

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

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 . I 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. is about two 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

in a pub. So we got chunked in the bathroom with some toys. I remember the social work putting the door in and removing us from there.

5.

The **FFY-FFZ** foster care, **██████████** Livingston

6.

We were taken somewhere in a van and then we were placed in foster care with a **FFY-FFZ** **██████████** 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 **FFZ** 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 **██████████** and I 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 **██████████**.

9.

We used to get slapped or smacked by **FFZ** **██████████**. **FFY** would say, "Wait till your 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 was stupid stuff. This was in **██████████** There was a hospital near the flat. I

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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] by the police. FFY [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] I was definitely treated differently from their son [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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

15. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16.

17.

18.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19.

20.

21.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

27.

28.

29.

30.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.	Secondary Institutions - to be published later
41.	
42.	
43.	
44.	

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

50. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

51.

52.

53. I didn't go to any more children's panels and don't remember any reviews. I remember a man came in once. I don't know who he was. He came in with a book with photos and asked me if I knew 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 Institution 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 FFY. 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 Institutions so I gave her their number. I was thirteen and a half.

55. FFY-FFZ 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.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

56.

57.

58.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

59.

60.

61.

62.

63.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

64.

65.

66.

67.

	Secondary Institutions - to be published later
68.	
69.	
70.	
71.	
72.	

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

73.

74.

75.

76.

77.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

78. I got called into the office when I came back from school after giving FFY Secondary Institution 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. [REDACTED] was there too. I think [REDACTED] came. I think their son [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED] 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.

81. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

82. By this time the FFY-FFZ were staying at [REDACTED] Methil. There was FFY and FFZ [REDACTED] my sister and me. I shared a room with [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] worked in the [REDACTED] FFY didn't work. 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 [REDACTED] went to Aberhill primary school. Both were in Methil. I covered up FFY's drinking because I didn't want to go back to Duncutha. 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.
86. 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. FFZ [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] that I'm aware of, but he went on to abuse my oldest daughter [REDACTED] years later.
88. I had got a job when I was sixteen at [REDACTED] it's called [REDACTED] now. I fell out with FFY [REDACTED] before I left and stayed at FFZ [REDACTED]'s sisters in Glasgow for a fortnight. When I came back FFY [REDACTED] her son [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in Anstruther. FFZ [REDACTED] was still working and staying in Methil. FFY [REDACTED] sent her son [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I was with my foster parents. I think my dad took [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I was eighteen or nineteen and I found them.

Life after being in care

90. I stayed with the FFY-FFZ [REDACTED] until I was sixteen and then left. I was there about a year and a half then moved in with my friend [REDACTED] and her mum [REDACTED]. She spoke with FFY [REDACTED] and it was ok. They lived in [REDACTED] too, right across the park from the FFY-FFZ [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] remained with FFY [REDACTED] and FFZ [REDACTED].
91. I kept in touch with [REDACTED] and we would meet in the park. One time she told me she had been beaten up by FFY [REDACTED] so I told the social work that FFY [REDACTED] was an alcoholic and to get [REDACTED] out. I told [REDACTED] I'd done that and she wasn't happy. [REDACTED] had got me a little job and I came home one day and FFY [REDACTED] was standing at her door

shouting abuse at me, saying, "You don't know what you've done". [REDACTED] had went back to Dunclotha.

92. When I was eighteen I got my own flat in [REDACTED] Methil. I don't know if anyone told me I wasn't in the care system any more. I went back and forward to Dunclotha visiting [REDACTED] I kept in touch with the social worker who was looking after [REDACTED] I can't remember her name. She was from Glasgow social work office, or Strathclyde. I asked her to check my flat so that I could get [REDACTED] to stay with me, which she did. [REDACTED] came to stay with me when she was fifteen. The social worker got me bedding for her. I was working in [REDACTED] in Kirkcaldy at the time. They left her with me on a trial basis, making sure [REDACTED] went to school every day. If it worked she could stay so she did.
93. I came out of care then I took [REDACTED] out to live with me later on. I wrote to the social work to take [REDACTED] out of care and I asked about my older brother and sister as I was curious. The social work replied saying my sister [REDACTED] lived in Glasgow and wanted to meet me. I went to meet her and her family and they asked where [REDACTED] was. I told them she was still in the home and they asked to meet her, so I took them over to meet her and that's when I met my natural family.
94. When I first met [REDACTED] the phone rang and she said, "It's my ma, she wants to talk to you". So I went on the phone and the first thing she said was, "How old are you?". I hated her from that call as I thought, "Why do you not know". So I had a conversation with her on the phone and she said, "I'll maybe meet you one day", and I said, "Yes, whatever". [REDACTED] then invited my brother [REDACTED] down to meet me. While meeting them and visiting them my birth mother phoned and another time my birth father phoned. He was in Glenrothes and asked to meet me in a pub. I met him there. He just tried to push money towards me because he was drunk.
95. I was over the moon meeting [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] It was nice to catch up with them again but through time we drifted apart again. We didn't have a bond. I was keen to meet my dad but he was drunk. He had a daughter from his second wife and a step son that was hers and I met them. But my birth father was violent. It took me right

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 [REDACTED]'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. [REDACTED] wanted to meet our birth mother, so I took her. This was when [REDACTED] was living with me. We came back to Fife but after a few months [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was with 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 was going to stay with [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] went to the police. The police came and told my birth mother that [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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. I worked at [REDACTED] for a year. I got pregnant when I was twenty. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] in Kirkcaldy. I was a support worker, care assistant at [REDACTED]. I didn'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. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 1982 so I stayed there until July but after my six months maternity leave I called [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] up from nursery and bring her back there. I did a year at the church.
102. I met my second husband [REDACTED] and went on to have my other two daughters with him. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I stayed at home and did child minding from there. This was in Buckhaven. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 1987 and [REDACTED] and I got married in [REDACTED] 1987. [REDACTED] was born in 1990. When [REDACTED] was about eleven months old I got a job at [REDACTED] nursing home in Kirkcaldy. I stayed there for about a year to eighteen months. I then got a job at [REDACTED] children's residential unit in Glenrothes. I was with [REDACTED] for seven years. We divorced in 1994 or 1995.
103. I worked in [REDACTED] for a number of years. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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.

104. When [REDACTED] was about two years old, [REDACTED] was five and [REDACTED] about nine I asked [REDACTED] for a break and he said no. He said he knew that I'd put him out so it wasn't happening. I had a party and some of my friends brought partners. I told them there was no men allowed and they could go to the pub and come back in a few hours when everyone would be ready to come home. They all came back and one of my friends was going to stay the night. I had an airbed and we all mucked about blowing it up. My brother in law and I were on the floor trying to blow it up and [REDACTED] was jealous. He took it I was having an affair with him. The next day he assaulted me so I called the police and got him out.
105. [REDACTED] and I split and I carried on working at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] in her eyes FFZ [REDACTED] was her grandad. FFY [REDACTED] died with alcohol poisoning or her liver or something when I left and FFZ [REDACTED] had moved to Buckhaven. He started touching [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] and his friend a lift to a night out. [REDACTED] was sitting on FFZ [REDACTED]'s knee. I looked in the mirror and FFZ [REDACTED] had his hands between [REDACTED]'s 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.
107. Before I split up with [REDACTED] I got a call from [REDACTED] and she told me that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] her daughter, was going to get put in a home. [REDACTED] had split up with

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. [REDACTED] started seeing a guy called Pete Jack.

108. When I split up from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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. 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, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s boyfriend, had been sexually abusing them all. Apparently it started when [REDACTED] was six and [REDACTED] was three, until [REDACTED] was thirteen or fourteen. I knew nothing about it because I was too busy trying to make it right in the children's home.
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. FFZ [REDACTED] went to Kirkcaldy sheriff court after abusing [REDACTED]
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 [REDACTED] I 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 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.

113. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] is in a stable relationship. She has two kids, but she is like me, she buries things. The youngest, [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] though [REDACTED] 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.
122. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
123. I [REDACTED] once and got my stomach pumped. This was before I had [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] going off the rails and police coming to my door.
125. I would say I've been drinking since I told [REDACTED] 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

126. I never reported the abuse I suffered to the police. The first person I told about POZ [REDACTED] was my second husband, [REDACTED] 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