Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

4.

	Witness Statement of
	FGJ
	Support person present: Yes
1.	My name is FGJ. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
	Life before going into care
2.	I was born in Paisley. My birth mother's name is and my birth father's name is and my birth father's name is and my birth father's name is and in a don't have contact with any of them. I have had contact with them in the past but I no longer do. What I remember from my childhood is that I had an older brother an older sister and a younger sister I don't know the age difference between and myself. I don't wo years younger than me.
3.	My earliest memory is that we lived in a tenement with my birth mother and father. There was only one bedroom. My older brother, older sister and I slept in the double bed in that room. My birth parents slept in an alcove in the living room. My younger sister was in a cot beside them. I do remember a lot of fights between my birth parents because we all had to choose whether we wanted her to stay or to leave. He ended up throwing her out.
4.	I remember my younger sister and I were removed. The older ones were at school. I was about four years old and was about eighteen months. The toilet was on the landing and I remember the social work coming and removing us from that toilet because my birth father had went to work. He had locked us in while he went to work

work putting the door in and removing us from there. 5. The FFY-FFZ foster care, Livingston We were taken somewhere in a van and then we were placed in foster care with a 6. They had a son who was called They ended up adopting another boy called but we were fostered. We were in Glasgow when they fostered us but we all moved out to Livingston because got a job. 7. We went straight from Paisley to their address in After a year or two we moved to Livingston. There we all had our own room, so there must have been four bedrooms. slept in their room, he was just a toddler. He was born in 1967 I think. Their son was a couple of years older than me. He was born in 1958 or 1959. We got up to a lot of mischief together. We cut pillows and shook the feathers out of the window, but I always got the blame because I wasn't their child. Living with them was alright but I always seemed to get targeted for what did. I must have liked it though because I didn't want to leave. 8. I went to school in Livingston, I can't remember the name of it. Christmas was good. We visited their family in Glasgow, who we called gran and grandad. I think FFY just couldn't cope and I just seemed to be getting into trouble with We used to get slapped or smacked by FFZ FFY would say, "Wait till your 9. father gets home". We got smacked on the backside. Sometimes we would get the belt. He would take it off his trousers. I wouldn't say it was regular, it happened a few times but in my eyes, at that time, I was naughty so I got smacked. 10. One time I was in a cupboard, which had a bed in it. It was just a single bed with shelves at the top and they hid Easter eggs here. I had been eating them. I remember FFZ counting them. They caught me and I got belted for that. It

in a pub. So we got chucked in the bathroom with some toys. I remember the social

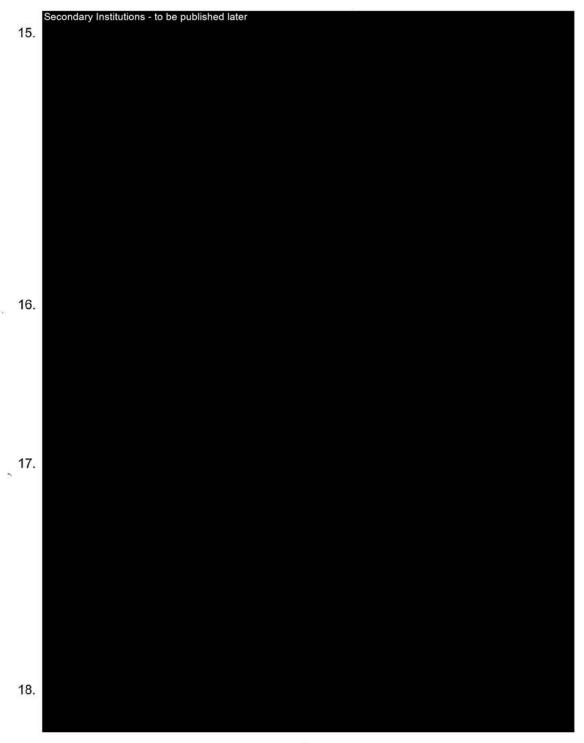
can't remember the name of it. I got into trouble, there was a box window, a bay, and they had a grate up at the front. and I threw eggs out of the window, but I was covered in egg, so I got the blame. I didn't see it as abuse. I was naughty and got punished. I didn't have injuries, just a sore backside.

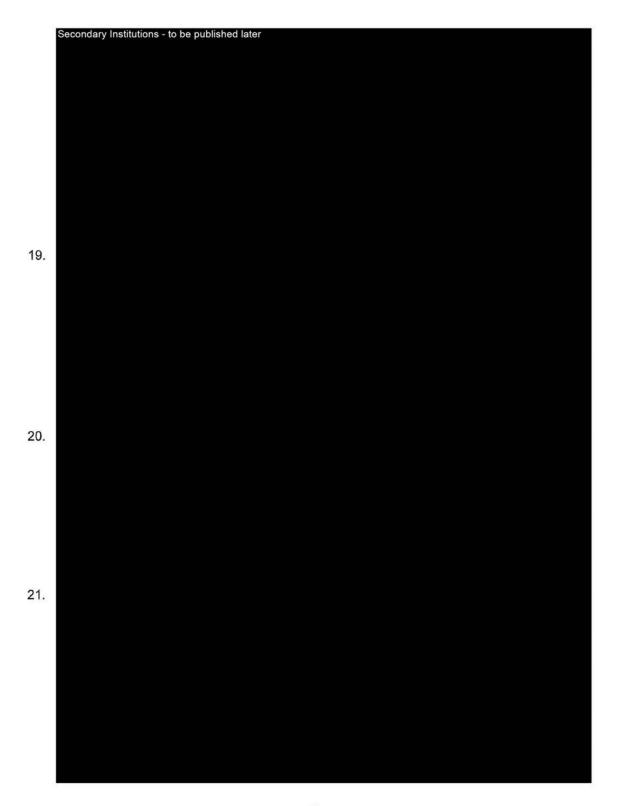
- 11. On another occasion we were sent to the shop. I think I was seven at this point. I had the carrier bag. asked me to put two packets of biscuits in it. As we were walking out the shop the lady asked me to give her the bag and called the police because of the two packets of biscuits. I was driven back to by the police. FFY said she'd had enough of me. I was a troublesome child and bringing trouble to her house.
- 12. I was taken to Glasgow and put in front of a panel ten or twelve people. I remember putting peas in my ears because I didn't want to hear what they were saying. I stood in front of this group of people who decided I was to go to Dunclutha Children's home. I was about seven and a half.

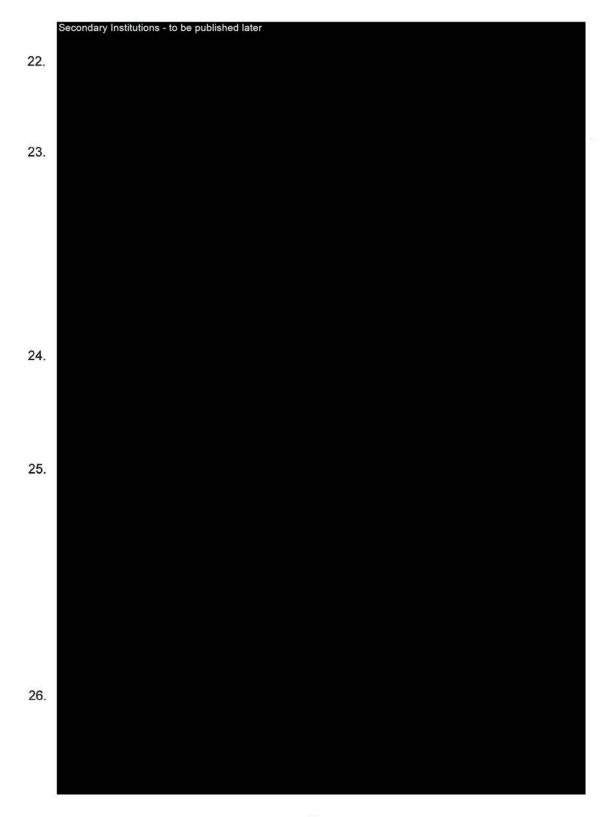
Leaving foster care

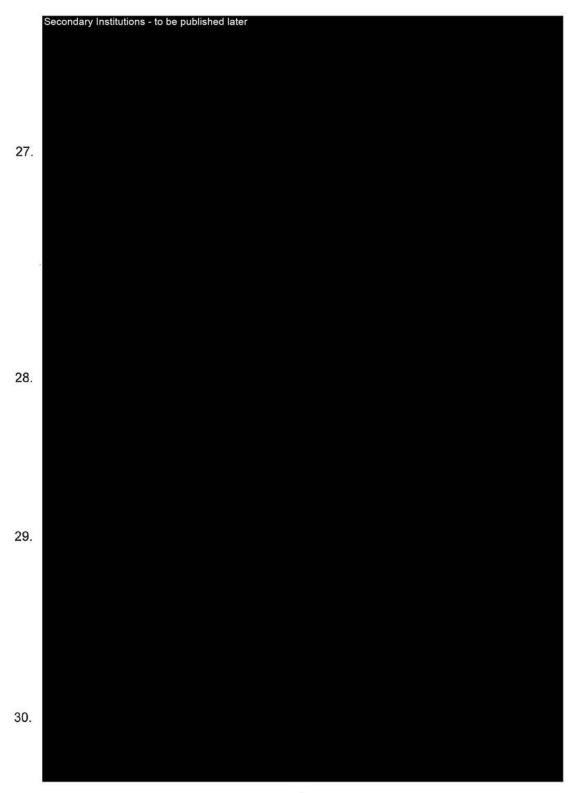
- 13. I can't say I ever felt loved at the FFY-FFZ I was definitely treated differently from their son but it was better than Dunclutha. So I went to a panel in Glasgow, twelve people round a table and I went from there to Dunclutha. I think my clothes were in the car as the FFY-FFZ went one way and I went in the other direction. Both of them were there. A social worker, I can't remember who, took me to Dunclutha in a car and over on the ferry. I felt horrendous. I was breaking my heart. I was a kid.
- 14. I can't remember the name of my social worker at first but it became Mr Richardson. I think he went on to become head of social work in Glasgow because he left me and I got told by another social worker that he had been promoted. I had him for a couple of years then I got someone else. I can't remember his name. I saw Mr Richardson a couple of times. A handful at the most.

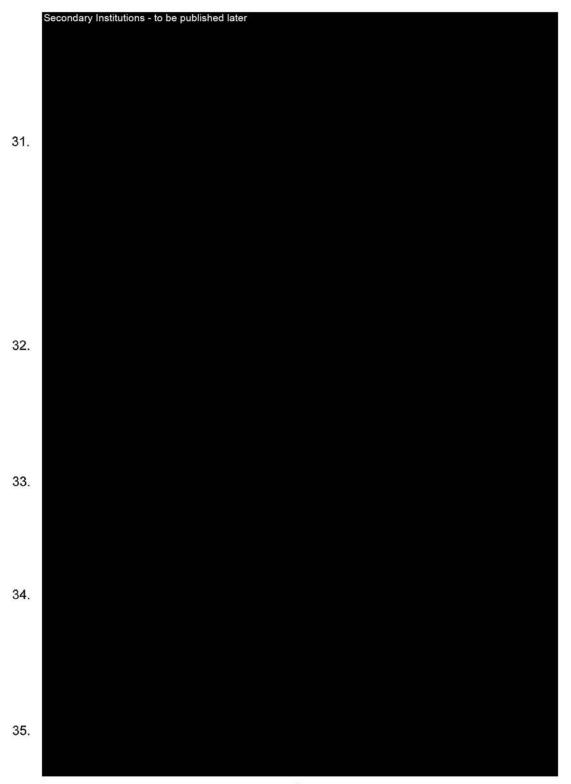
Dunclutha Children's Home, Kirn, Dunoon

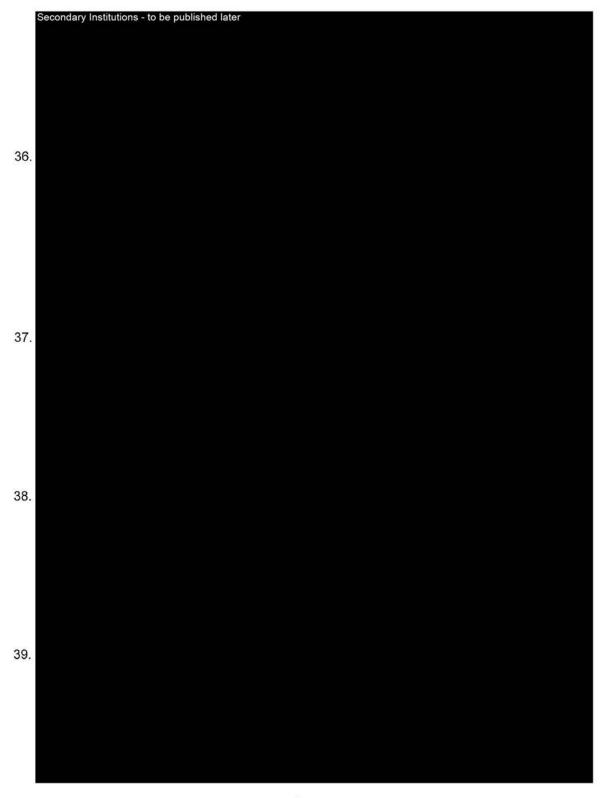


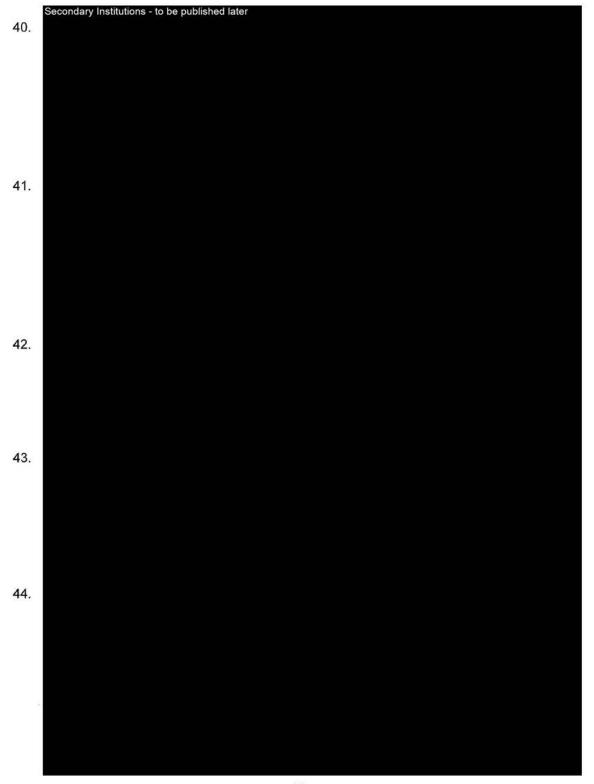


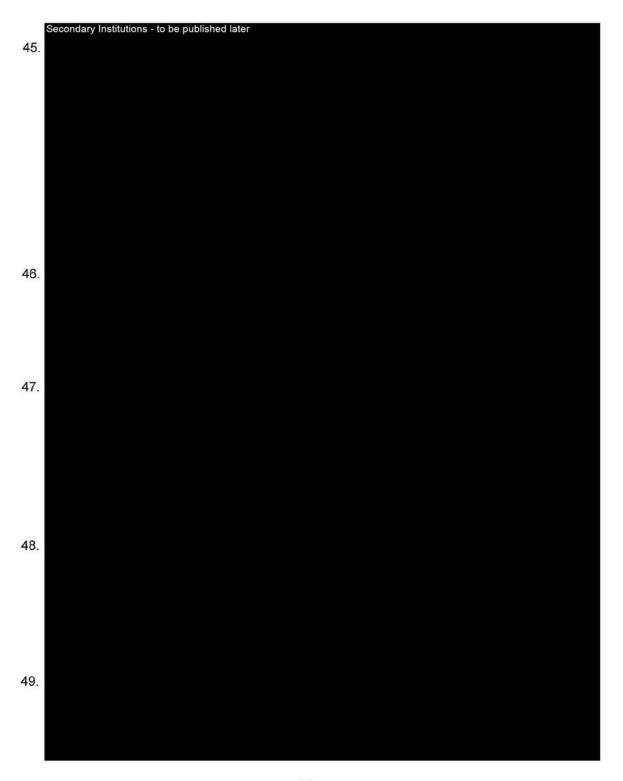


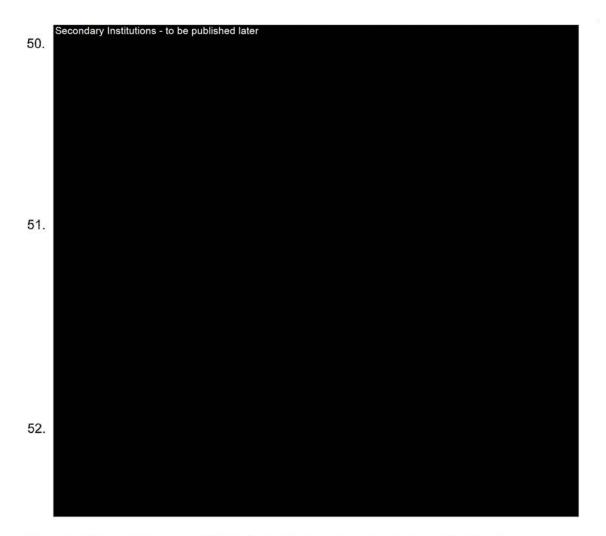








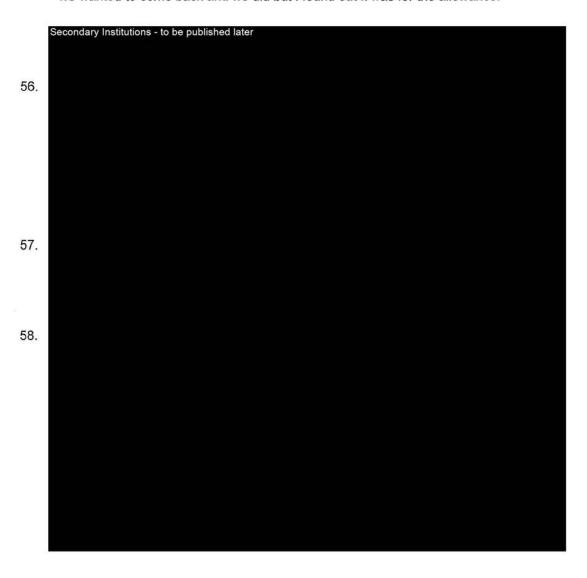


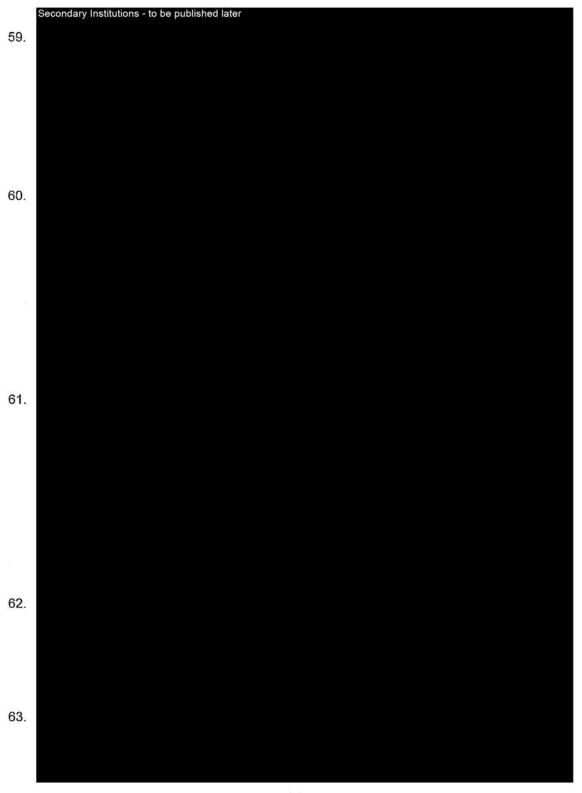


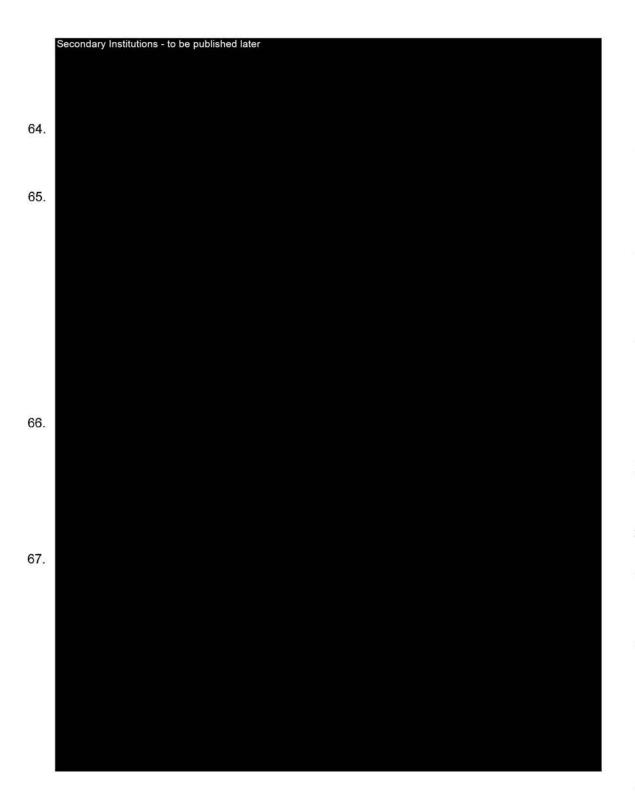
- FFY-FFZ weren't my real parents and if I remembered I had a mum and dad. It was just him and I in the room. I don't know what that was about. I was about eleven at the time.
- 54. Secondary Institutions installed a payphone outside the girls toilets. It was for us, instead of going to the office and asking to use the phone. We would use our pocket money to use the payphone to learn us the value of money. It rang one day and I answered it and it was my foster mother She had been given the wrong number. She was calling to ask how we were doing. She asked if she could come for a visit and I told

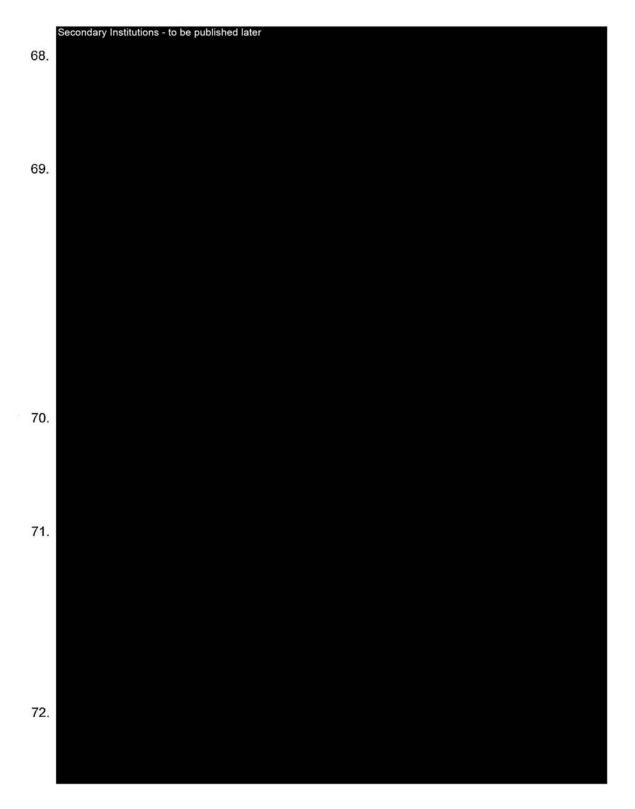
her she would have to ask Secondary Institutes o I gave her their number. I was thirteen and a half.

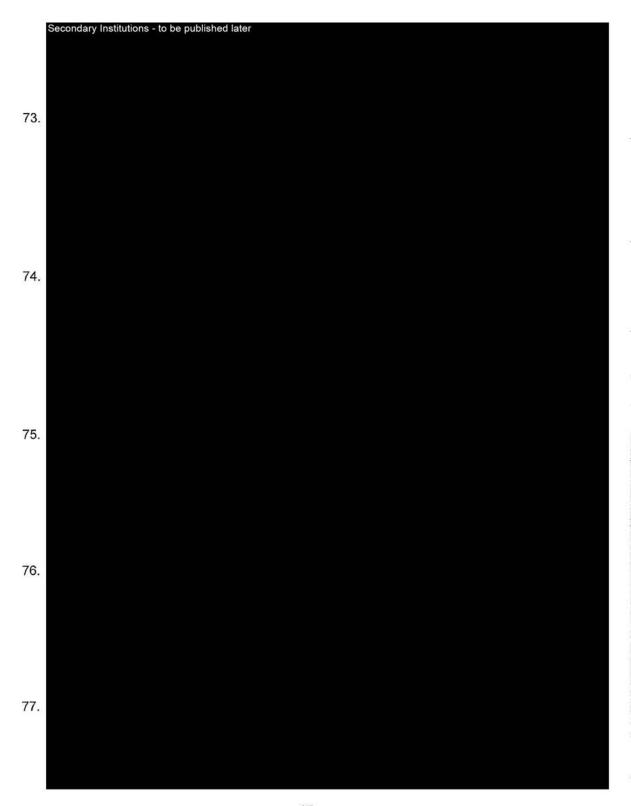
then came to visit me about two or three times after that. The only contact I'd had before that was a letter from her a couple of months after being in Dunclutha telling me that she couldn't cope and I was causing her too much heartache. I didn't hear from her again until I was thirteen and a half. They asked if we wanted to come back and we did but I found out it was for the allowance.













- I got called into the office when I came back from school after giving FFY Secondary In number. I was told the children weren't getting to answer the payphone anymore because I shouldn't have taken that call. He asked if I was ok with FFY and FFZ visiting. I said yes. They came and we showed them around the home and went down to the town for our tea. Was there too. I think came. I think their son was in the Royal Navy by this time.
- 79. FFY and FFZ came back again, then after three or four visits they asked if we wanted to stay with them at the weekend. We were up for that. FFZ came for us himself. We got the ferry from Dunoon to Gourock, then the train to Glasgow Central. We then walked to Glasgow Queen Street and got the train to Haymarket in Edinburgh. We then got a train to Kirkcaldy and then a bus from there to Methil. He did the journey twice, showing me how to do it then I did it myself with my sister. I was fourteen when we were doing this. The staff would pick us up off the ferry on the way back on Sunday night. This was every third weekend.

The FFY-FFZ foster care, Methil

80. I don't remember how it came about that we went back. I just remember them asking if we wanted to and I said yes. I don't remember a meeting with social work, coming to tell us we were leaving. I just remember

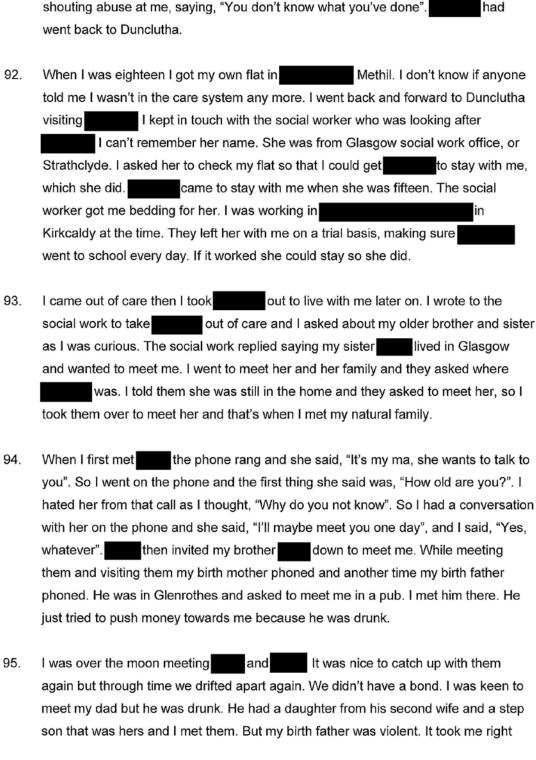
FFZ coming and getting us and we never went back. I think we packed what we had. We had about three outfits each.



Secondary Institutions - to be published later		

- 82. By this time the FFY-FFZ were staying at Methil. There was my sister and me. I shared a room with The house had three bedrooms.
- 83. I picked up very quickly that it was about money with FFY None of them were alcoholics when I was with them as a kid but FFY was a bad alcoholic now, to the point that she would hide her bottle of vodka in with the dirty washing or in cupboards. FFZ worked in the FFZ was an evangelist, he was right into the church and we rarely seen him and FFY sank into the bottle.
- 84. I went to Kirkland high school and went to Aberhill primary school. Both were in Methil. I covered up FFY 's drinking because I didn't want to go back to Dunclutha. I would be kept off school to help her with the housework, wash the walls or paint the ceiling. I think FFZ knew, because she was drunk, she was always stinking of alcohol. I hated the school anyway because I hadn't built a friendship up. All the kids had come from primary to secondary together. I arrived in third year.
- 85. I knew a cheque came every month for them keeping us. I had no contact with the social work during this time. How I knew about the cheque was that I used to go to the shop along the street and get two carrier bags of groceries. FFY gave me a note to hand over and it was pleading that she had two girls from foster care and she only got paid monthly for them. I read the note. I hated her from that day onwards. The girl that served me was in my class and she told everybody in the school.
- There was a lot of arguments between FFZ and FFY and I'd get stuck in the middle of them. They both drank whisky. He would drink a couple of glasses and she would drink the bottle. They argued all the time. I blew up one day and said the minute I'm sixteen I'm out of here. Anything I had for the FFY-FFZ had gone. The people I knew from when I was younger were gone.

87.	never abused me but he made me feel uncomfortable because he
	would have his hand down his trousers 'massaging his ego', for want of a better
	word. He didn't abuse me or that I'm aware of, but he went on to abuse my
	oldest daughter years later.
	9
88.	I had got a job when I was sixteen at it's called now. I fell out with
	before I left and stayed at FFZ 's sisters in Glasgow for a fortnight. When I came
	back FFY her son and were in Anstruther. FFZ was
	still working and staying in Methil. FFY sent her son on his motor bike to get
	my dig money and I refused to give her it. She was taking all my money and giving
	me bus fares because the money she was getting for me had stopped when I
	reached sixteen. He said she would kick me out. I told the father FFZ when he came
	home from work and said my dig money was on the mantelpiece but he told me to
	keep it.
89.	I had no contact with my birth parents or and when I was with my foster
	parents. I think my dad took and up to Aberdeen as he had family there. I
	think my birth mother stayed in Glasgow for a while then moved to England
	somewhere. I found out about my birth parents and
	eighteen or nineteen and I found them.
	Life after being in care
90.	I stayed with the FFY-FFZ until I was sixteen and then left. I was there about a year
	and a half then moved in with my friend
	She spoke with FFY and it was ok. They lived in too, right across
	the park from the FFY-FFZ . remained with FFY and FFZ
91.	I kept in touch with and we would meet in the park. One time she told me
	she had been beaten up by FFY so I told the social work that FFY was an alcoholic
	and to get out. I told I'd done that and she wasn't happy.
	got me a little job and I came home one day and FFY was standing at her door
	20



back to that bedroom when I was four because I saw him being violent in that family environment. I just cut myself right away from it. He is dead now as far as I know. I was seventeen or eighteen when I met him and it was about two years later that I cut all contact.

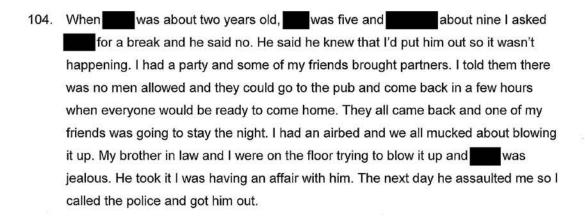
96. My mum moved back from wherever she was to Glasgow. I drove a motor bike then. I drove to s and she said, "My ma wants to meet you", so I put her on the back of my motor bike and we went to my birth mother's house. Dunclutha had its bad bits but we were brought up with discipline. I wasn't used to people swearing and dirty cups and dog poo on the carpet and stuff. So when I walked in to her house I was disgusted.

97. wanted to meet our birth mother, so I took her. This was when living with me. We came back to Fife but after a few months said she wanted to stay with her birth mother, so she moved to Glasgow with her. I stayed clear, I was working in a residential children's home her for a year and I received a letter asking me to come and get her because our birth mother was battering her. I was pregnant at the time so couldn't use my motor bike. I went through on the train and she showed me the bruises. I told her to get her stuff and come with me. She said she couldn't because she was terrified. I told her I in Anniesland and gave her twenty pounds for a taxi. She turned up at the door next morning, or the same night. Half an hour later my birth mother was at the door, kicking it and demanding came back up the road with her. There was a stand-off between my mum and me. She was just a bully. So I pushed her out the way and went to the police. The police came and told my birth mother that was old enough to come back to Fife. So I brought her home with me. I had no feelings towards my mum, towards any of them.

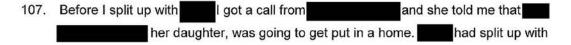
98. So had went to Dunclutha, then stayed with me then our birth mother, she battered her so she moved back in with me. I stayed on the thirteenth floor and I was pregnant with my oldest daughter. I had my daughter and when I got back home my neighbours told me that was having boys back to the flat. We had a big argument and she moved into a flat with a pal. She was old enough to leave anyway.

99.	1982 and I got married in 1982. The marriage lasted just a couple of months. I threw him out as he was coming home with love bites on his neck.
100.	I went from to in Kirkcaldy. I was a support worker, care assistant at I lidin't have any qualifications, those came later. There was a lot of in-house training with the kids. I wanted to work in care because of my background in care. I always said I would try to make a difference. I didn't get the job at first, I was very young, but I saw they were advertising again, applied and got an interview. They said they would give me a chance. There were about twelve children aged between five to fifteen. It was residential.
101.	was born in 1982 so I stayed there until July but after my six months maternity leave I called and told them I wasn't coming back. I didn't think I could leave my daughter because her dad and I had split up. When she was in nursery at four years old I got a YTS job in a community church. They had a playgroup thing on in the morning for kids and afternoon sessions for after school clubs. I would pick up from nursery and bring her back there. I did a year at the church.
102.	I met my second husband and went on to have my other two daughters with him. and and and a I stayed at home and did child minding from there. This was in Buckhaven. was born in 1987 and and I got married in 1987. was born in 1990. When was about eleven months old I got a job at mursing home in Kirkcaldy. I stayed there for about a year to eighteen months. I then got a job at children's residential unit in Glenrothes. I was with for seven years. We divorced in 1994 or 1995.
103 _.	I worked in for a number of years. was on continental shifts, eighteen days on then eighteen days off, so I took a relief post and would work shifts when he was at home. It was in that time that our marriage deteriorated. was a jealous guy and he would pick me up from work and see I was working with guys. Our

marriage went downhill and he just kept throwing up what I'd told him about my time in care.



- and I split and I carried on working at would pick up the kids and take them to his mums. He was living there. My sister and one of my best friends were helping with the kids too. There was no chance of and I getting back together. He stalked me, followed me home from work and slept in his car in the drive. This happened for about a year then he met another woman. He then stopped taking the kids, trying to put barriers up for me working, but my sister and friend still helped me out.
- 106. My oldest daughter was hanging about in Buckhaven. One day she was needing the toilet and went into FFZ in her eyes FFZ was her grandad. FFY died with alcohol poisoning or her liver or something when I left and had moved to Buckhaven. He started touching up. She didn't tell me for months. We got the police involved and he admitted it and was put on the sex offenders register. She was about eleven. One day I was giving FFZ and his friend a lift to a night out. was sitting on FFZ as knee. I looked in the mirror and FFZ had his hands between selections is legs. I told him to get out and that's when it all came out. I had been in contact with him up until then, maybe once a month.



	her husband and was living in England. Her daughter was in Glasgow. I asked her
	why and she said she didn't know. I said she wasn't going in a home and I took her.
	She was twelve. She stayed with me until she was sixteen. She still had contact with
	her mum and dad, mainly through the phone.
	Pete Jack.
	·
108.	When I split up from was babysitting my kids. This
	was in my house and sometimes in her house if I was a dayshift. She then got
	pregnant with Pete Jack's child. She was still babysitting for me but one night I came
	home and he was there himself. I asked where was and was told she had
	went down the road as she was pregnant and tired. For a couple of years they were
	still babysitting while I was working.
109.	In 2010, all my daughters were older then and they got a woman in that did readings
100.	She apparently told them all individually that they had a secret and they need to talk
	about it. She didn't know they were sisters. I was working at the time. I got a phone
	call the next morning saying my oldest and youngest daughters had been arrested.
	They had been released and came to my house and told me that Pete Jack,
	's boyfriend, had been sexually abusing them all. Apparently it started when
	was six and was three, until was thirteen or fourteen. I knew nothing
	about it because I was too busy trying to make it right in the children's home.
2000	
110.	Pete Jack got seven years in the jail. He got released last year but put back in for
	breaching his bail conditions. He had went to Perth court.
	Kirkcaldy sheriff court after abusing
111.	Over the years I have done lots of training. I have my SVQ3 in Health & Social Care,
	I've done Child Care Phase one & two and Child Protection, all to work in residential
	care. I went on to be a senior in the last place I was in at
	was there for about six and a bit years.
112.	The difference now to when I was in care is that the kids can call the social work.
	The sincrement few to when I was in care is that the kids barroan the social work.

The staff would call the social work and you'd sit down with the kids. We do group

therapy with them. We're very hands on with the kids. When my kids came home from school I would always ask, "How was your day?". I still do it with my grandson. That was never there for us.



Impact

- 114. I have lack of trust and insecurities. Physical touch, hugs are very hard to accept. I freeze. I very rarely use the word love. I am protective with my grandchildren, especially joining clubs where changing or showering takes place. I sometimes withdraw socially because of anxieties. I've had failed relationships, which were most probably my fault, through insecurities and lack of trust. I choose friends wisely, again through trust and loyalty.
- 115. I'm very good at saying I'm fine. We're all good at putting on a front with a smile. No-one knows what's going on behind that smile or when your left with your own thoughts.
- 116. I struggle to tell my kids I love them. I feel their pain. I was too busy throwing myself into other things to stop me thinking about what happened to me, to not see what happened to them. My daughters and I are a very close knit family but I struggle with the love kind of stuff and I think that's from being in care. I thought my kids were with someone that I trusted. I was too busy looking after me and others. What happened to me I think, I was doing right for the kids in care and I wasn't looking out for my own kids.

- 117. My time in care cost me everything, my marriages, everything. I don't have trust for anyone, in particular men. I give up as quick as I can. I'm no good with intimate relationships. I give up. I've not been in a relationship for years. The minute I see that things are not right, I throw the towel in. I have a lot of male friends but I'm no good at relationships.
- 118. I buried my time in care for a long time. Even when I was working in care, I was there for the kids. The abuse side never came into my head. It came about when my kids went to court with Pete Jack. It came flooding back then. Then I buried it again. I then heard about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, I had guided kids through speaking, I guided my daughter's through the court system, it was time for me to have a voice.
 Secondary Institutions to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published la

- 119. I became a no-nonsense person. I wasn't going to take any 'crap' in life, I was looking for something better. I think as a family we have been through so much, way before my kids came along, and when they did come along. Some things could have been so different. Was it because I was in Dunclutha, I don't know. Was it because I was in foster care, I don't know. I believe now that is the case because of my experience and training of working in the care system.
- 120. I think it has affected my life and the life of my kids. was the quietest out of them all then went right off the rails. She was getting into trouble with the police. She had a son and one day knocked on my door and said, "I can't do this anymore", when he was five. I have got him full time. She is very much part of his life, that is something I stipulated. She is back on the straight and narrow and with another partner, but she is in and out of relationships like a yo-yo. I think that's because of what happened to her. is in a stable relationship. She has two kids, but she is like me, she buries things. The youngest, doesn't want to work with men. So it has affected her too. It has affected every one of us.

121.	My oldest grandson is sixteen. When he was eighteen months old I went back to		
	Dunoon. I'd never told my kids about or though		
	done that out of anger one time. I took them over and the home was still up and		
	running. It only closed about two years ago. My initials are still carved on a tree. I		
	knocked on the door and a woman I didn't know let us in and let the kids see the		
	environment I grew up in. We went back to the caravan and over two days I		
	answered their questions and filled in the gaps for them.		



- I can't remember exactly when. I was alone in this big flat. When they gave me the keys I was terrified. I still sleep with the bathroom light on. I think it was the first time I'd been on my own. I've felt a couple of times over the years like ending it because of what happened to my kids, I blame myself. One of my pals came in, she shouted my name. I got out the bath and fell in the hall. She called her mum who came up and got an ambulance.
- 124. I've never had counselling. I've not had any help from doctors. I kind of deal with it. I do have my blips. Alcohol plays a big part in my life. Not every day, but some days. When I have bad days, when things are in my head I do drink. I get drunk. Not in front of my grandson. I blamed myself for going off the rails and police coming to my door.
- 125. I would say I've been drinking since I told what happened to me. When I beat myself up about what happened. I tend to have a drink to knock me out and go to sleep because I want to forget what's going on in my head. I have blowouts every

few months for about twenty four hours. I don't want to talk to people about it.

Talking about it just brings things back. I hope after this today that I don't have to bring it up again. That is my coping mechanism.

Reporting of Abuse

I never reported the abuse I suffered to the police. The first person I told about was my second husband, but he used it as a weapon. It destroyed our marriage. If I refused sex he would say, "But you let a dirty old man do it to you". We divorced and he has since passed away.

Records

127. I asked about my records once. I think it was my niece's social worker I asked and she told me that all the records were in Glasgow somewhere. She didn't know where. She asked if I was interested and I wasn't sure if I wanted to read them. I didn't see her again and didn't take it any further.

Lessons to be Learned

128. I think they could work with the families of the kids in care more. I don't think the parents are helped to get the kids integrated back into the family home. The fact that they do police checks now is a positive thing. I don't think that was done when I was in care. I think there should be someone out with the care environment the kids trust that they can talk to. Can anything be made better, police checks, etc, because people do and have slipped through the net. Relationships and trust need built up with a child for them to be able to open up.

Other information

129. 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.

	FGJ	
Signed		
Dated	14/10/2019.	