

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GKO

Support person present: No

1. My name is GKO. My date of birth is 1981. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Forth Park Hospital, Kirkcaldy. My dad's name was He died three years ago, aged 63. My mum's name was then she married my dad and changed her surname to. Then she remarried and is now known as. She is now 66 years old.
3. I have brothers and sisters. My big sister is six years older than me and has the same mother and father as me. After I was born my dad got in another relationship and had my sister. Then he got in another relationship and had two sons, and. Then my mum re-married and I have two step siblings from that marriage.
4. When I was born we lived at Methilhill but I don't have any memories of that house, I was too young. I only know that through looking at my birth certificate.
5. I have some memories from which is where we were staying when I first went into care. I have memories of being in the room when my dad raped my mum. That is one of my very earliest memories. I remember him hitting her a lot and her

being upset, which made me upset. I was too young to understand it at the time but, as I got older, I understood what he had done to her.

The [REDACTED] Foster care, [REDACTED] Methil 1983/4

6. My mum's marriage had been breaking down for a few years before I went into care. I don't remember going into foster care for the first time. I could only have been two or three years old. My sister has since told me that it was a placement at [REDACTED] in Methil and the family were called The [REDACTED]
7. I don't know where the [REDACTED] house was. I couldn't even tell you what the foster carers looked like. At that time, my sister went to live with my father's family and I went into care. My sister has told me that the placement wasn't too long, maybe just a few weeks.
8. I only have one memory of my first foster placement and that is of eating porridge at the table. There was salt in it. They were adamant that I tasted it but it made me sick.
9. At that time I had two social workers, Kirsten Galbraith and Donald Ramsay. I don't know if it was the social worker who placed me in care. I had social work involvement from 1983 until 1997. I know this from reading my social work reports and the first one I could find went back to 1983. It was Kirsten Galbraith who did the first report on the family situation at the time. I don't remember her but I have got memories of Donald Ramsay.
10. My mum moved from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] My mum got a new boyfriend. He was an English guy and his name was [REDACTED] My mum was taking me to a clinic in Barrie Street to see a doctor. Her name was Doctor Shannon but I don't know if she was a psychiatrist or a psychologist. My behaviour was pretty bad at the time. I was copying my mum and dad's behaviour, I was probably being quite difficult for my mum, so I got put to Playfield House.

Playfield House, Cupar 1984/5 to 1987/8

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Unofficial care arranged by father after Playfield House 1990 to 1991

33. When I would leave Playfield House, I used to go between my mum and dad's houses. I left my mum's house at [REDACTED] to go and stay with my dad when I was nine years old, I think. My dad came on the phone one day and asked if I wanted to come and stay with him. I said yes, like an idiot.
34. My mum couldn't believe it but she packed my bag and told me to go if I wanted to. That same day my dad arranged for me to go into what he said was private foster care but it wasn't through the social workers. He basically gave me to two of his friends to look after but he didn't give them any funding to look after me. They basically kept me for about one year they just sent me back home. Then the proper foster placements started up again.
35. I think the people that my dad handed me over to were old drinking buddies of my mum and dad, from before [REDACTED] and I came along. My dad had met a new woman who had five children, so basically there was no room for me. From what my mum told me he just wanted the money. He knew my mum would have to sign over the child benefit to him.
36. During the year I was with that couple I saw my dad once. We stayed at [REDACTED] and he was walking to a pub called the [REDACTED] at the bottom of that road. I ran all the way down the road shouting on him but he just ignored me and went into the pub. I sat outside crying and he must have telephoned the couple he had sent me to live with and they came and got me, then took me back to their house. That was the only time I saw my dad during that period.
37. I never saw my mum, my sisters, or anyone else. My mum did know where I was because she sent me a Christmas card. There was money in the card but I think that

couple took it. My mum told me after I went back to her that she had put £40 in the card. That broke my heart. The couple did get me stuff for Christmas though.

Return to family care 1991 to 1992

38. I went back to my dad's house after a year. By that time the woman he was with was pregnant with one of my half-brothers. She lived in a three bedroom house and had four kids of her own already. I had to go back and stay there. We stayed in a block of flats and in that block of flats I got friendly with a girl. Her mum felt really sorry for me and she asked my dad if she could take care of me. I probably only stayed with them for seven or eight months but it felt like a year.
39. Eventually I had to go back to stay with my dad because he was moving to a bigger house with my step mother and my step siblings. We moved back to [REDACTED] the street I was born in, but at a different number. We had to move again after that to [REDACTED] because my step mother fell pregnant again.
40. I went back into foster care around that time but I'm not sure if it was when we lived at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]. That was because of my dad. My dad has always been really wicked to me. He never actually lifted his hands to me until I was ten years old, when I came back from that care setting he had arranged. With my step-mum being pregnant and having four kids, and me coming back it must have been pretty stressful for them but that's when he started lifting his hands to me.
41. My dad had the social worker under his thumb. The social worker at that time was Dave Deaton. He was terrified of my dad so I couldn't tell him anything. I heard him saying to my mum and my step dad one day that he was terrified of my dad. After Dave I had Carrie Hendry, she was lovely. She was a godsend.
42. My dad was drinking pretty heavily then as well which I wasn't used to. Yes, he used to batter my mum but he used to treat me and my sister like wee princesses when we were young. That all changed when he met my step mum, he started lifting his hands

a lot. A lot of the time that was why I was put into foster care because I plucked up the courage to tell my guidance teacher at school what was going on.

43. My step sister and I were arguing. My step mum took her daughter's side and when my dad came home she caused a ruckus so that my dad would come through and deal with me. My dad battered me and then pushed me down onto a single sofa bed that we had. There was a bit of wood sticking up out of it and he pushed me down onto that and it had scored my back. I showed that to my guidance teacher and told her what happened. She had to put in a call to the social workers. There was a Children's Panel called and I went back to my mum's.

Foot Place, Rosyth 1992

44. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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[REDACTED] - Foster care, Kirkcaldy 1992

61. I would say I was about eleven years old when I went to my second official foster care. I had just started high school. Her name was [REDACTED]. She did have a husband but he was in the navy, I only saw him about once a fortnight.

62. I didn't get to meet [REDACTED] before going to stay with her. There has never been a scenario where I met the foster carer before going to live with them.
63. [REDACTED] lived in Kirkcaldy [REDACTED] with her two daughters. One of the daughters was a year or two younger than me and the other one had left school so I presume she would have been about sixteen years old.

Routine at [REDACTED]'s Foster care

64. To begin with I didn't get on with [REDACTED]'s daughters because I didn't like [REDACTED]'s rules too much, so I would tend to ignore her and keep myself locked in my room. [REDACTED]'s daughters didn't like that I wasn't doing what she told me to do. They would say, "Just do what she tells you, we do what she tells us."

Clothing/ uniform

65. [REDACTED] took me to get clothes when I got there. I didn't get to choose what I wanted because I remember I wanted to get dungarees but she wouldn't let me. I understand that now because there was a logo of a little guy on them with a cigarette and she probably thought I was too young for that.

Schooling

66. I used to leave [REDACTED]'s house in Kirkcaldy to get to Buckhaven High School, the school I had been at, and then get the bus home again at night.

Work

67. [REDACTED] would give me money for doing chores which was doing the ironing in the morning and walking her two dogs before school. That would earn me my pocket money but if I swore or something she would take it away. I hated her at the time because she was strict but she was strict with her own two daughters as well. I think I

had to get up at 6:15 am to walk the dogs. I hated it. I had to take them along the length of the promenade in Kirkcaldy, whatever the weather. Her daughters had to do the same after school and at night so we all got treated the same.

68. [REDACTED] set me up in a good routine but from there I went back to my dad's and I was back to square one. [REDACTED] was strict but I was used to the routine by the time I left her and I was doing well at school. I wasn't even going to school a lot of the time before I went to [REDACTED]'s. When I went back to my dad's I went back to getting battered all the time and getting the kind of punishments my dad gave out, such as, not getting my tea and being sent to my bed.

Social work visits

69. I think there might have been a couple of times that Dave Deaton picked me up from school and gave me a lift back to [REDACTED]'s but I can't remember him ever actually being in the house. If I had any problems at [REDACTED]'s house I would probably have spoken to Mrs Thompson, my guidance teacher at the high school.

Discipline

70. [REDACTED] was pretty strict. I didn't feel part of her family but she got me into a good routine for school. She got me to pronounce my words properly. She was strict but fair which was positive for me, but she wasn't motherly. I had always been used to my dad being violent. He was strict but he enforced it with violence. [REDACTED] gave me pocket money but she would deduct some of it if I did something to deserve it. I learned to respect her pretty quickly.

Leaving [REDACTED]'s foster care

71. I don't know why I left [REDACTED]'s house, I don't know if I was asking to go back to my dad's but there was an incident where I ran away. I had really had enough of the strictness. I wasn't allowed to hang about with any friends and I literally had to hold

■■■■'s hand when we were walking along Kirkcaldy High Street, it was really embarrassing.

72. I ran away and was away for a whole night. ■■■■ phoned the police but I actually walked into the police station because I wanted to go home. ■■■■ came and picked me up from the police station and I was drunk. It was the first experience I really had with alcohol, with spirits.
73. I wasn't with ■■■■ for too long, maybe six months. I think that ■■■■ had had enough. I don't think it was too long after that I went back home.

Children's Panel hearings

74. I went in front of Children's Panels a couple of times. I think I was a teenager at the panels I remember. That would have been after ■■■■'s. I don't remember any panels before I lived at ■■■■ the second time.
75. I don't remember attending any meetings with social workers, I don't remember any case conferences. I just remember the panels. Most of the times that I saw the social worker it was because there had been an incident and they came out.

Unknown foster care

76. There was another foster carer that I went to but I just don't know when I was with her. I remember she had loads of gnomes in her garden and she had a four poster bed with netting all over it and the room was all cluttered with toys. I wasn't with her for too long, about two or three weeks when I was a teenager.

Return to family care 1992

77. When I went back to my dad's house after staying with [REDACTED] I got the mickey taken out of me because I was talking properly. I was back with my dad for about a year before I went to stay with PF - GKN [REDACTED]
78. My sister [REDACTED] and I didn't have much contact when we were younger because my dad's side of the family took [REDACTED] and I was with my mum's side of the family. The two families didn't have a great relationship because of what was going on with my mum and dad. I didn't see [REDACTED] for a long time, not until I was a teenager. Even then I was jealous of the relationship she had with my dad and she was jealous of the relationship I had with my mum. That caused a lot of friction for a long time.
79. My dad was an alcoholic and so was my step mum. My mum and my step-dad liked a good drink too so it was pretty chaotic. Sometimes there wasn't any food on the table because my dad had drunk and gambled all the money. He had to phone up the social workers and get money off them for food and stuff.
80. My dad used to hit us and one night I ran from the house at [REDACTED] to Methilhill Police Station. I had handprint marks on my arm. The police said to me that my parents were allowed to chastise me. I didn't even know what that meant at the time. They took me home but I begged them to stay. I said that the minute they took me into the house I was going to get a doing.
81. I remember seeing the police car driving away and my dad coming through the house. I got a really bad battering that night, to the point that my sister [REDACTED] hit my dad to stop him from hitting me. She had never seen it before, she had never got involved before. She had only heard me talking about because my dad was good at battering me when it was only him and [REDACTED] my step-mother, that were there. I think it was not long after that I plucked up the courage to tell the school what was going on.
82. Every time the social workers came on board it was because my dad wasn't coping. It was never because of what we were telling the social workers, about getting battered

or whatever. There were a number of times I told them I was getting battered and it was just swept under the carpet. If my son was to go to school now and say that I had battered him I would have social workers at my door and rightly so. Back then it just wasn't like that. It felt like none of us had a voice. It wasn't just me, there was my step-brother [REDACTED] too. He really suffered at the hands of my dad as well.

83. Me, [REDACTED] and my two younger step-siblings had ran away from my dad's because we were getting battered. My dad caught us and took us back home. He nailed down all the windows with twelve inch nails. I was a teenager, I was getting a bit braver, and I said to my dad, "If I get the chance I'm still going to run away and tell somebody how you treat us." He made me and [REDACTED] strip all our clothes off in front of each other and made us sit wrapped in a towel. When we said that we would still run away the towels got taken off us.
84. I remember I made a run for the door but my dad got me. He started battering me. He was bending my toes back and I was screaming. I don't know where he plucked up the courage from but my step-brother [REDACTED] actually jumped on my dad's back. He must have been so scared to do that. I was scared after verbally standing up to my dad but for [REDACTED] to do that must have been a big thing for him.
85. We told the social workers about that incident and then got put into care. There was an emergency panel and it was decided that I should go into foster care. There were two panels, one for me and one for [REDACTED] We went into care on the same day. I don't know if I told someone at school about it or I got a hold of Dave Deaton. I wasn't interviewed by the police about that incident.

Peter Forbes (PF) and GKN

Foster care, [REDACTED]

1992

86. I instantly took to [REDACTED] ^{GKN} because she was pretty cool. I don't know if they got a background of what I had been through but she let me smoke. She used to take me shopping. I remember one day I said that I liked the look of the pair of jeans she had on and she took me out and bought me a pair. That's the kind of person she was.

Routine at PF - GKN Foster care

First day

87. I remember Dave Deaton drove me to PF - GKN house. It was before Christmas that I went there, but it wasn't snowing. I remember drawing up in the car where there was a gravel bit you could turn your car at the side of the house. I think there were garages there. I'm sure that when I turned thirteen years old, Pete turned fifty years old.
88. I didn't know what to think when I arrived because PF - GKN seemed like an old couple. They were older than my mum and dad. The house looked nice, it was homely. Pete and GKN were warm and friendly. I called them GKN and Pete.
89. I went inside and asked if I could put the TV on. She said there was a really good film on and I should watch it, so I did, and it was really good. I think she must have had it recorded because I watched over and over again for the next five days.
90. GKN and Pete stayed in a street called [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. It was an end terrace house. When you went in the front door there was a set of stairs on the right hand side leading up to the bathroom and two bedrooms. Along the hall on the ground floor to the left was the living room and then the kitchen.
91. As well as GKN and Pete staying in the house and when I went there, there was a baby called [REDACTED] who was just a few weeks old. She was being fostered but she went after a week or two.
92. GKN and Pete had three children and two sets of grandchildren, and two of their children stayed in the same street. I wouldn't really say that Pete or GKN was the main carer, they were both equal. I ended up spending more time with Pete but GKN didn't know that. A lot of that was hidden from her.

Mornings and bedtime

93. I had to be up early, about 7.00 am. I was still in mainstream education so I had to get driven to Buckhaven High School. It ended up being Pete who would get me up in the morning and all that sort of stuff.

Mealtimes/Food

94. I liked the food they gave me. I missed my tea a lot of the time at night because I was meeting Pete so I would just get crisps and stuff from the shops. I would never have gone in to the kitchen and helped myself to food because I wasn't used to that, I wasn't allowed to do that. I would have asked first.

Washing/bathing

95. I could have a shower whenever I wanted. There wasn't any expectation put on me as to how often that should be.

Clothing/uniform

96. I think they got an allowance from social work. They took me for clothes straight away when I got there. That happened a lot with my foster placements. I did get to choose my own clothes.

Trips and holidays

97. We didn't go on any trips. We went on holiday once, to Spain. We didn't go to the pictures or anything like that.

Schooling

98. **GKN** drove me to school for the first couple of days, then Pete drove me every day and picked me up.

99. To begin with, I used to go to school without any problem but then Pete would sometimes try to kiss me as I was getting out of the car and sometimes it was in an inappropriate manner. Some of the kids in my class were picking up on that and started to tease me, "Is that your boyfriend?" I started to get picked on at school and then it came out that I was in foster care. I got picked on for that so I started to play truant from school. I started not going to my classes. I don't know if the social worker got told about that.
100. Pete would keep a lot of that from GKN, the bother that was happening at school. He kept a lot of that to himself. I don't know if that fed back to the social work department.

Healthcare

101. I think I went to the optician's when I was staying with Pete and GKN I had operations prior to going to live with Pete and GKN. There may have been a follow up appointment when I was living with them.
102. Pete and GKN did take me to the dentist. I got my wisdom teeth taken out when I was there. I had two teeth above my canines, like vampire teeth almost, and I had them taken out. That was at a dentist in Markinch.

Religious instruction

103. Religion didn't play a part in Peter Forbes (PF) and GKN house. Religion had never played a part in my life before then either.

Work

104. I had to do the dishes and keep my room tidy. I had to do chores at most of my foster care placements. I had to do more in some placements and less in others. I have

always been quite helpful and I would offer to help. I did get pocket money at PF - GKN
PF - GKN house but I can't remember everything I was expected to do.

Birthdays and Christmas

105. I think my birthday was acknowledged at PF - GKN house. Christmas was a bit awkward because Pete bought me an underwear set. I hadn't developed physically at that time and it was the kind of underwear that a woman in her twenties or thirties would wear, not a young lassie. I had other gifts from them too.
106. Pete got me a onesie as well. He took photographs of me in that and said the reason he took them was because you could see my underwear through the onesie. I don't know if he kept those photographs. I can't remember if that underwear was a gift from just Pete, or if it was from both of them but I was embarrassed. I had never worn anything like that.

Bed Wetting

107. I had stopped wetting the bed by the time I was nine years old, when I stayed in
with my mum and my step-dad

Visitors

108. I don't know if I was allowed visitors but I don't remember anyone visiting me ever at
PF - GKN house

Review of care / detention

109. Dave Deaton was still my social worker when I was at PF - GKN house. I remember he smoke a pipe in the car, when you were in the car with him. The minute he got in his car, he lit his pipe up. It was horrible, the smell was in my hair and in my clothes. I hated it.

110. I remember being apprehensive about telling Dave Deaton anything because I knew he would tell my dad, nothing would get done, and I would get a battering afterwards. So there wasn't really any point in telling him anything.

Family contact

111. I think I got to go home once or twice when I was at [PF - GKN] house. I think there was still stuff going on between my mum and dad, who were living just round the corner from one another so it wasn't safe. Now that I think of it, I never saw much of my family when I was in foster care.

Running away

112. I did run away from [PF - GKN] house a couple of times. Just because of everything was going on. For one thing, it was getting on top of me what was being said to me at school. It was obvious to other bairns at school what was going on with Pete. And for another thing, I wanted to be back with my family. I didn't run away to strangers houses, I just ran back home to my mum's or my dad's house. I would just be away overnight.
113. I would just get caught and taken straight back. I think one time it was the police who took me back, and another time the social worker came and picked me up from my mum's house.

Abuse at [PF - GKN] Foster placement

114. Pete came into my room one night when I had only been there a few days. He kissed me on the forehead when I was asleep. I felt his lips on my head. The next morning I went to say that it was nice when he did that but I felt this kick under the table. It was Pete. It was obviously to get me to shut up. [GKN] never said anything, she didn't ask me to finish my sentence. Nothing was said. That was the start of his weird behaviour.

115. Within days of that, Pete came into my room wearing a towel and he completely dropped his towel. Then he picked the towel up, put it on himself, and walked out. It just progressed from there. He started feeling my bum whenever I would walk passed, things like that. Then he started taking me to school every morning. He started telling me that he couldn't help it, he had feelings for me, he had fallen in love with me. He knew I was young and it had never happened to him before but he kept telling me that he loved me. I think from there he had me hook, line, and sinker.
116. He would give me extra fags and money when I went to school. I think that was his way of trying to keep me quiet. He started asking me to meet him at work. He would get me to tell GKN that I was going to see a pal after school and have my tea with them. I would meet him at the top of [REDACTED] and he would take me back up to his place of work. Then he would take me home at the right time.
117. When we went to Pete's place of work he sexually abused me. He would do it in a way where I got to do things that I liked. If I went through with doing the things he wanted to do, afterwards I would get to drive his car. He knew I was desperate to drive his car and there was a big empty car park at his work. That was the routine but he had two or three different places of work. He was a security guard.
118. When Pete and I walked into the office, the guy from the previous shift was there. Why didn't he ever think there was something going on? I wasn't developed, I didn't start developing until I was about fifteen or sixteen years old so why the alarm bells didn't start ringing with the other guy I don't know. It was the same guy every time. I don't know if Pete introduced me to him. The first couple of times I saw him I felt embarrassed. I knew in my head that the age difference between me and Pete wasn't right. But he convinced me that we had a proper relationship.
119. We tried sexual intercourse once but it was too painful for me so we never ever did it again. It was him doing oral to me and me doing the same back to him.
120. GKN never suspected anything that whole time. She never asked me once where my pal stayed that I was supposed to be visiting or anything like that. She must have taken

it for granted that I was telling her the truth. Pete was putting Temazepam in her coffee so she would be asleep when he came upstairs to do things to me. I saw Pete doing that a couple of times. They were like little eggs and he would pierce them and pour the liquid into her coffee. She never knew any of what went on.

121. The abuse by Pete went on until the following [REDACTED] when we went to Spain. I went there with Pete, [GKN] one of their daughters, her husband, and the two grandchildren. Pete, [GKN] and I were in one hotel and their daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren were in another hotel across the road. [GKN] left the hotel room to go over and see her daughter. She must have forgotten something because she came back a lot quicker than Pete was anticipating.
122. [GKN] walked in the room and caught him kissing and fondling me. She didn't go for him, she actually went for me. I had to get a knife out of the drawer and put her onto the balcony because I thought she was going to kill me. I locked the door and ran out into the streets of Spain to find a police officer. I found one but he couldn't help me, he didn't have a clue what I was saying because I had a thick Fife accent. He took me back to [PF - GKN]. He took me back to [GKN].
123. [GKN] took me into the daughter's hotel room and locked me in there for what felt like two days and two nights until the social workers arrived. Two social workers from Leven social work department had to fly out to Spain and get me. Dave Deaton was one of them and Kate Cameron was the other one.
124. When the hotel room door opened I felt like they had rescued me. [GKN] daughter had made me sleep on a tiled floor, in front of the open fridge door with nothing to eat or drink. She took the handles off the inside of the hotel room doors so I couldn't escape. The whole time she was telling me that if it wasn't for the fact that she had two daughters, she would be doing life for me. I was terrified so when the social workers turned up I started to tell them everything they had done to me. I think they just wanted to get me out of there.

Leaving Peter Forbes (PF) and GKN **Foster care**

125. I don't know if we stayed another night in Spain or went straight to the airport but I remember we took three different planes to get home. When we got back to Scotland, I went straight to my next foster placement, to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Reporting of abuse at the PF - GKN **Foster care**

126. The Child Protection Unit were involved about the abuse by Pete Forbes. I think the police were speaking to me straight away when I got back from Spain. I was thirteen years old at that time.
127. After leaving PF - GKN foster care, when I was going to school, Pete Forbes was still meeting up with me. At that time you could go to registration, get marked in, and then skive off. I would end up playing truant from school with my friend. Pete knew where I would go for lunch and he just turned up one day. He started meeting up with me after that. Pete was in my head, he was saying that if I told them anything about what we had been doing that he would be getting put away and I would never see him again. We used to go up to an old farmhouse on Percival Road. My friends would wait in the car and we would go in and do stuff.
128. I only told the Child Protection Unit a fraction of what they already knew. As far as I can remember there were only one or two meetings with the police because I wouldn't tell them anything. They knew what GKN had seen and I think I told them some stuff so they had an idea but when they asked me again I would go back on what I said. I definitely didn't tell them everything.
129. Pete Forbes kept writing to me at my mum's address the whole time after that, when he was in prison and when he was living at an address in Fife on bail. I wasn't staying with my mum at that time and she didn't tell me about the letters at the time. She didn't even ask me about why he was writing these letters. My mum only handed these

letters back to me about six years ago. That led to me reporting things, which is when I found out that Pete had died.

130. Pete got done with Lewd and Libidinous behaviour, he pleaded guilty. That's why he was in prison but I don't know how long he got. I didn't have to go to court. I didn't have any contact with GKN after that, other than her trying to run me and my mum over one day outside Kwiksave. She mounted the kerb but I think she was trying to give us a fright, I don't think she was trying to hit us. I think her daughter might have been in the car with her, I can't be sure, but it was definitely GKN who was driving. I didn't report that incident to the police. Apart from that I didn't have any other contact with GKN
131. I was given a bit of paper with lawyers names on it. There was one female on it, all the rest were male, so I picked her. That was for the criminal injuries side of things. That was the social worker that gave me that, not my mum or dad. That was the only support I was given about what Pete did. The police were involved obviously. I wasn't really aware what the lawyer was for until I went up to see her. I don't even know if I was told then. I remember money being discussed, that it would be getting put away until I was eighteen years old. I got an award of £6000. My dad took the first offer. The money was put in the bank and by the time I got it when I was eighteen years old, there was a few hundred pounds of interest. I wish I hadn't been given that money when I was eighteen, I wish I was given it later in life. I could have done so much more with it.
132. After that happened with PF - GKN I tried to tell my social worker about a memory I had about my dad from but that was swept under the carpet as well. I think some of my behaviour growing up stems from the incidents where I was sexually abused by my dad, then my step-uncle Secondary Institutions - to be published later Also, the second time we stayed in someone along the road was sexually abusing me and my wee sister. It's like it has happened to me time and time again.

█ and █ Foster care, █ Glenrothes 1994 to 1995

133. As soon as I came back from Spain, I went to stay with █ and █ when I was thirteen years old. They lived in █ Glenrothes. They were lovely people. He was a social worker and she was a child minder.

Routine at █ and █

First day

134. When I went there I had my own room. My room was kitted out like a proper kid's room. It had a bunk bed with a chest of drawers under it and a work station. I had a television and cable TV. I couldn't believe it. When they took me to show my room I was over the moon. Their family were lovely too. They had younger kids, younger than me. They just made me feel really welcome. I felt valued and loved.

Mornings and bedtime

135. █ was always asking me if I was OK, if I needed any help with anything. She kept a nice house. The clothes were all ironed and folded. The cupboards were all full. They gave me a lot of skills that I used in later life, especially when I became a parent myself. █ had a lot of patience with me.

Mealtimes/Food

136. That was one house I did feel I could help myself to things, make some toast or have a packet of crisps when I wanted. The dinner was always cooked on time. They were just like a proper family should be.

Clothing/uniform

137. [REDACTED] took me out the first week to get clothes. When I left Spain, I left with nothing so I had to start again. She must have spent some of her own money on that shopping trip because she bought me five track suits, two pairs of trainers, and a baseball cap. It was all stuff like Reebok, dear sports stuff. She spent an awful lot of money on all new stuff for me. She was just so loving and nurturing.

Trips and holidays

138. [REDACTED] was a scout leader so when they went away to camp, we got to go with them as a family. I got to experience all the outdoor stuff.
139. I went on a few holidays with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We went to Flamingo land.

Review of care

140. I don't remember seeing any social workers out at any of the houses of my foster carers. I think there was a review meeting when I was at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but it wasn't at their house. I don't know if it was the Town House in Glenrothes. That's where the children's panels were held.
141. At the panels I would have been asked how I felt about staying at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] or at my dad's, or wherever. The decision that was going to be made that day, I would be asked how I felt about it. That's if they asked, sometimes it was just mum and dad talking. As I got older, they asked me more questions. My social worker would be at the review meetings, and the foster carers. Maybe one other social worker too.

Running away

142. I did run away a couple of times at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I started hanging about with a guy from Glasgow, he was a good bit older than me. I started running away to hang about with him at night.

Discipline

143. I did what I wanted because I knew that [REDACTED] was a big softy, I knew I wasn't going to get hit. I probably wouldn't even get grounded for doing something. She probably would have just sat and explained to me what the consequences of my actions could have been. That was the type of approach she took. She wasn't strict, she was just a really nice person. They have been a big influence on my life.
144. I was probably putting them as a family at risk. I was putting myself at risk and their youngest daughter was starting to copy my behaviour. She was really fond of me and she was starting to copy my behaviour and being cheeky to her mum.
145. Because of what I had been through, I was going through a difficult time. [REDACTED] put up with a lot of stuff because I went off the rails, to the extent that they had to put me somewhere else to get respite from me.

Abuse at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s foster care

146. Pete was still meeting up with me at Buckhaven high school. My head was really messed up. The only person that knew I was meeting him was my pal [REDACTED]. Pete wasn't supposed to be anywhere near me. He would park his car down at Methilhill and I would meet him at a gap in the fence behind the janitor's house.
147. I would skip school and then go back to school to get picked up by my driver. I had a volunteer driver who would pick me up from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s, take me to school, and take me home. Then Pete stopped coming up to the school to see me. That must have been when he got sentenced but he kept writing to my mum's, although I didn't get the letters from my mum until years later. I gave them to the police when I made a report to them.

Leaving [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s Foster care

148. I was only with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for a year. The relationship broke down within a year, if that. I wasn't used to that type of nurturing and I really took advantage of it.
149. I went away for a three week period for them to get respite from me but my behaviour didn't get any better, it escalated. I was putting myself too much at risk to go back to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
150. I did ask them if I would be able to stay with them after I was sixteen and they said I could, as long as I was still there when I was sixteen, so I was gutted when I was sent to Rumbleton and I was told I wasn't getting to go back because my behaviour hadn't changed, it hadn't got any better.
151. They were a really nice family. I am still in touch with them today. I keep in contact with them on Facebook.

Rumbleton House, Glenrothes 1995 to 1997

152. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

170. I think it was the social worker who told me that they had found me a landlady in Leven, an older lady with a room. They arranged that for me. I was to pay so much from my benefits but I think maybe the social work department had paid her for me to stay there for so long. After one week I met someone so I ended up moving out of there and I never really heard from the social workers after that, apart from when I was put on probation as an adult, or when I turned up at the social work in Leven when I was eighteen years old, looking for my Criminal Injuries Compensation money.
171. I became a heroin addict, just prior to turning sixteen years old. Heroin helped me forget about all the stuff I had been through. It helped me cope but I didn't abuse alcohol. I think watching what my mum and dad went through with alcohol put me off drinking.
172. I turned to prostitution in my early twenties. My life was pretty hectic after I left care, up until I had my son when I was 28 years old. Life has still been hectic since then but it has been a lot better. I have tried to turn things around and provide a stable life for my son. It has been difficult. I have relapsed a few times and I have found myself in a couple of relationships which have not been healthy.
173. I am now living in a council tenancy with my son. I would say I am on the path to recovery. I am reducing my Methadone prescription and I am hoping to be off it this year so I can put in for my driving license.

Impact

174. It is difficult for me to separate the impact of what happened to me in care from the impact of what happened to me at home because they both impacted upon me jointly.
175. I feel that my mum and my dad are both responsible for a lot of the times I was in care. They should have kept me a lot safer when I was younger.

176. My relationship with my mum hasn't been great. We are trying to get there. She has had a lot of issues with anxiety, she doesn't deal well with stuff. I told my mum about my dad sexually abusing me before I told the social workers. And I told her about the time my step-uncle abused me. She never reported it, ever. Now that it's all going to court she is trying to do the right thing but she is still finding it really difficult.
177. I started speaking to my dad again not long after I had my son. People couldn't understand that, I couldn't understand it myself. People must have looked at that and thought, "Why would she speak to him if he had done that to her?" but it is not as black and white as that.
178. The relationship with my siblings has been impacted upon greatly because me and my siblings have not had the opportunity to bond properly. There has been that much separation between us when we were growing up. Me and my sister are only getting to know each other now, probably over the last twelve years, since we have both become mum's. We have got a much better relationship now. I would say she is more of a mum to me now than my mum is. She tries to be there for me as much as she can.
179. I have got a bit of a messed-up relationship with my second youngest brother because he didn't want to believe that my dad had sexually abused me. However, a few months after my dad died, my brother's daughter came forward and said that my dad had been doing things to her as well. She was five or six years old at the time. I feel sorry for her and it is bound to be strange for my brother as well. My brother is trying to repair what was broken between me and him. I feel sorry for him.
180. I think that my relationships have been impacted by being in care. I just can't hold down a relationship down. I trust them too much too soon. I seem to trust the wrong type of people very quickly. It is my downfall. I have never had a sex drive. It is not something that I enjoy doing, it is not something that I want to do. I don't know if it is because of what I have experienced that has made me like that or if I just don't have a libido.

181. I think about my time in care quite a lot. I have experienced a lot of similarities in seeing my son going to school and it takes me back. My last two relationships were violent, not just physically but mentally. It impacted a lot on my son. A lot of the behaviour I now see in my son triggers me.
182. I get flashbacks. I get physical pains down there. Smells can trigger it, certain songs, or areas. Even cars, all types of weird things can set it off.

Treatment/support

183. I have spoken about these things a few times. I have spoken to my sister about it but not gone into details. I have been to KASP, the Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project, a few times. I have spoken to my drugs counsellor about it. The detailed stuff I haven't spoken about but the overall bigger picture I have on a few occasions so that doesn't bother me so much.
184. I was working with an organisation called Future Pathways. I was getting telephone counselling from them. I was getting counselling through my doctor but I had relapsed at the time so she wanted to wait until I was back on my prescription again because my lifestyle had become chaotic again and she wanted me to be able to feel my emotions for it to work. I am on a prescription for Mirtazapine, for depression and sleeping. I am on my Methadone as well.
185. I have also dealt with a group called KASP. I used to work with them, but I stopped working with them, when the lady came out from KASP. I was telling her about the abuse from PF - GKN. She told me that she worked for Leven social work department at the time and could remember everything that was going on. I just never went back to them after that.

186. When I was in Rimbleton House I did a life story thing. I went back to Playfield House and some of the foster placements I had been in. I took pictures and I did a story and we burned it at the end. It was an experience going back to some of those places.

Reporting of Abuse

187. I have already given a detailed statement to the police about what Pete Forbes did to me. The only wrong that GKN did to me was when she caught Pete doing what he was doing in the hotel in Spain. She should have safeguarded me and not tried to make out that I was the one who had caused it all. Her and her daughter were saying to me that whole weekend that I had ruined [REDACTED] but I was only thirteen years old. Pete had ruined [REDACTED] not me.
188. What made me worried about contacting the Inquiry was somebody is bound to wonder how can this happen to somebody so many times?
189. Although I was given Criminal Injuries Compensation for the abuse by Pete Forbes that I reported, I have never sought compensation for the other abuse that happened to me in care. I also didn't tell the police everything about Pete Forbes at the time.
190. I gave another statement to the police when my mum handed me the letters that Pete Forbes sent to me at her home address. They have said that it will stay on file and at least if anyone else comes forward in the future, that might help them.
191. I have sent my application form off to the redress scheme. When my friend told me about the redress scheme, I thought the police would need to know everything that happened so I contacted them again at the end of 2021. I told them that my friend was with me when I skived off school to meet Pete Forbes as I thought they might need to investigate everything. I told them about other abuse that happened to me in care as well. I reported my step-uncle at the same time too. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Records

192. I remember going for one medical examination when I was a teenager. I think that was when I was in Rimbleton House.

Lessons to be learned

193. Always listen to what kids tell you because it may not be 100% the truth but there is going to be a bit of truth in there somewhere. Kids should always be listened to over the adults because adults are good manipulators and liars. I used to get battered before children's panels and my dad would say, "Mention that at the panel and you will get it again when you come back." so I wouldn't mention it at the panel.
194. When I told the social worker my dad was sexually abusing me, I was made to feel like I wasn't believed. Nothing was done about it. I wasn't interviewed by the police or anything like that. It was a big thing for social work not to quiz that.
195. There were maybe patterns in my behaviour, like running away or not going to school but I was never asked why I was behaving like that. I think they automatically assumed I was trying to be a pain. I would agree with the suggestion that professionals should be a lot more actively curious about what is going on.
196. As I mentioned, I never got to meet my foster carers in advance of going to stay with them. I think that would have been a really good idea. I don't know if they do that now but it would be good to meet a family first, rather than being dropped off at their door with your bags.
197. There should be more unplanned visits on families by social workers as well. I don't think they do enough of them. If there is something going on, the person responsible

would have everything in place by the time the social workers came round for a planned visit.

198. I don't have any particular comment to make about the high number of placements I was put in. It is what it is. I had a good experience with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I felt safe with them, so I have got that to be thankful for. If I hadn't had all the other placements, I wouldn't have been with them but I don't think it was beneficial for me to have all those placements. I never ever felt settled. I never felt like I was going somewhere to stay for good, I knew I wasn't going to be there long.

Hopes for the Inquiry

199. I know you can't get everything right in every single case due to circumstances but there have been a few kids who have died in recent years and that is really sad and it could have been prevented. Like I have said, people should listen to children. When a cause for concern is raised they should look under every stone until there are no more stones to look under.
200. Being in care is not necessarily a bad thing, it can protect children, but there needs to be protection put in place to make sure that if children are put in care, that they are properly looked after and they don't come to harm.

Other information

201. 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... ^{GKO} [REDACTED]

Dated... 07.03.2022