

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FNS

Support person present: No

1. My name is FNS My date of birth is 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I don't have much knowledge relating to my family life prior to being placed into care. I know from receiving an extract birth certificate later in my life that my mother's name was I do not know who my father was. I never met my mum or father then or later in life.
3. I was born in Maryfield Hospital, Dundee and have several siblings. I know some and there are others I am not fully aware of their names or anymore about them. Of the children my mother did have, I know LWQ QLF There is also I don't know her surname other than it is not I know she is married to a millionaire but she does not wish to know about or be involved with any of the family. There are many other step brothers and step sisters but I don't know their names, except there is and
4. All of the fourteen children that my mother had were all taken from her and placed into care. I was too young at the time to know why, but presume it was through the social work department. My two sisters LWQ and QLF along with were sent to Quarrier's when they were placed into care. The person that was looking after us from the social work was a Mr Ogilvie. He worked from the Cupar social work office.

5. I can't remember who I was staying with then but I knew it was in Hawkhill in Dundee. It annoys me that I can't fill in any of the details of my life then. As an adult. I was crossing a road and saw a wall in front of me. As I was crossing there was something familiar about the wall but I could not think what it was. When I asked [REDACTED] who was with me, he told me I should remember it as when I was about five years old I was crossing the same road and was hit by a car and thrown against that wall. I don't remember if I was even taken to hospital. I have just shut it out.

The [REDACTED] family foster care at [REDACTED] Kirkcaldy

6. My brother [REDACTED] and I were sent to stay with the [REDACTED] family. I can't remember their first names, just Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. Their house was in [REDACTED] a mining village just outside Kirkcaldy.
7. I was about six years old when I went into foster care with the [REDACTED]s. I remember being taken there in a big car with leather seats. [REDACTED] and I were seated in the back. It was Mr Ogilvie, our social worker, who was driving the car. I stayed with the [REDACTED]s until I was about ten years old.
8. I think the [REDACTED]s had four children. The elder two were quite a few years older than me and the other two were maybe just a couple of years older. I can remember their oldest son was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stole his watch one day. He stole the watch so he could sell it and get some food for him and me. It was obvious that one of us had taken it as the only people in the house when it went missing were the family, [REDACTED] and me. They did not find the watch but we still got battered from Mr [REDACTED]. He hit us with the belt on our bare backsides. It was worth it as we were able to get some food.
9. When we stayed there [REDACTED] and I shared a room with only one bed in the room. We slept top and tail there. There was nothing else in the room. No furniture at all. We did not even have any toys while we stayed there. At all times when we were back at the house we stayed in our room and [REDACTED] and I were made to sit on the bed, crossed legged and stare at the sunflower wallpaper.

10. The mattress we had was made with small cotton tails buds attached to it. [REDACTED] and I would pick those bits of cotton off and make a set of goals and roll up another set of cotton to make a fluff ball. We would flick this ball into the made up goals. This was our only entertainment while we stayed there. The [REDACTED] children were allowed to play as normal and socialise with their friends.

Routine at the [REDACTED]'s House, [REDACTED] Kirkcaldy

11. In the mornings it would be either of [REDACTED] parents who would come into the room to tell us to get up. At night time it was just when it got dark we were told to go to sleep. We were never allowed to have the light on in the room.
12. We were never given any pyjamas to wear at night. We just slept in our pants, nothing else. I did have a problem with bed wetting. All that would happen was Mrs [REDACTED] would come in and if she found the bed was wet, she would just put a towel down and leave me for the rest of the night. She would also batter me with the belt and tell us to get back in to the bed. It was a regular thing for me to wet the bed, not just there but even into my time at St Andrew's. The only difference was they changed the bed there and never punished me in any way. The [REDACTED] never even considered getting me up during the night to help stop it. [REDACTED] did not have any problem with bed wetting.

Food

13. We were hardly given any food while we stayed with the [REDACTED]. For breakfast we might have been given some milk and toast, but rarely anything else. Sometimes we were given dried bread. I would partly chew this and when Mrs [REDACTED] was not looking I would take it out again and hide it in my pocket. I would then place it under my pillow so that I would have something to eat the next day.
14. We were not being given much food to eat so on the days when I was not at school I would be wandering around the streets looking for food. I would also go into shops

with a paper bag and steal some sweets or food just to have something to eat. If we were caught, we would be taken home by the police. They never asked why we were always stealing food, they just took us back to the [FNX-FNY] and left any punishment up to them. That would end up with another beating with the belt from Mr [FNY].

15. There were no school lunches provided for us and when we were home after school there was no evening meals given to us. As we were kept in our room I don't know what they ate or when. There was never any opportunities for us to sneak into the kitchen to get some food. There was always someone in the family hanging around.

Bathing

16. If we were to have what they classed as a bath it was in the kitchen sink. [] and I would have to sit at the edge of the sink on the bunker and get washed. Whoever was first got the lukewarm but clean water. If you were second you got washed in the same water but it would be cold. There must have been a bath or shower in the house, but only the family were allowed to be in there.

Schooling

17. I did go to the local school when I stayed with the [FNX-FNY] family, but I cannot remember the name. [] and I walked to the school and made our way over a humped back bridge to get there. Quite often that was where we bumped into kids making their way to a different school and it always ended up in arguments and fighting if they were there. The other school may have been a secondary school, but I am not certain.
18. We were picked on by the other kids and we would end up fighting in our school. Part of the reason was for not wearing the school uniform. We were never given the uniform by the [FNX-FNY]. In fact the clothes we did have were all second hand, unlike their own kids.
19. Even in the winter when all the snow would be coming down we were still sent to school with just the old pairs of boots we were given and we would only have shorts

available to wear. The FNX-FNY never considered giving us any long trousers. During all weather we were given a pair of plastic sandals to wear but no socks. We were always cold with the clothes we wore and the kids at the school were always taking the mickey out of us.

20. I did not go regularly to the school. Quite often I would go to registration and then head out one of the doors. It was much the same when we later went to St Andrew's, in one door and out another. In a five day week it would only be a few hours at most that I would be there for.

21. [REDACTED] was such a small place that when we ran away from the school we would just be wandering around the streets. We would be seen by lots of people and they would all know we were the kids that stayed with the FNX-FNY. Nobody stopped us to ask what we were doing out of school or if we were okay. Sometimes we would go to the back of the bakers to see if there were any old rolls or cakes in the bin.

22. We always went home at the proper time as though we had been at school. We would be asked what we had done at school and we would tell them what subjects we thought we may have been taught that day. If the school had not reported back to them it was alright, but if they had contacted the family and told them we were not in school that day then again we would be battered by Mr FNY and his belt, for not going and lying to him.

Leisure

23. At the back of the house there was a small stream with a small piece of ground on the other bank. There was a plank of wood laid over it to allow us to play on the other side. That was the only place we were allowed to play. That would be where we were sent on the Saturday and then shouted on by Mr FNY to head up the hill to help Mrs FNX with the shopping.

Visits/inspections

24. Mr Ogilvie, from the social work would come to the house around once a month. We were never allowed to say anything bad to him as we were threatened by the FNX-FNY that we would be on the receiving end of another beating if we did that. The FNX-FNY would be present throughout. Before he came we would know he was due as we were cleaned and given really nice clothes to put on. We were told to tell him how much we were liking our stay there and make up things that we were supposed to have done like having a picnic in the park. I never even knew what a picnic was. We were too scared to tell him the truth. This was the only time we were ever in the sitting room. They would have the place nice and warm, with the fire on and with the television on.
25. I am not sure if it was Mr Ogilvie or someone else who noticed we were getting thinner and thinner. I certainly don't remember ever seeing a doctor until I was sent to the hospital.

Birthdays/Christmas

26. Birthdays and Christmases were not part of our upbringing with the FNX-FNYs. As far as they were concerned they just treated us though it was any other day. I never received any gift while I was there and never even knew what a toy was. I presume they were given money by the social work but they never spent any of it on us.

Chores

27. One of the chores we had on a Saturday was [REDACTED] and I having to walk up the big hill and meet Mrs FNX [REDACTED] with the shopping. We then had to carry the bags of shopping for her back to the house. We actually got a reward of a big red apple to eat. This was the only treat we were given all week.
28. Another chore was we would have to polish all the shoes in the house, including the ones belonging to the FNX-FNY children.

29. The most unusual chore was to do with Mr FNY [REDACTED]. He worked in a quarry or somewhere there was a lot of dust. We would have to stand behind him and scratch his head because he was always itchy. We would have to do this for about two hours. This happened most days he came home from work. When he wanted this done he would be sat where he could see the television but we had our backs to it, so we could not see what was on. My fingers were in agony doing this for so long. It was usually me or [REDACTED] separately but there were times he would make both of us do this.

Holidays/trips

30. We were never taken out for any day trips or sent away for a holiday while we stayed there. The family went and whenever Mr and Mrs FNX-FNY [REDACTED] went on holiday the oldest son would be left in charge. Although he did not hit us there was no change in how we were treated.

Abuse at FNX-FNY [REDACTED] House, [REDACTED] Kirkcaldy

31. If we were caught skipping school we would be beaten by Mr FNY [REDACTED]. He would use a stick or a belt like a school tawse to hit us on our bare backsides. He did this in our room, so none of the rest of the family would see it. It varied how many times he would hit us with the belt, it all depended on how he felt. It did not even matter how much we cried in pain he would only stop when he felt he had hit us enough.
32. It was not just being away from the school that he used the belt. It would be for anything that he or Mrs FNX [REDACTED] had decided we had done wrong. The beatings with the belt would leave us with lots of severe bruising on the legs and backside, and sometimes we would have cuts. It was never bad enough that we would be taken to hospital, not that the FNX-FNY [REDACTED] would want that.
33. When he was beating us he would be screaming and swearing in our ears so loud it would hurt. I would try to dampen this by scrunching up toilet paper and put that into my ears. I would force them so hard into my ears they could be in there for days. When

my ears popped with the pressure they would often fall out during my sleep. I would get up in the morning and put more in.

34. I remember one day at school and one of the other kids was eating a packet of crisps. He dropped some on the ground, by accident. I bent down and scooped them up and ate them. Every day when we came home from school [REDACTED] and I were quizzed by Mrs FNX [REDACTED] about what we had eaten during the day. [REDACTED] and I both said we ate nothing, because it was true. We had not even had any school dinners. Then I remembered about the crisps and told her. She sent us both to our room. A little while later she called us out for tea. I knew there was something wrong because she never gave us tea. When I got into the kitchen there was a plate of dog poo on the plate. She said if you eat like a dog outside you will eat like a dog inside. She force fed me the poo on the plate.

Leaving FNX-FNY House, [REDACTED], Kirkcaldy

35. With the lack of food I was always suffering from pains in the stomach and ended up being seriously ill. It would be just before I was eight or nine years old when I was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy suffering from severe malnutrition. I believe I was taken to the hospital by Mr Ogilvie in his car. He must have been on a visit and then taken me away. I don't know any more than that. I was crying when I arrived as I was on my own. Mr Ogilvie left me at the hospital. [REDACTED] was not there and I was left in the care of strangers, which was really frightening.
36. I was told later by [REDACTED] that they estimated I had only been given two days before there was no hope. I remember a little about my time there and at some point I was playing with a toy train. When I was asking [REDACTED] about the trains, that was when he told me the whole story about being in hospital.
37. Another thing I can recall about my time in hospital was when there had been a visitor at a bed two down from me. A bottle of Lucozade was dropped on the floor and

smashed. They cleaned most of it up, but must have missed a bit as I cut my hand on some glass the next day.

38. There was another day when one of the nurses came round with a bowl of smarties for each of us. We were supposed to just take one or two at a time. I was so used to not having anything I grabbed a handful and put them in my mouth. She tried to prise my hand open but there was no chance.
39. I spent some weeks in hospital, possibly months, to recover. I can't remember exactly how long it was before I was moved to the Children's Home at St Andrews.

Children's Home, St David's Home, St Andrews

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Foster Care at [REDACTED] family, [REDACTED] Newburgh

65. After St Andrews we were moved into foster care at [REDACTED] Newburgh with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] and their kids. It turned out two boys from the home had gone away for about three weeks to this family and when they came back they were asked if they wanted to stay with them. They turned it down and a year later in the summer we were sent to the same family. After two weeks we came back and were asked by Mr Ogilvie

if we wanted to stay with the family. [REDACTED] said yes but initially I refused. Mr Ogilvie pointed out if I did not go I would be going back to St Andrews and then [REDACTED] would be going on his own. I did not want that to happen so agreed to go with him.

66. Mr [REDACTED] has since passed away with cancer, but Mrs [REDACTED] is still alive. They had four children, two girls and two boys. The sons and one of the daughters were older and the second daughter was a year younger. We got on well with both the daughters, although the older girl lived with her boyfriend and her children. She visited back and forth from her home in Edinburgh. We did get to stay with her for a little while and it felt like a holiday being there. When we were there her boyfriend took us to Tynecastle to watch a Hearts match.

67. We did not get on with the youngest of the sons. There was a mutual hatred of each other. While we stayed with the [REDACTED]s the youngest son and youngest daughter were always spoiled. The son was the light in his father's eye. He always had a good job, starting in boat building and ending up working in the police. They were always treated much better than [REDACTED] and me. Despite this we were well fed and well looked after

68. When we were staying there it was the first time that when I went to Newburgh Primary School and I stayed all day. When it came to lunch time [REDACTED] and I who were in separate classes, would even race home for our food and then run back to the school. That was strange to be running to and staying at the school. I was enjoying going to the school and learning while I was there. After primary I was transferred to [REDACTED] Secondary School, which had a junior and a senior section. I left school and started working as apprentice baker.

Life after being in care

69. I stayed with the [REDACTED] until I was about fifteen and a half. Despite [REDACTED] and I hating any authority figures having power over us we both joined the army when we were old enough. When I left it was to be a boy soldier for a year. I was there until I was old

enough to be in the regular army. [REDACTED] had joined up a year earlier. [REDACTED] put a £25 bet on with me that I would not finish my training. That just spurred me on more and encouraged me to finish and got the money from him. We both enrolled in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I stayed for five years with them before spending four years in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Northern Ireland. When I was based in Northern Ireland I had my life threatened twice. The first time I moved city and the second I moved back to the mainland.

70. I was about twenty five when I came out of the army and got the ferry from Larne to Stranraer. I then decided I would get the first bus that arrived, which took me to Edinburgh. I then took the first bus from there which was to Dunfermline. I stayed with an ex-army buddy's family for a while. The father was insisting I stay and I ended up staying for about three weeks until I had got my head straight again.
71. I then started working in different jobs, mainly in the retail industry. I have worked for Safeway's, Somerfield's before they changed to the Co-op. I have just finished my eleventh year with [REDACTED]
72. I met my wife when I was forty two and married her two years later. I met her at a party and as she was quite drunk and I took her home to her family. I went back the next day and that was that. I have two sons, one of which is fostered from my wife's previous relationship. He suffers from ADHD and does not know I am not his natural father. He calls me dad and I don't need to tell him any different. I have two grandchildren from my own son.
73. I remember one day when I was in my thirties and I was out strawberry picking. Next to me was a woman, who kept staring at me and eventually came over to speak to me. She was able to describe my brother and said that she knew us from our time at [REDACTED] as she stayed a couple of doors down from the [REDACTED] FNX-FNY.
74. I remember I was staying with a girl when I got a phone call from a guy called [REDACTED]. He introduced himself and told me he was my brother. I was forty years old by this time and he wanted to visit. When he arrived he showed me a photograph of my

mother and two kids, him and another sister. That was when I was made aware of the large number of brothers and sisters that I had and that I never even knew existed. [REDACTED] had done a lot of research and found the other siblings. Later I did go to meet a couple of step brothers in Edinburgh but I have not been in touch since. I have not been in touch with [REDACTED] again as he got himself in bother and was looking for me or any other member of the family to bail him out of jail in Africa for £26,000.

Reporting of abuse at the FNX-FNY Family, [REDACTED] Kirkcaldy

75. During my time at [REDACTED] I wasn't able to tell social work about the abuse there. Afterwards I never spoke to anyone about them. That did not stop anyone else having reported them for me being admitted to hospital for malnutrition. I do not know if they were ever investigated for that neglect.
76. I have never even told my wife about the abuse. She is aware that our family did not have a great time growing up. She is aware that I was battered as a child and that I stayed in a home in St Andrews, but not the full circumstances.

Impact

77. As a result of constantly putting the toilet paper in my ears to stop the screaming from Mr FNY [REDACTED] it has meant that I damaged my inner ears and it has affected my hearing. I now carry hearing aids for both ears as I have lost some of my hearing.
78. I remember some of the music from my time at [REDACTED]. It was in the sixties and one of the songs was "Down Town" by Petula Clark. Whenever that and some others from that time are played it brings back the memories. If there is ever a social gathering at my house and someone wants music played it is never from that era.
79. I still suffer from anger issues from my time in care. Whenever I think about it, which is often, I get really upset with it. I still have no respect for authority figures as my trust

in them was broken as a child. There are small things that take me back to my childhood and if I am at work and see a customer buying a box of Smarties that takes me back to my time in hospital. If I see a mother giving her child a row that would remind me of my time at the FNX-FNY.

80. I spoiled my own children and if they wanted anything I went out of my way to make sure they got it. I don't want them to feel like I did, that they were missing out on anything.
81. Being in foster care you are treated differently if the family have their own children. In my experience if the family children are given a pound for pocket money, you always hoped to get the same pound, but all too often that is not the case and you are given less. You are made to feel different from their natural family.
82. Apart from my time in care I also suffered mentally from the many things I experienced in the army. I lost many friends and colleagues through my service. Despite all the problems I had there was never any help offered or provided by the army for soldiers suffering from PTSD. It is slightly better now but still not ideal.

Records

83. When I left the army I never had a birth certificate. I knew from my brother we were born in Dundee. I found out it was Maryfield Hospital, which is all closed down now. I went to the records office and was able to get an extract of my birth certificate. That confirmed my mother's name but there was no name for my father.
84. I have tried to get my records for my time in care. When I made enquiries I was told they were lost when it transferred from Angus Council to Dundee Council or vice versa. I have been in touch with Birthright and they have me on their waiting list. Hopefully they will be able to track them down.

Other information

- 85. I would hope that the Inquiry can be so successful that I never hear of a child being hurt or abused in care. What happened to me was in the sixties and even today I see in the media about cigarettes being stubbed out on children and some losing their life after being abused.

- 86. I would like to see that a child can have somewhere safe to talk and tell someone. In my time even if a teacher asked if I was okay there was no way I could tell them what was happening. The people I was in the care of were the people responsible for hurting me. if I told the teacher I might have had to go back with the people and be hit again for speaking out.

- 87. 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 statement are true.

FNS


Signed.....

Dated 20th JAN '2020.....