our home. I did take them to school to start with but there was a lollipop lady for crossing the road and the kids would get to the stage where they didn't want me to take or pick them up as they were going with their pals.

57. When we moved house we allowed [REDACTED] to stay at Mayfield Primary because he was in his last year of primary school. When the other kids went to the high school it was Newbattle High.
58. It was either one or both of us who would attend parent's evenings at the school. FJC [REDACTED] was clever and we never had any bother with her or the other kids at school. All the kids had things that they were good at. Wee [REDACTED] was great at drawing cartoon characters and although he wasn't academic we are proud of him too because he never signed on the dole. The kids have always had good jobs and it shows they don't need to be academic for us to be proud of our children.
59. When the kids were young we would say to them to do their homework before they went out to play. When FJC [REDACTED] got older she would do it when she came in or when it worked in with what other things she was doing. We would always ask them if they had done their homework.

Healthcare

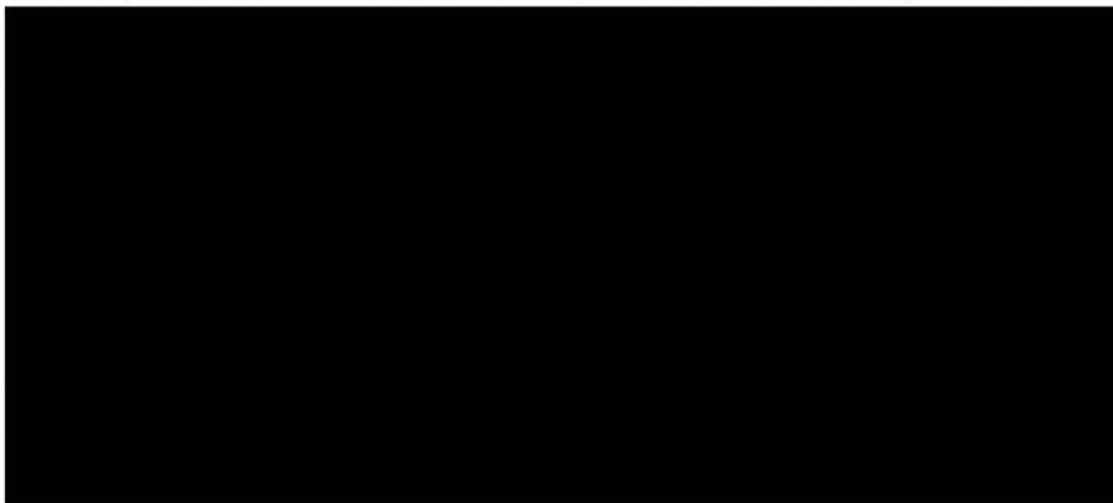
60. Every child we got we had to take them to the doctors and register them, even the short term placements. When FJC [REDACTED] arrived at ten months old she had never had a vaccine so we had to take her to all the clinics and make sure she got her vaccines updated. I think social work would just give us a wee slip and they would tell you things such as if a child hadn't had any vaccines.
61. There was one or two minor things when FJC [REDACTED] arrived that social work helped us with by giving advice. They had thought she was going to need to go for play therapy because she didn't know how to play with toys. They suggested we sit on the floor and roll the ball to her to see if she would roll the ball back to us. I remember doing that with her. They also suggested getting her wee puzzles because she had never had any interaction like that. I don't think she came with any toys or clothes. Social work were going to organise the play therapy but when they came out and saw that she was starting to play with toys and push a walker they didn't feel she needed it.

62. I don't think the dad lived with the mother so I think it was the mum who had fed a bottle all the time so FJC [REDACTED] was quite bloated. We gradually weaned her off the bottle and get her onto solids. We were great believers in making our own stuff and liquidising it.

63. I don't think the social work required us to take the children for regular dental and doctor appointments. If I remember rightly the dentist was at school and I also think there was a general check done for nits and things like that at the school as well.

64. We never had any issues with bedwetting with any of the kids but when we stayed in [REDACTED] the wee girl with the burns called [REDACTED] had to be lifted to go to the toilet because she had to wear a nappy. The only other thing I can think is when we had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. FKZ [REDACTED] was going up to the toilet and it was right at the very beginning of their stay. He heard them whisper something like 'it's your turn to wet the bed tonight'. He went in and said that if there is any bedwetting tonight there will be no sweets tomorrow. They didn't wet the bed and we never had any other problems.

65.



66. I remember wee [REDACTED] had an accident on his bike after he went over the handlebars on his racer. He was about 'fifteenish' and had a bad injury down below. We got him

to the doctors right away. I cannot remember if he had to go to the hospital. Other than that I can't remember any of the kids being really ill.

Christmas and Birthdays

67. We celebrated Easter and they all got Easter eggs. When it was [REDACTED]'s birthday the younger kids used to get an extra wee bag with stuff in it. It was the same when it was [REDACTED]'s and FJC [REDACTED]'s birthday the other younger kids got this extra wee bag. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were older and they understood so didn't need a wee bag. We didn't want them to feel left out. It wouldn't be much but they always got something. The bag would maybe have something like a yoyo, colouring in book, pencils and a bag of sweeties. That was their thing and whosever birthday it was got their birthday present.
68. I cannot remember FJC [REDACTED]'s mum or dad ever buying her a toy but they did buy her something to wear.
69. Big FKZ [REDACTED] made the cakes for the birthdays and he is still a great baker. It would be sponge cake with Smarties or Buttons on them. All the kids would come in and he would make donuts. The kids would make the fairy cakes and the crispies. All their pals would come in and they would all get a paper plate and help themselves. They all got birthday parties. I wouldn't say they would have lots of games, it was more like once they had something to eat it was time for them to go out and play especially when you saw the mess.
70. At Christmas we insisted that any of our family including my mum and dad and my sister spent the same amount on every one of the kids. It was everybody got the same or don't give to anybody. For example [REDACTED] and FJC [REDACTED] got prams and dolls and because I had had a twin buggy they got blue and white striped twin buggies and bunk beds to go with them for their dolls. As they got older they got their two wheeler bikes and I remember they played outside with all the other kids because we stayed in a cul-de-sac. They would ride the bikes round and play at taking the tickets for the bus. That was all stuff they would get for Christmas and we would never let anyone give any of

them less than the others. When they got to a bit older they got to pick what they wanted.

71. The kids always got loads at birthdays and Christmases. Even when they went to parties my mum was good at dressmaking so she would make their dresses which were exactly the same except for they all had a different colour lace down the front. My mum was good and she would make all the covers for the dolls and things like that. I used to knit as well but I wasn't as good as my mum.

Chores

72. Every one of the kids had something to do which we felt was part of growing up. When ██████ got older I would show her how to iron. I did all the washing and cleaning. ██████ was the dish washer, I think that is why he doesn't like doing them now but he always wanted to do them as a bairn.

Discipline

73. We would either ground the kids if they were naughty but if they were really naughty like if they were being cheeky I would send them to their room and tell them to come back when they could speak better. That was really it. Life was so busy and I mean so busy that the kids would be out playing or if they were in there was lots for them to do. There was reading books and everyone had their own hobbies. I could also talk to them about how they thought they were behaving and why were they acting up or falling out. All the children were treated the same because it was a family unit. That is how we treated them even though they weren't our own kids. I wouldn't let my parents or anyone else treat them any different. Never once was any of the children ever hit. I always felt we were a forward thinking family, more modern than others. We always tried to be forward thinking and wanted the kids to be happy.

Relationship with Foster Children

74. We once had a set of kids which was a girl who was older and her brother and sister. I think the oldest lassie was about eleven and I can't remember what was wrong with the mother but she was used to dressing the kids and doing the washing. I came through one morning and she had the ironing board out and I had to explain to her that she wasn't expected to do anything like that. I told her she was here to enjoy herself. I remember we got a friend's wee girl to come and play with her. She was that busy trying to look after her brother and sister but that was what she had to do back home because her mum wasn't well. We had them for a couple of weeks but we always tried to make them feel happy and life could be different for them. That they could come and be part of our family for that short time.
75. FJC ██████ asked us if she could call us mum and dad and we said yes. She used to call her parents by their names, ██████ and ██████. It would always be her choice what she called us, we never told her what she must call us. ██████ and ██████ called us mum and dad and even now ██████ still calls us mum and dad.
76. I can't even recall what FJC ██████ called us when she was very young but social work didn't give us any sort of guidance about this. I don't know if because ██████, ██████ and ██████ called us mum and dad it just came as a natural thing for FJC ██████ FJC ██████ to do.
77. I believe I had a very good relationship with all my children including the foster kids. We were always there for them and we loved them all. The kids would all fall out now and again but who would have a big family and they wouldn't fall out? We used to say to the kids if anyone wanted to borrow another one of the kid's toys that they always had to ask first. We would sit down and have a talk about why they had fallen out to find the reason behind it. We would discourage them from fighting telling them they are all family. I would say overall they all got on really well together. There were a lot of years between ██████ and ██████ so they kind of had their own pals. FJC ██████, ██████ and ██████ all played together and all played with the same people.

78. [FJC] [redacted] [FKZ] asked her if she would like him to get her a wee job in the [redacted] as we thought she might be able to meet people. She agreed and loved it.

Contact with Family (other than siblings)

79. We used to see [FJC] [redacted]'s mum who is called [redacted] and her dad when they would come to visit her. It was always home visits when we stayed in [redacted] but that must have been the social work who said that because we wouldn't have minded if they took her out. Home visits meant they used to come and see her in our house. I think when we moved to [redacted] she got to go out with her parents and it must have been the social work who agreed this maybe because they had been visiting. It was once a week and sometimes they came together or it would be one of them. [FJC] [redacted] told us that when they started taking her out her parents sometimes didn't even speak to each other. That must have been horrible.
80. When [FJC] [redacted] was four or five her mum and dad didn't come to see her for about two years. Social work approached us to ask if we would consider adopting her and of course we jumped at the chance. We had had her since she was 10 months old and she was part of our family so we were very keen to adopt her. Social work used to take her out and she had a book where they were doing a history from when she was born and we gave them photographs and things to add to it. I think they took her out a few times and they also discussed what her interests were. Then they must have approached the mum and dad and they objected to it. From that day I have never seen the mum. I think she was out with the dad but not all of the time. [redacted] her dad, came every Sunday to take her out unless we had planned to go out or were away on holiday. Usually it was between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm but it varied because he was a painter and decorator and I think he was self-employed so it would depend what he had on. She would be back in time for getting ready for school the next day. Sometimes it was earlier so it would depend on her age but we had that kind of conversation with [redacted]. I don't know why the mum didn't come. I don't know if it was because we wanted to adopt that she felt bitter. I always got the impression that they didn't want us to adopt her but they didn't want to be together to have her either.

81. Social work would come and have a visit so that is when they would know what was happening but a lot of it was left to us to get on with. Their visits were more general about school and they would obviously check if the parents were still seeing her but they never said if the parents were ever thinking of taking her back to live with them. There was never any talk about that.
82. I think there would have been some things in FJC's life that couldn't have been good for her. Her own mum telling her that as far as her family is concerned she didn't exist because they didn't know of her. None of her mother's family was aware of her. I can't remember when her mum said this to her but she was visibly upset. She was maybe aged about eight. She told me that her mum also said something like "As for your dad, your dad wanted me to have an abortion". It was her mother who told her that not her father. 's family were very staunch Catholics so I don't know if that is why they didn't know about FJC.
83. The father was a really nice and genuine person and I don't know why he and FJC's mum never got to the stage that they took her. I don't think they were ever together.
84. We had a phone in the hall and then we got another in the living room. FJC could use the phone whenever she wanted to. I really don't know if she would have known she could have phoned her birth parents. I don't know if she would have been able to phone ' if her family didn't know about her. She would have been free to phone them if she wanted to but I just don't know if she would have been able to.
85. I can remember when we had ' who was one of the children who came to stay with us on a temporary basis. She was lovely but had some behavioural issues at school which we didn't know about. She had been kicking the teachers so we helped her settle down and realise she didn't need to do that kind of thing. We reassured her that she would get food whenever she wanted as I think at home she had to steal to eat. We actually took her away on holiday with us. The first time social work took her home for a weekend it was like a nightmare again because it was like starting all over again

with her. Her mum used to come to our house and [REDACTED] would say things like "We have got maggots because dad pees the couch when he is drunk".

86. We got her for another time and we got her all sorted out so she was really doing great and doing well at school. Social work came and said they were going to take her back home for a week's holiday. We put our foot down and said that if they were taking her back we couldn't take her again because we couldn't keep starting the process with her. Sometimes when you have other kids they were getting left out because of the amount of time we had to spend on [REDACTED]. We wanted to spend our time on them all so that is why we felt we couldn't keep taking [REDACTED] back after she had been back at her parents.

87. When [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] first came [REDACTED] was quite bitter about her aunties because she felt they should have taken them in. What we did was we spoke to the social work department and we would get her on the bus with the twin buggy with FJC [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. One aunt stayed in the [REDACTED] so we would all go and visit them. And another time we would go to the one at Gilmerton. Then [REDACTED] their dad, would come and take them out but it wasn't a regular thing. He would just sort of appear. He would take them for a walk for an hour or something so I said to him that he could come and have his tea with the kids. He then started having his tea on a Saturday. He died when [REDACTED] was sixteen.

Visitors

88. A social worker would visit once every few months. I am trying to think when they would come to see FJC [REDACTED] because when we had all the kids we had all different social workers coming. All the kids had different social workers including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

89. As far as FJC [REDACTED]'s social worker was concerned I think they would phone and ask if it was alright if they could come out and see how things were going. I really can't remember how frequently that would happen. They never came unannounced.

90. FJC would go out with the social workers when we were hoping to adopt her. They took her away without us, they would take her to different places and she would work on this book they had for her. I think we helped with the book but it disappeared when she left so I take it she must have taken it with her.

91. Other than the lead up to the adoption I cannot think of any other times when the social workers would take FJC out on her own. I can't really remember if they would sit and talk to her on her own when they visited the house but when I think about it I suppose they did because I would go and make a cup of tea. I can't say that she definitely had time to sit on her own with them and I would be telling a lie if I said she definitely did.

Review of Care/placement

92. There were never any inspections carried out by any other agency.

93. I do not remember any reviews over the years and I cannot think there was any additional training we had to do.

94. None of the children had anyone other than social workers representing them.

Records

95. We didn't have to keep any records for any of the children but probably there should have been a need for us to keep some. I don't have any recollection of anyone asking us to keep any sort of record at all for anything. In hindsight with what the Inquiry is looking at now it would have been a good idea. I think it is probably done nowadays as I think everything will be different from when we started fostering.

Moving Placement

96. I really don't think social work had any process for any of the kids preparing to leave our care.

Leaving the Care System

97. When [REDACTED] left he wasn't in care. He left care at sixteen and then he worked. He continue to stay with us and he left when he was nineteen as he moved in with his girlfriend who was pregnant and they are now married. [REDACTED] wasn't in care either when she left. She stayed with us and worked before leaving when she was eighteen but her behaviour wasn't very good then.
98. I am not sure about FJC [REDACTED] because she was still in education but I do remember she must have been finished with the social work department when she stayed with us because she had a job in Boots working four days a week and that was during the summer if I remember rightly. Social work gave her a book but I don't know what it was and I don't know how much it was. It was like an old family allowance type thing but she wouldn't tell us what it was. That was at the point we stopped getting any money for her. That is where the argument when she left started because [REDACTED] was working and she paid £5 dig money. We thought it was a part of growing up that you had to pay something towards your keep. We had a wee discussion with FJC [REDACTED] and said that we think she should also pay £5 as well because she had a lot more money than [REDACTED] was getting paid on a Youth Training Scheme. Most of the time they get the dig money back to cover stuff for lunches and things like that. FJC [REDACTED] had said that we were not getting any of her money and that was that. It was then time for her dad to come so we told her we would discuss it when she came back because it was not fair. We felt it was only a minimal amount and we weren't asking for anything unreasonable.
99. When she came back with her dad she was ranting and raving in front of him and he kept apologising to us for her behaviour. She packed a bag and said she was leaving. She said she was going to live with her dad. Her dad apologised and said something like we had really brought her up well for them. He thanked us and said he didn't know why she was carrying on like that. She left with him and I have only seen her once when she was at my niece's funeral. I didn't speak to her then and she would have been about 22 then.

100. When my daughter was pregnant when she was 23 years old FJC went into her work and asked her what she thought mum and dad would say if she was to go and visit us. just said that she didn't know. I didn't see her and she didn't come and visit. FJC would have been about 25 at that point.
101. FJC was never shown the door and neither was anyone else.
102. I do not recall any conversation with social work around the time they gave FJC the book about what the plans were for her. I only knew about the book because she said she had got it from the social work department and that it was her money.
103. In hindsight the social work should have done things differently but that was how things were done in those days.

Complaints

104. I cannot think of a time that I felt we should be complaining about social work for things like lack of support. Had we had any concerns we would have just phoned the social work and they would have put us in touch with who we needed.

Convictions

Convictions

105. I have no convictions.

Allegations of Abuse

Awareness of Abuse

106. I do not believe that any of the children in our care were abused. Even with the benefit of hindsight I do not think anything was abusive or should have been reported.

Reporting of Abuse

107. I have never been reported for abusing any child.

Allegations of Abuse for which there has been no Criminal Conviction

108. I have never been the subject of any complaints from any of the foster children we cared for.

Reporting to Police/Criminal Proceedings

109. There was nothing ever needed to be reported to the police in connection with our care of all of the children.

Prior Statements

110. I have never given any statement to any person about my time as a foster carer.

Specific Allegations Against you that have been made to the Inquiry

111. FJC [REDACTED] has said in her statement "I was always wearing hand me down clothes which had a label with the name XXXXXX (name not provided) on them. I never knew who this person was but I had to wear their old clothes. FKX [REDACTED] would always make her daughter [REDACTED] look very feminine with ribbons in her long blonde hair whereas my hair was always kept functionally short". I cannot remember any of them wearing hand me down clothes and the clothes that we bought were always new. She actually doesn't mention when she went to ballroom and disco dancing for four or five years. Her dresses cost about £200 and we paid for them. Disco dancing needed outfits to be made by a woman we knew and I used to put the sequins on them. I have some photographs that I have printed off which show

FJC ██████ in some of her clothes when we have been on holiday or with the other children. I have the originals and will be happy to provide them to the Inquiry. The photographs show that I always dressed FJC ██████ and ██████ the same when they were younger.

112. FJC ██████'s statement also said FJK ██████ *or our neighbour [X] would cut my hair. FJK ██████ would send us round to [her house] where we would have to ask for a cut. It was again really embarrassing, uncomfortable and awkward and you felt very apologetic for your presence there as there was no pre-arranged appointment. It was imposing on the neighbour's goodwill. This was often the way that FJK ██████ made us feel. It was not the same for [her own kids]*". I honestly cannot remember a neighbour who would cut their hair and if there was anybody I had a phone. I wouldn't send any of the kids to get anything done. I don't understand it and I don't know where she has got this from. I never cut her hair as I am not a hairdresser, I never cut anyone's hair. I think we used to go to the hairdressers in Mayfield if they were getting their hair cut. ██████ might have went with his dad to get his haircut.

113. Her statement also says *"There was another occasion when I was in primary seven aged twelve when FJK ██████ got a young trainee hairdresser to give me a "short back and sides haircut". That caused me to be ridiculed amongst my school friends. I remember looking in the mirror and being very upset. I couldn't bear to be seen. ... FJK ██████ found my obvious upset funny and questioned what all the fuss was about. FJK ██████ enjoyed keeping me down"*. What happened was I am sure it was ██████ who said she would get ██████ to come and do the kids hair in time for the school photographs. He was actually in his second or third year of a hairdressing course. ██████ had got her hair done and I was in the kitchen washing hair for the next cut when I came through and I saw FJC ██████'s hair and thought 'oh my god' I couldn't believe it. ██████ was only getting a trim because she never wanted her hair short. ██████ got his done and both ██████ and FJC ██████ were greeting. We didn't have a mirror so they could see how the haircut looked so it was only afterwards they could see it. There is a picture of FJC ██████, ██████ and ██████ which shows the devastating haircuts. Anyway we never used that hairdresser again although I think he is a well-known hairdresser in Manchester now.

FJC [REDACTED] always wanted short hair, she never liked her hair long and the longest I have seen it was like a bob length.

114. FJC [REDACTED] s statement also said *"I just wore what I was given. The only new clothes I got was when I went shopping at Christmas time with my birth parents. I often had to steal underwear from [REDACTED] s drawers or take it from the radiator where it was drying. I would be shouted at for doing this, I had a developed chest as a young girl but they wouldn't give me a bra. There was no care or nurture shown by FKX [REDACTED] . All the kids had drawers full of clothes and they always had their own stuff. I can't remember from what age but when FJC [REDACTED] was older, maybe nine or ten, she had her own style of clothes which were different from what [REDACTED] was wearing because she didn't want to be the same anymore. She had bras and there were always sanitary products. When her periods started she would have them in her room and when [REDACTED] started I used to keep them in a drawer in the bathroom for anyone to help themselves. The girls would also have them in their own rooms as well.*

115. FJC [REDACTED] has also said *"There was no pocket money handed out to me. If I wanted to get some money I had to work on some small jobs in my own time. I used this money to buy essentials that the FKX-FKZ [REDACTED] would not provide for me"* and *"From the age of twelve I had small jobs like paper rounds and was able to purchase my own sanitary products and underwear. I am sure that the FKX-FKZ [REDACTED] were being given enough money for our care but it was never reflected in the care of any of the foster children".* This is absolute rubbish. I have never known her to have a job apart from when she left school. Their clothes were always bought for them. I cannot remember her ever having a paper round. I remember wee [REDACTED] had a job working with his pal delivering milk. I think he was fifteen.

116. FJC [REDACTED] also says *"Monday mornings were one of the worst days. FKX [REDACTED] FKX [REDACTED] would stay in bed nursing her hangover from all the drinking the night before. [older foster girl] who I called my big sister got us up in the morning and out to school"* and *"There were lots of chores to be done in the house. I was cooking, ironing, washing and doing all the dusting and hoovering. It was usually done between [older foster girl]*

and me. On a Saturday morning you would be woken up early to do the chores and if you didn't do them quickly enough or properly ^{FKX} would give you a smack with her open hand. It was very much her domain. and were not required to do chores". I find myself asking myself if she did all of this while she was doing her paper round and I just find this ridiculous. I would never ask her to anything other than maybe keep her room tidy which was the same for all the kids. The kids would help around the house so maybe one of them would say they would polish or would do the dishes. I would give them their own ironing to put away sometimes because sometimes it wasn't put away right so I would just do it myself. Nine times out of ten they were all at school so I would be in the house doing the housework. I didn't go out to work until later years so I was always there. It is not true. She was brought up as our own and I treated her as my first child. I don't know why she is saying this. I did the breakfast and ^{FKZ} and I did the dinner between us. I don't understand why she has said this and I don't recollect any of it. I don't really drink and have never really been much of a drinker, I can have a couple of drinks if I am on holiday. I would go out on a Saturday sometimes as we sometimes felt we needed a break. We always had a babysitter.

117. ^{FJC} s statement also says "You were not allowed to help yourself to food. ^{FKX} knew exactly what food was in the house and you would be in big trouble for taking it without permission. I don't know if ^{FKX} s birth children were allowed to help themselves. Whilst proper meals were made, access to food was strictly controlled". I don't know how she can say she didn't know if ^{FKX} s birth children were allowed to help themselves as she would be playing with them. I have, still to this day, a sweetie box and a crisp box as the kids still come in for a sweetie. I am not saying if it was half an hour before dinner time they could go and take sweeties or crisps but they were all treated the same. They picked what they wanted for their play piece out the sweetie or crisp box. I am so annoyed she would say this and I just don't know where she is coming from.

118. ^{FJC} s statement also included "I was never encouraged by the ^{FKX-FKZ} to perform academically. They never assisted me with homework. At school I had role models who were positive and I could look up to. I think that the ^{FKX-FKZ}

resented this". That is absolute rubbish. I remember one time she was having difficulty with geography and we bought her a globe that lit up so she could see where everywhere was. We did help her with her homework where we could but she did things that we probably didn't even get at school but we were always there. There are lots of things she did that made us proud. She was in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games and we were so proud of her because she went every couple of nights to rehearse. They were dancing and flagging and it was on the telly. We were watching to see if we could see her. I can't remember what age she was but she was at high school.

119. The statement goes on to say "*I remember being very embarrassed at school when it came time to choose an outdoor activity. I had chosen camping and hill walking. Your parents were supposed to pay for this activity but the [FKX-FKZ] didn't pay. [FKX] told me that they didn't have the money. I recall that instead of going on the camping trip I went to class instead. I got such a row from the school when I didn't go on the trip but I don't think that the school staff had caught on to the real reason why*". It wouldn't be like that, you would get a letter home to be asked if you wanted to go. I cannot remember but I thought she went to Lagganlia which is like a school camp. I know one of the kids went and it wasn't [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] or [redacted]. I don't really remember anything like this and I don't think that is how it would have happened anyway. I would have got the letter and would have said if we could pay for it so why would she get a row? She was in the Guides and went to the thing with the Commonwealth Games. I think she was eleven when she started the ballroom dancing and it was really expensive, it wasn't cheap because it was a professional who was taking the classes. I think it was £12 a week and she had to have all the fancy dresses and shoes. I don't know if we had the option to get financial support from social work as we didn't ask them because at that time she was part of our family unit. I wouldn't have asked them for money but I know that we did get money however we spent that money on the kids. We didn't do it to get money. When she was 9-10 she moved down the stairs into wee [redacted]'s room when he moved out and she picked her own furniture. Her room was beautiful, they all had nice rooms. Her room was black and red and she had a desk for doing her homework. I can't understand why she has done what she has done.

120. The statement also says *"I used to call my foster parents mum and dad although I was also in touch with my birth parents every Sunday. It used to upset [FKX-FKZ] [FKX-FKZ] if I mentioned my birth parents in their hearing".* [FJC] was very secretive about her contact with her parents and that was her day out. A couple of times she came home and we didn't know she hadn't had anything to eat. She didn't say to us until night time that she was hungry as she hadn't had any dinner. We would always ask her things like if she had had a nice day and where had she gone but she didn't really want to say. We would just leave it but we would always make sure she had had something to eat.
121. The statement also says *"I would meet with them every Sunday and [redacted] would pick me up in the car. My birth mother was not welcome at the [FKX-FKZ]. I called my birth parents mum and dad but as I got older the [FKX-FKZ] insisted that I call them [redacted] and [redacted]. I knew never to call my birth parents mum and dad in front of the [FKX-FKZ]. I always had to be home by seven thirty in the evening because part of the routine for the [FKX-FKZ] was to go every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night to the [redacted] Miners Club where they would get drunk".* Why would I do that when someone is older? I would never want to confuse anybody. I can't remember anything like that. [redacted] and [redacted] always came when we lived in [redacted] but [redacted] certainly never came back after the adoption thing. It had to be her choice because she just never came back but [redacted] always came and he would pass the time of day with us. It must have been difficult for them too having their daughter in care. [redacted] was never not welcome she just never came back and I don't know if she was there every week or not. As for drinking in the Miner's Club I have never drank in a Miner's club ever. [redacted] is where we would go and it would be a Saturday. Not every Saturday, sometimes it would be a Sports Dance and that would be on a Friday. Sometimes we would take the kids if it was something like a Christmas party but they didn't go at other times.
122. [FJC] [redacted] has also said in her statement *"On one occasion my birth parents gave me a present of a red tricycle but it was taken off me by the [FKX-FKZ] and sold".* The tricycle was blue and red and it was us that got her it. It had a red bit to

stand on, a blue seat and red handlebars. I remember it because we were always so strict with her as the kids used to get a ride on the back of it by standing on the back. We would tell her to make sure the kids got off before you got off or they are going to fall. I don't even know what happened to it but she was probably moving up to a bigger bike so how long do you keep a tricycle?

123. The statement also says *"There was one occasion when I received an injury or a bite to my knee which I persevered with for some time and still carry the scar. FKZ decided he knew what was best and instead of going to the doctor he was going to treat it. He came back from his work at the mines with a poultice which he applied to the injury. He heated the poultice on the stove till it was boiling hot and then FKX held me down while FKZ painted it on to me. It was absolute agony. This treatment was repeated many times and I believe it unnecessarily prolonged the infection and pain I suffered. It also left me with avoidable permanent scarring".* And also *"FKZ then decided that there was a root of poison in the wound so they again held me down and squeezed the injury until a solid piece of poison about the size of a two pence piece came out of the wound. It was again absolute agony. I was in primary six at the time".* I do not remember that. The only person I remember that got a wee poultice thing was ██████████ when he had things on his thumbs. I don't even know if it was a poultice, it was stuff you had to put on. We went away on holiday and when he went into the sea it was curing it so when we came home we used to just dip it in salted water. It took it away, whatever it was. It was like the skin was peeling or an abscess type thing. I really don't remember anything with the poultice that FJC ██████████ has described.
124. FJC ██████████ also says in her statement *"I can't recall going to the doctors and I should have because I was suffering very badly with cold sores that should have been treated. The FKX-FKZ would treat you by dabbing on whisky and perfume. The doctor's surgery was a long walk away and we didn't have transport, so we never went because it was too much bother to the FKX-FKZ".* We did go to the doctors because we went to the doctors with all the kids. There is a bus stop at the end of the street which takes you out at a wee lane that is then a five minute walk to the doctors but walking it is about 10-15 minutes. I don't remember the cold sore but

I do remember when she was young she used to suck her bottom lip and twiddle her hair. She always had what looked like a double line of lip at her bottom lip but we always used to put cream on it with things like Germolene. To be honest with you my granddaughter used to do the same. It is strange as there is no relation but they had the same habit. FJC ██████████ was always a very healthy girl. I can only remember our ██████████ having chicken pox. I didn't take her to the doctor or get the doctor in as I treated it with calamine lotion and plenty drinks. I really cannot remember any of the kids being that ill that they needed to go and see a doctor but if they needed they would be taken. I already mentioned we took her as she needed her vaccines. She may well have had a cold sore but I wasn't aware of it.

125. FJC ██████████ also says *"I think that the foster children were treated differently to the FKX-FKZ ██████████ own children. They showed a lot more affection and favouritism to their own children"*. I don't believe it and it is not true. Even down to my mum and other relatives, we wouldn't allow them to be treated any different. They were our family as far as we and everyone else was concerned. At Easter they all got the same amount of Easter eggs and they all got the same spent on them at Christmas. I remember them all playing together going round the street on their bikes or when it was tennis time they would be outside playing tennis. We loved them all and I feel myself getting really upset. I don't know why she is doing this to us.

126. FJC ██████████'s statement also says *"I also recall as an eight or nine year old being sent down to the local bookies which was a mile away. I would have to stand outside the shop until I could get someone to place a bet with the note and the money that FKX ██████████ had given me. I was always very anxious standing outside the bookies having to approach strangers and receiving their disapproving reaction to the request in the note"*. I don't know who sent her but it certainly wasn't me. I don't believe that ever happened. Sometimes when I read her statement I wonder where she has got all these things from. I really don't know. I didn't place bets with the bookies. The only time I would say I might would be for the Grand National but all the kids would help pick the horse. We didn't do that every year but we did sometimes. It would be big FKZ ██████████ who would go and do it as I have never been in a bookies in my life. The

kids might have chummed him but he would go in, put it on and come out. That is the only thing I can think of.

127. The statement also goes on to say "FKX would also send me with a note to the van that came round the estate selling groceries. The note would be asking for goods and requesting to pay later. I can also recall other instances of being sent to FKX's friends or neighbours houses asking to borrow money. These experiences were degrading and humiliating for me". I am thinking of this and thinking these things never happened but it is not to say that someone didn't come with a note to our house. All the neighbours got on together, they worked at the pit or whatever. Maybe a neighbour would ask for a cup of sugar but I never went to anyone needing anything. I never gave her a note or anything like she said. I am just devastated.
128. The statement goes on to say "There were other occasions when I would be sent round to a neighbour who worked in the bookies. I would have to ring their doorbell and ask her to place a bet when she went in to work. Her husband worked night shift and slept most of the day and I would wake him up. He was always furious with me but the consequences of not getting the bet placed were worse for me as I would have been scolded by FKX". I don't know anyone who worked or works in a bookies. I can't understand where she is getting these bets from as I am not a gambler. It just never happened.
129. FJC also says in her statement "When I reached puberty I remember that FKX gave me a hand me down swim suit which was far too small from me. It was inappropriate and was for a much younger child. It failed to cover my body. I tried to tell her this but she wouldn't listen. It was see through when I went into the swimming baths. While FKX was spectating she repeatedly said that there was nothing wrong with the swim suit and prompted me to explain what the problem was. I was very embarrassed and couldn't say so I was made to wear the swimsuit for school swimming lessons. She took great pleasure on humiliating me". It definitely never happened and she didn't wear hand-me-down clothes. They all got their own clothes. I don't know where she gets this from and I can't remember of it ever

happening. Yes we did go to swimming baths but I wouldn't do that to anyone. I wouldn't humiliate anyone. I wouldn't treat anyone any different than I would want to be treated myself.

130. FJC [REDACTED] statement also says "There was an incident when I didn't finish a meal that I was eating. They put the meal into a bowl and put my hands behind my back. They made me kneel down like a dog and eat my meal out of the bowl. I can't remember if it was FKX [REDACTED] or FKZ [REDACTED] but it was very humiliating. I am not sure how old I was but I guess I would be about eight". It never happened and I absolutely would never do that to anybody.

131. The statement also says "I was regularly beaten by both FKX-FKZ [REDACTED] FKX-FKZ [REDACTED] but mostly by him. He would beat us for no apparent reason. I never once saw either of them raise their hands to beat [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] who were their own children. FKX [REDACTED] would often use FKZ [REDACTED] as a threat to us". This is terrible and it never happened. We never raised our hands at all to any of them ever.

132. FJC [REDACTED] also says "The FKX-FKZ [REDACTED] warned us not to speak or tell anyone about what was happening at home. I recall on one occasion I confided in a friend and she told her mother and then it spread round until it got back to FKX [REDACTED] and I was punished for that". It never happened, I don't know anything about it. As I have said our house was an open house. In fact I can never remember our house being empty because their pals were always in. We had the wee toilet down the stairs the kids would be running in to use it.

Specific Allegations against FKZ [REDACTED] that have been made to the Inquiry

133. FJC [REDACTED] statement also included "The FKX-FKZ [REDACTED] started to become uncomfortable with me attending the Gospel Hall. One day Kenneth Bell called at the house to have a word with FKZ [REDACTED] and after that meeting I was never allowed to go back to the Gospel Hall. I don't know what was said at that meeting. I think that I was in primary seven at this time". Kenneth Bell is known to us as he

stays in Mayfield and his son was [REDACTED]'s friend. He came to see us about [REDACTED] staying the night and that is the only time I can recall him being at our house. That was the type of man Kenneth was he liked to make sure the parents knew. [REDACTED] went to the Gospel Hall and [REDACTED] went for a wee while. [REDACTED] has a bible from the Gospel Hall with a thing in it for so many years attendance. [REDACTED] told me that there were only two reasons they liked to go and that was because they got to travel in the boot of Kenneth's car and they used to get sweets there too. It was kids from all over Mayfield who would go. I can never think of a time that FJC [REDACTED] was prevented from going. It might have been that her ballroom dancing was taking over but I don't know. If she was ever stopped from going I can't think it was anything we did but it might have clashed with something she wanted to do.

134. The statements also says *"The visits (from social workers) were style managed by FKZ [REDACTED]. On no occasion was FKX [REDACTED] present at these meetings. They always came by appointment and I would have to sit beside FKZ [REDACTED] while the social worker asked questions and he made sure I gave the right answers"*. That is terrible. I would be there at the meetings. It would be FJC [REDACTED], myself, the social worker and sometimes FKZ [REDACTED] would be there. It would depend if it was summer holidays or not because FKZ [REDACTED] would be at his work. Why would they be style managed? It upsets me to think she has said all these things.
135. FJC [REDACTED] also says in her statement *"FKZ [REDACTED] was a miner. He was a heavy drinker and was a very violent man. There were lots of incidents of domestic abuse when he assaulted his wife FKX [REDACTED]"*. That is not true. I wouldn't have stayed married for 52 years. He wasn't a heavy drinker. It is just not true.
136. She further says *"I recall one incident when I was in Primary four or five when FKZ [REDACTED] came home drunk. He was wearing a pair of steel capped boots. He kicked a glass coffee table and it smashed everywhere"*. I know nothing about this but one thing I will tell you he never wore steel toecap boots because when you work at the mine it is clothes home for wash. You have a clean locker and a dirty locker. Your boots and hat stay in a separate locker all the time. He would always come home with his normal clothes on. When you come up the pit you go and have a shower

and then change into your normal clothes. Your hat and boots never came home and your working clothes came home once a week which must have been terrible.

137. FJC [REDACTED] also says "[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also stayed with us and were foster children staying until their late teens. [REDACTED] left when he was badly assaulted by FKZ [REDACTED]". I know I have already spoke about [REDACTED] leaving and it was his girlfriend who is now his wife was pregnant and he moved in with her when he was nineteen. I have shown a photograph of FJC [REDACTED] being there at his son's first birthday party. We had said to him before he left if he was sure he was going to be all right. They moved house when their son was maybe two and we helped move them house. Big FKZ [REDACTED] drove the van and FJC [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there helping to empty the boxes and help them settle in a bit. Big FKZ [REDACTED] wanted to give him a start so we bought a new car and we gave him our old car because he was just about to pass his test. We have been part of [REDACTED] and his own family's life ever since. I have a photo of my daughter's wedding with [REDACTED] his wife, son and his daughter is the flower girl. I also have a photograph of FJC [REDACTED] at fifteen with other family including wee [REDACTED] and his wife and family at my mother's fortieth wedding anniversary. [REDACTED] was there all the time. I cannot understand why she says he left and never returned because he has always been there and still is. I last saw him a week ago.

138. FJC [REDACTED]'s statement also mentions "I was with my foster parents and my foster father was holding [another child], who was a small baby, above his head. [The child] was being held upside down and dangled by his ankles. FKZ [REDACTED] was threatening to drop [the child] on his head. FKX [REDACTED] was crying and screaming 'FKZ [REDACTED] don't do it'. I was panicking and ran out of the house and into the garden". It definitely never happened and I don't know where she gets all this from. Who was the two year old boy, we never had a two year old boy or a small baby when she was two year old. It would only have been [REDACTED] and you wouldn't do that with a baby. I waited all those years to have kids. It just didn't happen. In my head I am thinking why is she saying all these things?

139. The statement also says *"If you sat in his chair in the sitting room and he caught you he would hit you across the back of your head. I think that when I was a bit younger than five or six he would smack you with his hand. I recall him coming in drunk sometimes and taking the tray that his meal was served on and him throwing it up in the air. FKZ was served his dinner whilst sitting in the chair in the sitting room. He would put the fear of death into us and we would have to clean up the food and hope that he didn't lash out at you. On other occasions FKZ would pull down my trousers and pants and smack me on my bare backside with his hand, a slipper or sometimes a belt"*. These are lies and definitely never happened. The thing about the chair, yes he still sits on his wee chair at the side bit but it is for hearing for the television as that is where sits. It just never happened. There are photographs of FJC in the chair she wasn't allowed to sit on on two different years. She has never been assaulted by us at all in any way. I just don't know why she is saying all this, I never saw FKZ physically chastise any of the kids and none of them ever said to me that he did. I was there as often as FKZ apart from in later years when I started to work. FJC would be a teenager. He is not that type of person he is one of the most helpful, caring people. In the last fifteen years he has looked after my uncle when he wasn't well and he would be the one going out when there were phone calls during the night. He looks after my mum, our next door neighbour and the two neighbours across the road. We have always helped people wherever we could.
140. The statement also says *"On one occasion when I would be nine or ten years old I had come home from school at lunch time. I washed and dried the lunch dishes and accidentally smashed a cup. FKZ beat me badly and I had to compose myself and return back to school"*. FKZ would be at his work, he worked dayshift most of the time. Things happen, my goodness you wouldn't hit anyone for a cup. I don't believe it happened.
141. The statement also says *"I remember an incident on Christmas day when I think that I had an argument with [another child in the house] and FKZ reacted by grabbing hold of me by the neck and throttling me while pushing me up the bedroom wall. I was completely off the floor. He was choking me and I couldn't breathe"*. Everybody came to us for Christmas, my sister, her husband, their children, my mum

and dad, my granny and my uncle [REDACTED]. We fed them all. We had two separate tables set up. This didn't happen, I mean I don't know where she is getting this from. I can't think of any kind of things that happened that she would even be getting mixed up with. [REDACTED] wouldn't do that he is just a man who has been a union man and been down the pits but he loves kids. We have got kids in the street that come into our house. One of them asked if it is okay for her to go and get her ice-cream from [REDACTED] and I said yes that he will be sitting in the chair watching football. She came out and said that [REDACTED] hadn't answered her but she was at the back of him and he has hearing aids in so he couldn't hear her. I said to her to go back in stand in front of the telly and do star jumps and then he will see you and he will know you are wanting an ice-cream. That's the type of things we do. The kids in the street were having a party and we went out with ice lollies for them all, eight or nine of them. We just love kids. [REDACTED] is not that type of person to hurt a child.

142. [REDACTED] also says *"I only ran away on one occasion. I was in first or second year at high school. I don't know what the lead up to this was but it culminated in [REDACTED] grabbing me by the hair and banging my head repeatedly off the door. I believe that I broke my nose and still have a piece of bone jutting out". And "I went home expecting to get a real punishment but I think on reflection they were just relieved that I had come home. They sat me down and although they gave me a row, that was all that happened. I had a badly bruised nose and two black eyes from my head being banged off the door"*. No this definitely never happened. I mean I can't understand why she is saying these things. She went to school and she went out with her dad on a Sunday so if something like that had ever happened someone would have seen her injuries if she ever had any. I just don't know where she is getting this from. I get upset thinking about it and I don't know why she is doing this to us. I am hurt, angry and I am devastated but she is a disturbed person from what I am reading. That's my opinion.

143. The statement also says *"We would sometimes visit [REDACTED] parents who lived in nearby Gorebridge. ...If they visited I would have to go upstairs so they couldn't see the bruises we had got from [REDACTED] hitting us. Visits were also cancelled if [REDACTED] had sustained visible bruises from assaults by*

FKZ. *This happened regularly*". It didn't happen, I mean if my mum and dad came over it was to see the kids not to see us. My dad would go about making things like stilts for them to go out and play on. They would all get their Christmas presents but he would have something extra for them. Something that he had made himself. That is what he liked to do for the kids. FJC and [REDACTED] would sometimes stay with my mum overnight when my dad would go to the golf at Gullane for a weekend. They would stay over on the Saturday night. My dad would also do the ballroom dancing steps with FJC in our living room. He was a great ballroom dancer at one time and he used to love to see what she had been improving on.

144. FJC [REDACTED] also said when she was talking about leaving our home 'FKZ [REDACTED] called me a "walking abortion". Would he say that in front of her father? He wouldn't say that anyway. It never happened. I get angry at so many things she has said and then I get upset.

Helping the Inquiry

145. I couldn't even read the statement at the start and even now I find myself getting upset and crying over the things she has said. I have been so unwell since the Inquiry contacted me and when I read the statement I just can't understand why she would say these things. I would say she was quite spoiled and we really made a lot of her. She maybe got a bit more than most because I remember when her dad brought her back she always came home with a book or something like that and I remember [REDACTED] asking why she got more than he did. I had to sit him down and explain that she got to see her dad and mum and they want to buy her something. Sometimes her dad would hand a sweetie in for the kids.
146. I had prepared a wee statement to make sure I got everything in that I wanted to say. I feel I have been able to speak about everything that my statement contained so I don't feel I need to repeat it.
147. We were foster carers between 1974-1992 and had twenty odd children over that time and this is the only time anyone has ever said anything about us.

148. I think there needs to be protection for foster children but also for foster parents. Maybe there should be someone representing the foster child but also someone different for the foster parents. I say this because I am sitting here but I had thought I had done a great thing for all these years of my life but someone has written these things about me. When I think what could have been done to protect our position maybe we should have had someone there to support us who was separate from any of the children we cared for. We could run things by them and maybe there should have been documented meetings either weekly or monthly. It is difficult because these things **FJC** has claimed never happened so it wouldn't have come out. It now worries me who she is saying these things to.

Other information

149. 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..... **FKX**

Dated..... 17th March 2022