

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

FCZ

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FCZ My date of birth is 1952. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was born in Singapore. My dad was in the army at the time. My sister FDA was born there too. I have no memory of life there. There were ten of us altogether, but two have passed away. There are four boys and there were six girls in my family. I am number five. We moved back to Scotland when I was a toddler, probably no more than two years old. We moved about a bit, but mainly Dundee. We lived in Stirling, I remember one time being in Fintry, but mainly Stirling and Dundee. The one below me, FDB wasn't born in Singapore.
3. My mother had a child practically every year, apart from the oldest and youngest, who were just over a year between the ones next to them. We have a lot of birthdays between March and October as there isn't much between us. My mum wasn't a big person and enough was enough with my dad who was an alcoholic. She left one night. I remember it even though I was only young. She said she was going to clean my Uncle's house, who was her brother. It was a number of years before we saw her again.
4. I remember living with my mum. We didn't have much money because of my dad's drinking. Mum kept a clean house though. It was only a one or two bedroom house

for all of us. She always made a fresh pot of soup every day because there was a lot more nourishment in that. I know that because my older sister told me.

5. Nine of us went into care. The youngest was a baby. I think an aunt brought her up in Stirling. We were left with my dad. He had two aunties to help. I don't remember their names. If it was for a couple of months, that was all. I wouldn't say my dad tried to look after us, I'd say the aunts tried. He'd spend his time in the pub. He left before we went into care and was never seen again. Then the aunts left. I don't even remember them. I think it was a neighbour who called the social services.
6. We went to what we called 'the shelter' in Dundee for about two weeks. After a short time the six oldest, **FBS**, **FBV**, **FDA** me and **FDB** all went to **FDA** to a foster parent. **FDA** and I were there the longest. At least four years.

**Mrs BGC** - Foster care

7. I was seven when I moved into foster care. I had just turned seven the month before, because we fathomed out it was around **FDA** as it was a wintry, stormy night. It was really wild weather. It was across the road from the beach and the water was very rough.
8. The woman we went to hadn't fostered children before she got us, so why she got six children, I don't know. It seemed fine when we arrived. I think it was Dundee social work that organised it. We were taken from the shelter. I don't know who took us. Her name was Mrs **BGC** we were to call her Auntie **BGC** I don't know what her first name was. Her husband was dead. She had two sons, **FCC** and **LAR** living at home and a daughter **FJP** **FJP** actually moved round the corner when she got married. She was so cruel. Mrs **BGC** also took in lodgers.
9. The shelter had been good. We enjoyed the shelter. We were taken to **FDA** by the social work. They were shown the rooms we'd be sleeping in and it looked really good. We just thought, this looks really comfortable. When the social

work went away we were all put into this little maid's room at the back of the house, behind the kitchen. There was one double bed in it, the boys were at one end and the girls at the other. All the stuff and rooms that she'd shown the social work weren't for us. They were for the lodgers and her two sons.

10. The address was [REDACTED]. It had four bedrooms upstairs, a dining room/ sitting room for the lodgers and a bedroom in between that, where she slept. There was another sitting room and a small kitchen with the maid's room at the back.
11. Eventually the bed disappeared and the mattress fell on the floor. We slept there. FBS [REDACTED] was there for just over a year, and then we didn't see her again. She had special needs. I can't say this for definite but I think she was abused by my dad, because she wasn't his daughter. I had a different dad. We didn't know this until later on in life.
12. It was tea time onwards when we got there on the first day. It was winter time, so it was dark. I can't remember specifically what happened on the first night. We just did what we were told and went where we were told. When you're young, you are wary of people you don't know. I don't remember an awful lot about my first full day there.

#### **Routine at Mrs BGC [REDACTED]**

13. I remember a lot that went on throughout our time there, but day by day I'm not sure. We ended up being slaves to her. The typical day was cleaning and making food. We got up at 6:00 am. She would unlock the door and let us out. If we needed the toilet during the day we went outside to the toilet under the house. We weren't allowed to use the toilet in the house. At night it was a bucket in the room as we were locked in. We went to bed about 10:00 pm onwards and the room door was always locked.
14. We got dressed then got the table set for the lodgers and helped cook the food. Her two sons were upstairs. She had a long term lodger, he was nice. He used to tell us stories. I can't remember names. There was a part time lodger who would stay when

he had business in the area. When the Tay Road Bridge was being built she took in four lodgers, two in each room. So all the bedrooms were taken and her sons moved downstairs to the bedroom between the dining room/sitting room. So there were six lodgers. Mrs BGC's younger son LAR and his girlfriend were nice to us, then they got married. When she wasn't around he'd let us watch the television. As soon as we knew she was back, we'd scurry back into our room.

15. I don't know where our clothes came from. I imagine it would have been the authorities. When I was in [REDACTED] we got a note to get clothes from the Co-op so it must have been something similar.

#### *Food*

16. We weren't fed well, so when we made the toast, we'd cut a slither of for us to eat. We then cleared up before school. She sent one of us to the bakers to get rolls, milk and bread before the lodgers were ready for their breakfast. While at the bakers we would steal a couple of rolls and eat them on the way to school between the five of us. FBS went to a different school. We stole milk from doorsteps. I can't remember what we had for breakfast.
17. After the lodgers ate, I think we got whatever scraps were left to eat, but I'm not sure at what time. She would doctor food, like biscuits, with mustard or other horrible stuff, so that we wouldn't eat them. But we thought, then nobody can eat them.
18. I know we were fed to a certain extent, but I can't recall what the food was like. The food was scarce, hence we'd steal the rolls to survive.

#### *Schooling*

19. We went to [REDACTED] primary school in [REDACTED] I can't remember if we came home from school at lunchtime. It was about a ten minute walk. After school I would walk back with [REDACTED] FDA We took our time because we were always petrified to go home.
20. School was brilliant we also went to church with the school. I was seven when I went there. I think we had a different teacher each year. They were kind to us. I think in a way the school knew there was something wrong but in those days it wasn't reported. We were happy there and I was good at school but she would keep us off if she needed us to babysit her daughter's children. In those days I don't think she had to write a note to the school about the absence.
21. We went to church on Sunday. She sent us there but we were happy to go because we were away from her. Being in her space was not nice. It was Church of Scotland I think. She didn't go with us. She had something to do with the church, whether it was the same one we went to, we don't know. We didn't see her there.

*Visits/inspections*

22. My mum visited us a couple of times, maybe a year to eighteen months after we moved there. This was organised through the social services. We went out, had a walk for an hour or two.
23. The social work came out to [REDACTED] but they spoke to Mrs [REDACTED] BGC not us. I'm not sure how often. Maybe once a year. We weren't aware they were coming. She showed the social work the bedrooms we were meant to be sleeping in but those were where the lodgers slept. I couldn't tell you who the social worker was.

*Birthdays/Christmas*

24. At Christmas time we would go round to her daughter's house and do the cooking for them. We weren't allowed to eat until they were done, then we would get the scraps. We didn't get any presents at Christmas or for our birthday.

25. My mum knew that FDA and I wanted a watch. She got to see us a couple of times a year. She got us both a watch but Mrs BGC took them from us and we never saw them again. We didn't even get them on our wrists.

*Washing/bathing*

26. We would wash in the kitchen. There was a big white sink. My brother FDB wet the bed a bit. He was a year younger than me. He was knocked down by a lorry when he was three and was traumatised. More than a couple of times FDA and I had to throw him into the sea naked if he wet the bed or Mrs BGC would put him into an ice cold sink of water. So he was even more traumatised. I can't remember ever getting a bath. We washed in the kitchen. It wasn't a big kitchen. It's something I can't even remember. I know we washed as we would have to be clean for school but there are things that just get put aside. It's all the traumatic things I remember.

*Medical attention*

27. I have no memory of ever seeing a doctor. I was at hospital once. I had a bottle of coke, a glass bottle. Along with FDA and FDB I tried to break it and cut my hand. I went to hospital to get it stitched. One of her sons took me.

28. We never went to see a dentist. I don't know if we ever brushed our teeth.

*Leisure Time/Holidays*

29. There was no play time, except at school. If she was going out we would maybe get out because she wouldn't want us in the house. She always kept the pantry locked.
30. It was fine when we were taking the dogs for a walk but it didn't happen very often. We just tried to keep ourselves out of her way. Sometimes we would get out and go for a walk or go down to the beach, but it was few and far between. She had a small garden at the front and a shared garden at the back of the house.

31. She never let us watch television. We had no books or comics. The department sent us a bike once. It was brand new. She sold it to one of the lodgers. We never got the use of it.
32. I think one time we went to some hill to roll Easter eggs. That was the only trip. I can't remember but my sister told me.
33. The weekends were spent cleaning, preparing food and doing bits and bobs. She might be kind enough now and again to let us go over the road to get rid of us.
34. On the odd occasion we got out. There was a girl who stayed in the house around the corner, we were friendly with her. There were cottages where children from our school stayed. We spoke to them but we never really got out that much. I think some of the neighbours knew what was happening, but they wouldn't report it.
35. We were sent on holiday twice for a week by the authorities. I think we were all there, I'm not 100% sure. We went to stay with a family in East Wemys, who had kids and we went to Arbroath and stayed with a family who had kids. It was brilliant we didn't have to cower in case you got thumped.

#### *Siblings*

36. FBS was there for about a year and a bit. She just left and we never saw her again. I don't know where she went at the time. Years later we met up. We found out she lived in Dover by this time. I don't know where she went from the house.
37. The boys were taken away one at a time or something like that. They were quite quick in leaving and we never saw them again either. Years later FDA looked for them and we all met up. For about two years FDA and I were the only ones there, so we had to do all the work.
38. My younger siblings were who was five, who was four and who was three. We got taken to see them twice. The social work took us. The first

time was to a home, past Edinburgh. I can't remember the second one. [REDACTED] told us that they had a good life. She stays near FDA, [REDACTED] died and [REDACTED] is a pain in the butt.

39. We never saw [REDACTED] the baby, ever again. She died in her early forties. So [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are both dead.

#### Abuse at Mrs BGC [REDACTED]

40. When we got home from school we got changed out of our uniforms then did more work. We made dinner, more housework, cleaned toilets. I don't think she did anything herself. There were two dogs there too. It would be late before we got to bed. Maybe not midnight but quite late by the time we had done everything she made us do. We were their slaves.
41. We all had specific jobs. I had to clean the toilets. Somebody would make the beds, Hoover, and clean the kitchen and the dining room. The lodger's beds were made by us every day. It could have been any time between them going to work and coming home for tea. Although FDB [REDACTED] only had [REDACTED] he still had to do what he could. She didn't have a heart.
42. Sometimes we didn't step out of line. We didn't have to do anything and her or her son FCC or daughter FJP would give us a punch or a slap for no reason, out of the blue. They knew where to hit you, they wouldn't hit you on the face or any part of the body that was on show. It was always the shoulder or a slap across the back of the head.
43. FCC and FJP would just punch or slap you as you walked by them. They were adults. Maybe in their late twenties. I wouldn't know at that age.
44. Mrs BGC battered me for stealing something out of a frying pan. I didn't even do it. It was a chop and I don't like meat. It was my brother that took it, not me, but I wouldn't tell her. I didn't take the blame, she just blamed me. I got really hurt. The punching I



- got was really painful. I kept telling her that I hadn't done it. It depended on what you were getting it for. It was constant, for anything that annoyed her, even if it wasn't anything to do with us, not just for things that we did wrong.
45. She was given pocket money for us but we never got anything. When we moved to our other foster house we got pocket money. She couldn't take anything else from us except self-confidence, self-respect and dignity. We were spoken to like we were dirt you sweep from the carpet. There was viciousness in her voice.
46. If we were at the shop getting messages, the lodgers would say hello. One bought FDA and I a chocolate bar. FDA put hers in her pocket. I was eating mine and FJP walked down the street and took it from me. In their eyes we weren't allowed things like that. We saw the lodgers at meal times and if they were at the shops when we were there.
47. Mrs BGC made us go and pick fruit from the old railway line. People would have overgrown trees. The train came once a day at one o'clock, so we were careful not to be on the line at that time. She made jam with the fruit and doctored it so that we wouldn't eat it.
48. We were allowed to take the dogs a walk. There was sand under the sink in the kitchen and the little dog did its business there. We had to take that over to the beach and bury it. I have no happy memory of living in that house.
49. When there was only FDA and I staying there, FDA ran away. I don't know if the boys ever spoke about running away. I found out FDA was not coming back to the house after school that day. She was going to Dundee, to the authorities. She didn't know how to get there. Neither did I. I told her she wasn't going without me. We walked to Dundee, it was three miles. We were near the start of a bridge and FJP was on a bus and saw us. She got off and made us walk back. We got a really bad punching for running away.

**Leaving Mrs BGC 's house**

50. FDA ran away again but went herself and didn't say anything to me. She didn't come home after school. I got punched but I wouldn't say where she was. They didn't believe me so I got hit constantly. A friend let her stay in her shed and gave her sandwiches. She came to school the next day and the authorities were called in and took us away. They came to my class and took me out. We were taken to the shelter in Dundee. The teachers must have contacted the authorities and they eventually found out from us what was going on.
51. When we left [REDACTED] FDA and I went back to the shelter for no more than two weeks then we moved to [REDACTED] The couple we were fostered to were [REDACTED] He died a few years after we got there.

**Mr & Mrs [REDACTED] – Foster care**

52. It was like we had won star prize in a game show going there. The social work took us there. I was about eleven when I went and stayed until I was nineteen, when I got married. FDA got married at nineteen and left, then the next year I got married.
53. We had never seen the [REDACTED] before we went there. What we had found out was that they had fostered a lot of children before us, whereas the other one hadn't fostered anyone before. When we went there first day we got pocket money from the social work. This was the first time ever. The social work wanted to speak to Mrs [REDACTED] so we were to go out and have a look about and play. We went to the shops and bought sweeties. It was great to have the freedom to be told to just go out and have a bit of fun.
54. Mrs [REDACTED] was born in 1912 and we went there in 1963. They had four grown up children. The oldest was staying there then he went to the Air force. He then came back to the house until he died.

The two daughters were there then they emigrated to Boston, USA and Canada. The oldest one went to Canada. The youngest son emigrated to Canada too. He is still there.

55. It was a three bedroom house. FDA and I shared a room. It was a spacious bedroom with proper beds. We were like little scared rats. It took us a couple of weeks to start feeling comfortable. Mrs. [REDACTED] was very nice. We had our chores to do but what children didn't.

#### **Routine at Mr & Mrs [REDACTED]**

56. We got up about 7:30 am to 7:45 am, got washed, ready, had breakfast and off to school. We initially went to primary school but I should have been in year one of high school and FDA in year two. When we went to high school sometimes we'd walk home for lunch or we'd go to school dinners. We'd come home after school and do our homework.
57. I went to [REDACTED] primary school then Lochore high school. It's now a primary school. We moved there at the beginning of [REDACTED], so we had roughly four weeks of school before holidays.
58. We walked to the primary school for four weeks. After the summer holidays I went to first year at high school. It was fine. FDA was in second year. She would fight with all the boys. I would bring her coat home. I did well at school. If we were stuck with homework, we could ask the [REDACTED]. They were there. FDA and I were lucky we were kept together. FDA is eleven months and a day older than me.
59. We learnt that we had nothing to be scared of. We went out to play. In the summer we were out until midnight. When we were at school I think bedtime was about 9:00pm but summer time was different. At weekends we'd help with the shopping. We would put cloths on our feet and dust the floor around the sides. There was carpet in the centre. Usual housework but not on the scale we'd had.

60. On a Sunday we went to church. FDA and I went together to a church down the road. Mrs went to a different church.
61. We didn't have showers but there was a bath at the bottom of the stairs and there wasn't a problem having a bath. They grew fruit in the garden and we helped pick that up.
62. One doctor lived up one hill and another stayed up another hill. Their practices were attached to their houses. If we needed to go we were taken there. Everything was fine. We went to a dentist as well. We had brushes and toothpaste. Something we didn't have in
63. We had birthdays and Christmases. We got something for our birthday and at Christmas. Not masses, but we got something. They were good to us. We got nothing at
64. I think we got to visit and in the home past Edinburgh when we were in Ballingry. I think the social work came occasionally, maybe once a year to talk about foster care. I can't remember my mum visiting. She did come to FDA's and my wedding.
65. We didn't go away on holiday but during fairs fortnight we went bus trips to Kinghorn, St Andrews and Burntisland. The miners would put buses on.
66. We made friends in Ballingry. We watched television, Dr Who and Dixon of Dock Green. When Mrs went to the bingo we watched what we wanted to. We bought comics with our pocket money.
67. I can't ever remember getting taken for clothes while I was in but Mrs took us to the Co-op and we got uniforms and summer dresses. She got vouchers for the clothes. We got two shillings and sixpence pocket money every week. The food was good. Good home cooking.

68. While we were there Mrs [REDACTED] fostered her own nephew. It was quite tragic. He came with only baby clothes but he was coming up for five or six years old. He had been with his dad and step mum and spent some of his time in a rabbit hutch. The woman was cruel to him. It was a couple of years after we'd got there. I was thirteen. I'm not sure if Mrs [REDACTED] fostered him or just took him on. He was still there when I left.
69. When they told us to do something, we did it. We washed dishes and put dusters on our feet to clean the floor. Just little chores. There was no abuse at the [REDACTED] It was a happy time. If you needed a row, you got a row but it wasn't a big thing. We were trusted. It was a hundred times over, the opposite of [REDACTED] They had fostered children for years, whereas Mrs BGC never had.

#### Leaving Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]

70. We were never told by the social work that we were no longer in their care. We stayed with the [REDACTED] after we were sixteen, but we worked and paid dig money. FDA got married at nineteen and left. A year later I got married and left. I met my husband [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]

#### Life after being in care

71. I started work in the February when I was sixteen, as a machinist. I then went to college, initially for six months in a local college for professional cookery. I didn't want to go into silver service so I then went to Food Tech in Glasgow doing bakery from 1988 to 1990.
72. I have two children. A son in Australia and a daughter in East Kilbride. I have a granddaughter in Australia, who will be seven and two grandchildren in East Kilbride. [REDACTED] is the oldest, then [REDACTED] We brought them up from the age of three and five because their mum couldn't cope. I have a granddaughter in Manchester who was to my son's first wife.

73. I took time out when my children were young and time out in 1999 when the two grandchildren were with us. I have worked all my life until I retired four years ago.
74. One year we were in [REDACTED] with the kids and I heard this voice and said to [REDACTED] "That's FBS [REDACTED]. It was. My mother stayed there too. Eventually FDA [REDACTED] got my mum a pensioners place in [REDACTED]. She stayed there until she died. She came to visit us and I went to see her when I went to visit FDA [REDACTED]. My relationship with my mum was strange at first but it was fine up until she died. This was in [REDACTED] 24 years ago. The reason I know that is that FDA [REDACTED] granddaughter died when she was three, on [REDACTED] that year. They never found the reason why.
75. FDA [REDACTED] and I are always in touch. She could come to my back door and I wouldn't know she's coming. I saw FBS [REDACTED] in Edinburgh a year ago. When I left the [REDACTED] I was only in touch with FDA [REDACTED]. I'm in contact with [REDACTED] now. When [REDACTED] got married I made her wedding cake and I was at the wedding. Other than that I didn't see a lot of [REDACTED].
76. I see my brother FBV [REDACTED] when he goes to FDA [REDACTED]. I was friends with his wife when I lived in [REDACTED] then she met FBV [REDACTED] and moved away. I haven't seen [REDACTED] for a long time. It's just with everyone going in their own direction and not living close to each other.
77. [REDACTED] was down south, he's in Fife now and he's a pain in the butt. [REDACTED] is in [REDACTED]. She's been through to our house a few times. I haven't seen FDB [REDACTED] in a few years. FDA [REDACTED] tells me all about them. I think we would have probably been a closer family if we hadn't been in care.
78. I had no contact with my dad after he left the house and left us with our aunts. The drink took over his life. I wouldn't have recognised him if I'd seen him.

**Reporting of abuse at Mrs BGC**

79. I have never received counselling and I haven't officially reported my abuse.
80. We told my mum about the abuse and she said she would see what she could do. I don't know if she approached the authorities because nothing changed.
81. The second time we visited our younger siblings was at a house where they lived. I can't remember if we were in Fife by then. We never told the social work about what was happening to us. We told our younger siblings about it, but they were younger than us, so what we were telling them they would probably forget.
82. We eventually told the social work what was happening to us when FDA ran away after school and as a result we were taken from school to the shelter in Dundee.

**Impact**

83. It's taken me a long time to be more normal. It's to do with the first foster care. Being with the [REDACTED] helped me through it. I used to wonder why somebody could treat people like that, but going from there to Mrs [REDACTED] house made a big difference.
84. The social work should make it easier for people to approach them. People get the wrong impression of social workers. It puts them off. I've never said anything about the social work but others have said, why bother getting in touch with them. When we took our two grandchildren on, they were three and five years old, and I went to the social work to see what they could do to help us but they weren't interested. That annoyed me.
85. I'd have liked to have been able to trust someone enough to be able to speak to them. There was never anyone coming to us and asking how we are doing, or is this working out for you. They need to have that approach when they deal with children in care. In case there are problems.

I would say the problem is still going on somewhere and children are petrified. It gets to the stage that if someone asks you about the foster parent you're too scared to say anything, knowing they are going to go away and you're left there. My two foster homes were like chalk and cheese.

**Records**

- 86. I phoned Dundee social work office to get a copy of my records but was told that they would have been destroyed anyway but nonetheless there had been a fire and they were destroyed. I took this at face value but spoke to my sister [REDACTED] and she said that she, FDB and [REDACTED] had got theirs after I'd requested mine.
- 87. I was sent a bank book and wondered why it wasn't in my records. I didn't ask for it and knew nothing about it. It came with a letter in 1977 from Tayside Regional Council. It was sent to my East Kilbride address.

**Other information**

- 88. I hope the Inquiry achieves enough to save the next person. You can only take it day by day. There's only so many you can save but you need to get the proper story.
- 89. 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. [REDACTED] FCZ .....

Dated. 27/8/18 .....