

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDD

Support person present: No

1. My name is FDD. My date of birth is 1980. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I stay in Fraserburgh with my wife and two children. One is four years old and the other is eighteen months, both boys. I also have a ten year old boy to a previous relationship. He comes to see me regularly, three or four times a week. He lives about three miles from me.

Life before going into care

3. I was born in Livingston but I can't remember much until I moved up to Banff when I was three or four. I moved there with my real mum, her name was . She was known as . She passed away three years ago. There was myself, my brother FDJ who is eighteen months younger than me and my step-sister , who is older than me. I also have a younger sister EOZ.
4. I don't remember my dad but I have met him in the last few years. I didn't know him when I was younger. My mum was an alcoholic and we were left to our own devices. I remember my mum being beaten up and her beating my sister up. I remember the police coming and taking us away. That's probably the extent of it.
5. I remember very briefly being in a school, maybe a nursery, when I was with my mum, but I can't remember much. There is a photo of me in a school, so it must have been primary one. I was in care before but I can't remember that. I remember my mum being

beaten up and the police coming and my uncle coming too. The police and my uncle [REDACTED] took me away. I went into the back of the police car. I'm assuming my brother FDJ was with me.

The [REDACTED] foster care, [REDACTED]

6. I went to a foster home in [REDACTED] when I was about five. I went to stay with a couple called [REDACTED]. To my understanding they're not together now. I have good memories of that. I'm still in contact with [REDACTED] now. There was nothing bad there. I can't remember the first day there. My sister [REDACTED] went to a different foster home.
7. [REDACTED] and I went into a foster home together earlier than this. I can't remember that, then I went back home for a while before going to [REDACTED]. I remember it was a little cottage house. They didn't have any children of their own. They had a dog. [REDACTED] was really hands on. He played with us. He was into cars, mechanics, that sort of thing. He built a garage thing outside for us. It was good. Nothing bad happened to us there. We went for walks in the woods. We were there for about six months. I went to school when I was there. I can't remember the name. Maybe that's the photo I'm talking about. I get on really well with [REDACTED] he was at my wedding a year ago.
8. My social worker's name was Michael Birch. I remember a female social worker coming to my mum's house but I can't remember her name. My mum made a sandwich and flattened it on the stone floor and gave it to the social worker. My mum was a mixed up woman. I think Michael Birch was involved when I was in [REDACTED]. He came to visit but I can't recall what was said.
9. I think we left [REDACTED] because of my younger sister EOZ [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED]'s couldn't support three children. There was some agreement with my mum and dad and the social work department that we would attend Catholic church and me FDJ [REDACTED] and EOZ [REDACTED] would be kept together. They found it hard to get a place that would take the three of us. I remember something with my brother. He had a brain tumour. He

had [REDACTED] and maybe he was struggling. I think that had something to do with it too.

10. I remember crying when I left [REDACTED]. I remember my brother opening the car door, I think it was an old brown Ford car. It was Michael Birch's car. I think we were taken to Fraserburgh social work department. It was [FDJ] and I that were there. I can't remember much. I think there was a lot of waiting about. [REDACTED] was elsewhere. I am assuming that is when we went to [FJX/FJY] [REDACTED]'s house. They stayed at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I think we went to meet them while we were still at [REDACTED]. I have no real memory of being there. I think there was maybe a transition process. I remember meeting them.

The [FJX/FJY] foster care, [REDACTED]

11. The house had a front garden. To the left were vegetables. It also had a back garden. There was a front living room and a kitchen. There were two bedrooms and a toilet upstairs. We actually moved over the road to what was my foster grandparents house. I can't remember when we moved there. It would have been early on. I had my sixth birthday in that house. I remember having a football cake for my birthday. It was a good memory. My sister [REDACTED] was there and my cousins. Other kids were there too. We sat at the table. It was pretty good. I shared a room with [FDJ]
12. It's hard to say what my first memories are of [FJX/FJY] [REDACTED]. I don't think it was bad at first. Maybe they had good intentions. I can't say it was very bad or very good. I remember being playful with my brother outside in a toy tractor. I've blanked so much of them out. I think I've done it on purpose. They initially had a Renault 5 or 25 car. It was very old. The house was old.
13. We had Ewoks wallpaper in the bedroom. My sister [EOZ] [REDACTED] had care bears wallpaper in her bedroom. She didn't come in until a bit later. She would have been two or three. When I went to Banff, [EOZ] [REDACTED] was a baby, because I think I remember my mum actually being with [EOZ] [REDACTED]. When I went to [REDACTED] [EOZ] [REDACTED] went to MacDuff, I think with [REDACTED]

14. When we went to Fraserburgh it could have been a three bedroom house, but we moved in to our foster grandparents house across the road at number [REDACTED]. That was definitely a three bedroomed house. Maybe that's why we left.
15. I remember I had a teddy that I took everywhere with me that I had from my real mum. We had toy swords that we already had when we arrived, and a tractor outside. I can't recall what else we had. I have no memory of it.

Routine at the [REDACTED]

Food

16. The food was not bad actually. [REDACTED] could cook chips and there was always veg. She was a control freak. I couldn't say I didn't like something. We had to eat what we were given. We hated Weetabix. I hate them to this day, maybe because of the memory. My sister was eating them and they were soggy and she was physically sick and she was made to eat them with the sick. It was absolutely disgusting. She was seven or eight years old. Right up to our teens we were made to eat everything, but we became quite cute. We'd give it to the dog or we'd put it right to the bottom of the bin and hide it. We were made to eat at the table and they were always in the living room. We couldn't get up until she told us. We regularly had to sit at the table for over an hour.

Schooling

17. I loved school. It was an escape. Coming home was horrible. You'd get anxious. You would fight not to go in the front door first, then nobody wanted to open the living room door. There was no consistency with [REDACTED], it depended on her mood.
18. I went to [REDACTED] Primary School. I think they could say a lot. They would definitely be able to identify things that were wrong. [REDACTED] have continued to foster and I think there was a head teacher not that long ago, Eunice Steven, who had concerns.

19. From primary three or four we got ourselves to school. It wasn't fair. We walked there. We went to school in rags. They had money. They had a massive Dodge Jeep and a massive extension. She went to bingo four times a week and she gambled and told me not to tell FJX. All the kids had good trainers, etc. We were never like that, even at the academy. One of the times that FJX/FJY broke up, FJY took us to Peterhead. It was supposed to be a treat. We were asked what we wanted. I asked for a pair of trainers and she went ballistic. I got a denim jacket. It was second hand because when I put my hand in the pocket there was still fifty pence in it. She took it.
20. I played for the school football team and a boys club, I think that was during primary school. I went to army cadets but I hated it. I wasn't there very long. My good memories are when I was out of the house. Skateboarding, playing with friends. I went to Holland on a school trip, that was great.
21. As we got older I remember a strict routine but off the top of my head I can't remember a bedtime. FDJ and I were in bunk beds. FJY would come and get us up. I remember as we got older she would just lie in her bed to God knows what time. I was good at cross country but I only went to three or four events from primary five to primary seven. I was the fastest boy in my school at cross country. I was picked to run for the school but she wouldn't get out of her bed to take me. She would tell me to get back to my 'fucking bed'. I actually got in trouble at school, being asked why I wasn't there. It was annoying. I can't remember what I'd say, I wasn't well or my mum wasn't well. I was told what to say. She was quite controlling.
22. I really liked school. FJY liked words and puzzles. We used to get homework that was three words and you had to spell them and make sentences up using the words. She helped with them, but her sentences were always better than mine so my homework wasn't mine. They only went to parents nights on the odd occasion.
23. In my first year or two at Fraserburgh Academy I was really immature. I would say I was attention seeking. I was in the middle groups when it came to work and stuff. Help was non-existent at home. I was picked on a bit at school, not bullied. It was just

because of what I was wearing. Once I was in third and fourth year I got jobs and bought clothes.

24. Our report cards were always good. FJY would say well done for our report cards. I think because she could show them off.
25. I picked my subjects. I wanted to pick sport but because of the way the timetables worked at school I didn't get to pick it. I was very good at art for no particular reason. As a kid I would just sit and draw in the bedroom. It was a getaway thing. I did my fourth year prelim exam. I painted a picture and all the art teachers came in and were asking me who taught me. I said nobody, I had a style of painting they don't teach at school. They thought it was amazing. I got the highest mark for painting in the school but wasn't good in the theory. So I got a grade one for the painting and I think a grade four for the theory. FJX/FJY weren't interested in art. They wanted me to go to the military because that's what his whole family had done. As a kid I wanted to be a soldier but I forgot about that when I left primary.
26. I wanted to stay on at school and I went into fifth year. There was an incident in the toilets. A kid in first or second year was in the toilets smoking and the guy I was with, was having a bit of banter with him. The next thing, we left and this kid had cut his head. Mr Butcher, a teacher, told us to come to him. This kid had said that had pushed him. We got excluded for three days. FJY actually believed me. One of the first times that she actually stuck up for me. I was taken out of school by FJY. I didn't go back although I wanted to. The art department got hold of my guidance teacher and said I couldn't leave art, that I had to at least sit my fifth year exams but I didn't.

Religion

27. We went to Sunday school for a period of time. I hated it. It wasn't Catholic, which my mum and dad had wanted. It didn't last long. We were baptised in a different church, which wasn't Catholic and would have been against my dad's wishes.

Bedwetting

28. I constantly wet the bed. I remember once getting my head put into the wet sheet and FJY said, "Look what you've fucking done." That wasn't my first bad memory. Things gradually got worse.
29. Regarding the bedwetting, I remember wetting the bed when I was eight and my birthday party was cancelled. She went mental. I remember FJY's sister, my aunty telling her she couldn't do that, that it was just cruel. FJY said I had to learn. It was going to be at the Watermill. I got a party there years later.
30. I remember in the other house I went to the toilet maybe up to three times one night and she went absolutely mental. Screaming and shouting. So when I needed the toilet I would pee down the side of the bunk bed to hide it. I used my teddy to clean it up. I'd hide my pyjamas and change my pyjamas. She'd catch me out. On occasions she would put my wet pyjamas in my face and say, "Look what you've fucking done, you little tink". It was a regular thing to all three of us.

Bath time

31. Up to primary six or seven I had to share a bath with FDJ. Bath time was disgusting. It was FJX, then FJY, then EOZ, FDJ then me, because when we got older it was individual. All with the same bath water. I was always last and the water was always filthy. I've had problems with showering growing up. I've had to overcome that over the last few years.
32. I remember they got a massive extension and a revamp through the social work and after that they had two showers. I was told they had a deal with the social work. They had to take a kid up to a certain date, which would cover that. We were told to tell everybody else that FJX got paid off from his work. He did, he got sacked or something. He got a huge pay off.

Visits/inspections

33. We were petrified of FJY. When the social work or relatives were there she would give us cuddles. It was a false pretence. It caused me problems. In my first two relationships I couldn't be cuddled. Anything near my neck I'd lose the rag. I'd tell them not to cuddle me. I've grown out of it now. It was her. When the social work came you would think that butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. She would play up to the social workers and we were told what to say or we'd be taken away.
34. I was there for almost twenty years and the social work weren't there often. There were so many different social workers. There was Mike Birch and there was a lady called Lou. I think she was there for my sister. She was really good. I remember her speaking to us, prompting us, asking if there was anything wrong. She was the only one who'd try and take us for walks.
35. I remember the odd review in Fraserburgh. FJX/FJY were always there. There weren't many one to one's. There was a guy called Ian Crockett. I think he was there early on. I don't remember him that much. There was FJX/FJY's social worker. I can't remember his name. There was a Steve Hothershall, he was early on too. He definitely knew things were going on. If you tried to tell him things he would kind of just laugh it off. Alan Strachan was one of the lead social workers with our family. My brother said he met him on a bus. He said he tried very hard to get us out of that situation.
36. I don't know how many reviews there were, not many. People would come to the house but before they did we were spoken to for half an hour about what to say and we were put in our best clothes. FJY would brush our hair. From a later age I can't recall any social work involvement. From fourteen to when I was seventeen or eighteen there was nothing in the slightest. I think the reviews were in the Fraserburgh social work office. I think it was a children's panel. There was very little conversation with us.
37. There was a visit from my mum. Nothing bad happened. Something happened and she took us into a toilet and locked the door. She done the toilet and people were

knocking, social workers, to get in and they were questioning what happened. Nothing happened. Nothing bad and we were told to say she was stinking of alcohol. She did turn up drunk once. She was one for letting us down. Maybe I was aware that she was an alcoholic. FJY had it put in my head saying, "Your mum's a fucking alcoholic". She would tell FDJ and he would cry. He really wanted his mum.

38. I remember my real dad came and he was stinking of alcohol. He visited once and gave us this 3D thing and FDJ got a Hornby train set. I was told I wanted to play with it too much so it went right up to the loft. They said he just wanted to buy us. I think he visited twice. I'd be between ten and twelve years old but we were told that we don't want to see him again because he just wants to buy us. He was a bit of a waster. The first thing he offered us was a drink of alcohol. He said, "You don't mind if I do". We went down to a wedding of his. A lot of them were a bit rough. His name was [REDACTED].

Healthcare

39. I had a lazy eye. I went to the opticians because I was struggling at school with reading or something and you have to read the chart. With my lazy eye I read the first letter, I think it was an 'A', then couldn't read any more. FJY went ballistic in front of the optician, saying, "Stop being an idiot, why are you doing that, you can read that". With my other eye I could read everything. In the car she went mad then told FJX and everybody else that I was playing up. Anytime we did anything wrong she'd tell everybody. When I peed the bed she told everybody, my cousins, everyone. I got glasses from the optician.
40. When I was at the academy I got put out of school one Thursday. I had told FJX/FJY FJX/FJY in the morning that my side was sore, like a sharp pain, but I went to school. I got put out of music. I was in agony. FJY said I was just play acting again and she went to the bingo. I couldn't eat or anything like that. I was put to bed. I went downstairs and told FJX to get an ambulance. I was physically sick. He phoned the doctors, was told to bring me in, so we went in a taxi to hospital. I had appendicitis. They said I could have died. I was five or ten minutes from my appendix bursting. I was told not to tell the social worker that.

41. I was a healthy kid. I went to the doctor not long ago and they didn't know me as I hadn't been for seventeen years. I had to re-sign everything. I was never one for play acting. I was always at school. I went to the orthodontist a few times because I had squint teeth. I had four teeth taken out. It wasn't regular but I did go to the dentist.

Work/Chores

42. As I got older, maybe about twelve, we started to get pocket money. We cleaned that house, almost every day, in the morning and evening. We did the dishes every day. My sister would wash and my brother and I would dry and put them away. At the weekend I had to polish everything, all the ornaments. I remember she had a Lord of the Rings collectable thing and that had to be dusted, the television, our room. Everything had to be dusted, then I had to Hoover. Living room, hall and stairs.
43. **FDJ** was dyspraxic so he was clumsy. I ended up having to do half of his stuff. I did all the ironing, **FDJ** didn't. I think **EOZ** had to iron too. It was non-stop. It was mainly **EOZ** and I because **FDJ** couldn't do it. He was regularly told that he was a "Fucking spastic". He was so scared. He would stutter and she would ask him why he was standing there like a 'Fucking stuttering soldier'. That was constant. He never stuttered before he went there. I had a stutter too but it wasn't as bad as his. I've got over it, but when I was dealing with people high up like my first job at the college with bosses, or on the phone to people in authority it was hard. She did shout. Somehow I learned to deal with it. I learned to blank it.
44. When I was in second year at the academy I got a paper job. I got five pounds a week. I saved that. I then worked in the Fraserburgh **██████████** where I was doing dishes. I got promoted to making salad. I would save and save. Up to a late age, maybe a couple of years ago. I was obsessed with buying designer clothes because I'd never had them.

Holidays and trips

45. On holiday we were given some of our pocket money, but not all of it. We went to Barmouth, South Wales. It was a small seaside town, so the main purpose was for FJX/FJY to go fishing. FJX loved fishing. Our holiday was that we would go there, they would fish and we would go into town ourselves. Sometimes they'd walk over with us and go shopping. We'd be in a tent. There was a fun fair, which was about a twenty minute walk from the campsite. We would go there ourselves and we got to spend some of our money there. FJX/FJY never came with us. There were other children on the campsite so we made friends, which was good. We then had pen pals, which was great. The good memory of those holidays was being there with pen pals.
46. We did go to Blackpool, that might have been our first year. I don't remember it in the slightest. They met regularly with relatives in England. They were good. The woman was ok. He was hilarious. We loved going to see him. It was a release.
47. We went to Spain once with them, to Alcludia. I'm sure FJY pushed FJX in the pool. We went for a meal one night and FJX asked what I wanted from the menu. I wanted spaghetti bolognese. FJY was furious that I didn't want something from the kids menu. FJX said yes, but FJY said no. I didn't want to eat it. I was scared. She spoke to me one to one and told me never to come between them again. I don't even remember flying there. I know I was there and I remember packets of sweeties. I got to try pernod. We met a couple there. The boy's name was . They were from England. They came to live with us for about a week. We had it in our mind that they were swingers or something. The woman was extremely flirty.
48. On the odd occasion we'd go swimming. We went to Codona's on a couple of occasions in Aberdeen, which was a fair ground.

Birthdays/Christmas

49. We got a Commodore 64 games console. That was the first computer we got. There were heaps and heaps of games. They were second hand, so they might have come from the social work department. That was great, we really enjoyed that. I remember getting these toys. They were battery operated. They were like insects but they were big. On Christmas day FJX went ballistic at me because if they hit something they made a noise and he was watching TV. Eventually he just took them from us, on Christmas day. We got them back eventually.
50. We always got something at Christmas. I remember one year we got the first Playstation, a TV and fifty pounds. I was about fourteen. I was told that would be the last big Christmas. Another Christmas we got a pool table. We would always be reminded that anything we were given wasn't just ours and that they were for any children who came into the house. Nothing actually belonged to us. After that we'd maybe get fifty pounds. It was ok. FJY would cook at Christmas.
51. On my birthday, one time, I think it was my tenth birthday we went to the Watermill hotel with all my friends. That was great. Other than that, I remember a tea party at a young age. I don't remember getting any specific presents. I think I did get a cake but I can't remember.

FJX/FJY's relationship

52. I remember FJY tried to commit suicide and I found her. A social worker came and saw my eyes were watering. He said don't worry about it, everything will be fine. That was it. I think I was a young teenager at that time. This will definitely be on record because I had to call an ambulance. We were in the other house by this time. She went into Cornhill hospital, which is a psychiatric hospital. She was there for a while, possibly as much as month.
53. The next day FJX took us to a house of a woman he was having an affair with. Her name was [REDACTED]. They were holding hands. We were told not to say anything. He

worked with her. This caused him serious issues. They would fight about this all the time. FJY actually caught him. He had said he was going fishing but left his fishing gear behind. She went up and attacked the woman. He was cheating all the time. [REDACTED] left and moved away. I remember she sent a letter to the house, calling FJX a coward and FJY numerous names. Joe Bryce was their social worker when FJY tried to commit suicide. He was assigned to her.

54. I was about thirteen years old when they split up. They split up a lot. They would always argue about [REDACTED]. She was FJX manager [REDACTED]. Her husband was our social worker. I think it was [REDACTED]. I always remember my friend [REDACTED] saying he saw my dad at the weekend ice skating with my mum. I told him he hadn't because I was with my mum. He told me they were hand in hand at the ice rink. He was there and saw them. FJX would always go fishing at Inverbervie at night time. I don't think he was there.
55. There were a lot of arguments about [REDACTED]. We would be sent to our room. It would start over anything. Shouting, screaming, things being thrown. It would get physical. I don't think he punched her but he threw her about. She would attack him. Things were thrown. They were as bad as each other. One time in their bedroom, FJX had a projector that he got from his dad. He held it in high regard and she was going to smash it up. It was scary. After their arguments, FJY would usually blame us and say it was our fault. Much of the time, her anger would be projected onto EOZ [REDACTED].
56. They didn't drink. Both of them were heavy smokers. She was a chain smoker. On the odd occasion she would have a drink but they weren't drinkers. When I say split up it was maybe for a day. It was nothing major, but the arguing happened all the time. I came home from a school trip to Holland, which was one of my happiest memories as a kid. I was in second year at the academy. One of my best memories. I was so excited on coming back to tell them all about it and as soon as I got in she just went on, saying, "Your dad's done this, your dad's done that". They'd had a massive falling out and they'd split up at that time.

57. Later on FJY worked in a supermarket. I remember a Co-op and a job as a home help. But that was on and off. It wasn't a regular thing. I don't know what FJX worked as when we first went there but he was never in the house. Later on he worked in [REDACTED] and he worked with mentally disabled adults. I don't remember FJX much.
58. One time there were English relatives visiting. I remember seeing FJX kissing some woman in the hall. It could have been my granny's funeral. I was about fourteen years old.
59. I remember FJY being on the computer, her and FJX weren't getting on. She was speaking to her friend [REDACTED], arranging to meet these men. There were these telephone conversations with men and we were told to get out the room. She'd laugh and giggle. I remember taking her profile photo. She was in a nightie and shoes, lying on the bed side on. I was about fifteen or sixteen.
60. FJY and [REDACTED] went on holiday once, definitely to meet men. FJX was looking after us. When she came back, she started going out drinking. There was a guy a year older than me, [REDACTED], a red headed lad. She ended up kissing him in the pub, I was there. I went back and told FJX. I was furious. They didn't split up because of that but it was a big thing.
61. FJY met her real family, the [REDACTED]. There was [REDACTED], [REDACTED] who was the oldest and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was brilliant but we were led to believe he was a loan shark. FJY boasted about him having stabbed somebody in Wakefield. It was like having a big brother. He was on the run from the police for months and months and stayed with us for a long time. I was seventeen and went out drinking with him. He was always alright with us.

Leaving school

62. When I left school, FJX/FJY put me to [REDACTED], a fish factory, for a year. FJY then saw an advert in the Sun newspaper for the marines and asked if I fancied

that. I thought, ok. The idea of it was great because I was right into fitness and sport anyway, but I didn't get the whole military thing. She controlled that too. She actually called the military careers guy in Belmont Street and told him I wasn't training. I was out running every day. I went for the massive interview. I had left school at sixteen or seventeen. I was eighteen or nineteen when I went for the interview. It was really intense. They go into your childhood.

63. The guy asked why I'd left my job. I said I was told to. I was asked about the training I had done. He said my mum said I wasn't training. I was asked how many press ups, sit ups and pull ups I could do. I went to a room and showed him, I did it. When I went to the marines I was good at the physical side but the emotional side was hard. They really break you, but I was away from [REDACTED]. I was so adamant I was going to do well.
64. It came to the point my eyesight affected me. I have had a lazy right eye since I was a kid. The marines put a patch over my good eye to make the other one stronger. It never worked. I went to an optician. At the time there wasn't such a thing as laser eye treatment. So, I could stay and fail, as I couldn't pass the shooting test, or I could leave of my own accord, which means I'd have to pay to come out, or I could get a quick pay off that would take six months, where I'd go home and get a discharge. So I did that.
65. I was medically discharged. When I went home I was crying. [REDACTED] didn't speak to me for a month. Never said a word to me. I was going through hell. What was I going to do with my life, and I was still a teenager.

Abuse at the [REDACTED]

66. The first thing I remember going really wrong was when I think we were watching a movie on TV. [REDACTED] was working and we were all eating Chewitts. She went crazy because she said I was eating them too fast. She was screaming. She said, "Why are you eating them so fucking fast? They aren't going out of fashion". I remember being scared and not wanting to eat them so then I was "Too fucking slow". I was six or seven years old. Eventually I was dragged up to my bed and she said, "Wait till your

fucking dad gets home". I remember my granddad slapping me on the bare bum. That was my first memory of thinking, what's going on here? That was the start. This was my dad's dad, EUW [REDACTED]. It was a strict regime going to bed. It was almost military like.

67. The granddad was the disciplinarian in the family. He died quite early on. He was used as a stick. Him or FJX [REDACTED]. That was the only time the granddad did this. I actually remember him being quite playful with us. He was ok, but I was always threatened with him or dad.
68. One time Easter was cancelled because FDJ [REDACTED] put toothpaste on the sink when he was cleaning his teeth. I took the blame but she knew it wasn't me. FDJ [REDACTED] didn't take the blame so all our Easter eggs were taken from us. She was a control freak.
69. She was worse when FJX [REDACTED] wasn't there. I remember him telling her that she had to calm down but they would end up having huge arguments. One time I had too much in my mouth and I was forced to hold it in my mouth and she took me through to FJX [REDACTED] and said, "Look what he's done". We couldn't drink our juice until we finished our supper and you couldn't leave anything.
70. FJY [REDACTED] was so controlling. When we were at the granny's she would put out a plate of biscuits. My cousins would eat them but we weren't allowed. We'd just sit there.
71. Every day we came home from school we were nervous. It was FJY [REDACTED] we were scared of. FJX [REDACTED] wasn't like that. FJY [REDACTED] was the one, from an adult's perspective, who should never have been allowed to have kids. She was messed up. I would say she was manic depressive. She told us she was sexually abused in a shed by an uncle. I think she'd been physically abused. Her family were a mess. As a kid we saw her as an evil woman.
72. I got used to her and was able to play up to her, crawling with her, asking if she needed help with this and that, and she favoured me. It was survival instinct. Even today, my brother and sister will laugh about it and say I was the blue eyed boy. FDJ [REDACTED] and I were

close when we first arrived, then we'd argue and fight. We would play off each other. I can hold my head high. They didn't destroy the relationship between my brother, my sister and I. The three of us have stuck together. We've stayed strong through the whole thing. It wasn't easy.

73. I remember getting my first treat when I spoke out about my real mum. FJY bought us sweets. We were told what to say. We went to the social work department and were told to say that my mum was stinking of alcohol. I didn't know what that was. I knew it was bad but we got a big bag of sweets for saying that.
74. FJX became the disciplinarian. I have no relationship with FJX. I never had at all when I was younger. He came to one football game I was playing in from when I was in primary five to primary seven and he left at half time. FJY told me that he'd said I should shout for the ball more. He was a good player so I wanted to be too. He never came to sports day or cross country runs. I was very good at something called snakeboarding, like a snowboard on land. He wasn't interested in it at all. He had a relationship with my sister. He adored her. FJY hated that. I think he was quite good with my brother, but with me there was nothing.
75. He sat me down one day when I was eleven or twelve and said I was a useless arrogant little shit and that he didn't want me there. It wasn't just him. We were told that so many times by FJY. That was an everyday occurrence. You became accustomed to that.
76. She was so competitive with board games. On the odd occasion she played with us, she had to win. She had to be banker at Monopoly and she cheated. She had to buy Park Lane and Mayfair. If she was losing a game or not getting her own way, she would throw it away and go into a sulk, like a child. We used to play a word game called Boggle. She would come out with these long words and she wouldn't give us points if we spelt words incorrectly.
77. I called them mum and dad. I was told to when I was nine or ten. The name change was forced. FDJ and EOZ were very reluctant to change their name. I didn't even

- know what name change meant. FDJ really didn't want to do it. He got into a lot of trouble for that and was told he would be put out of there if he didn't. We were always threatened with that. It was a common thing.
78. FJY hated FDJ I got it bad but he got it really bad. Anything he did she would call him a "fucking spastic". When I was younger I had girlfriends so FJY called FDJ a "fucking poof". She said, "look at your brother". There was a neighbour called ██████████, she told her and they both laughed.
79. I remember when EOZ was at the academy she was scared to come home. FJY said she had called her a 'fucking old bitch', and smacked EOZ right across the face with her open hand. It knocked her to the ground. She hadn't said that. EOZ got up and ran away. FJX and I had to go and look for her. FJY admitted years later that she hadn't said it.
80. She would hit us on the back of the head. It was never punching. She wouldn't hit FDJ on the head. Maybe it's because he had a tumour. She'd do this for anything. If you didn't take your shoes off at the front door, dishes not dried properly, polishing wasn't done, anything. It became a normal thing. She also dragged us around the house, especially EOZ would be dragged by her hair. At one point I think she actually ripped EOZ cardigan. As I got older it would stop. I would shout back. FJX would tell her to stop.
81. At one, FJY washed EOZ mouth out with soap and water. I have a memory of that happening. ██████████ our aunty and uncle, recently told us that they remembered that happening too.
82. Every other day you'd be grounded. If you were a minute late you could be grounded for two weeks. It was so inconsistent, because sometimes we could come home ten minutes late and we wouldn't be grounded. For not doing the dishes right you could have your pocket money taken off you for a month. I was more abrupt as I got older and walked out of the house a lot. They had less control over me, then FJY couldn't cope with me. I ended up getting thrown out anyway.

83. Me and my sister didn't get on at an early age. FJX used to play with her all the time. FJY went ballistic. She was highly jealous of FJX and EOZ playing. I think I was a bit jealous too.
84. FJY always had something wrong with her. She was lazy. She would sit and knit all the time. I always went to the shop for her. I was called the gopher. Sometimes I would go four or five times a day. Bottles of Coca-cola, fags, she'd write notes so that I could get their fags.
85. On the odd occasion I went to my friend's house, mainly when I became a teenager. They came round now and again. I had a small pool table. Sometimes she was all nice when my friends came round. My sister's friends were scared of her.
86. There was always a lot of pornography lying around the house. Videos and magazines. There was pornographic magazines everywhere. In the cupboard where there were towels and things. When I was about ten, I remember seeing this video, it was full on porn. It was foreign. When they were out FDJ and I watched it.
87. There was 100% no sexual contact with me and I don't think there was with FDJ but with EOZ, when FJX was fun fighting with her he was very touchy feely. He would tit nip her and touch her between the legs. She would get angry and tell him to stop. You knew she was upset. Her face would go red. I would walk out the room and go upstairs. I felt uncomfortable. From a young age he would fun fight with her. I did bring it up with her once but she didn't want to talk about it. EOZ and I haven't spoken for a while as her and my partner don't get on very well. We still speak, but not like we did.
88. FJY went to Fraserburgh Academy when we were there. I never knew what that was about. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She told other kids in the school we were in care and that my mum was an alcoholic. Another kid at school came up and asked us about our mum being an alcoholic because of what FJY had said. I don't know why she went to school. It was so embarrassing. She should have gone to college.

Leaving foster care

89. I started getting into trouble. I went drinking with my friends a lot. I was in the marines for eight or nine months. I left when I was eighteen or nineteen.
90. FJX didn't speak to me for a month when I left the marines. FJY asked me what was wrong and I told her dad was ignoring me. I told her this and five minutes later FJX shouted on me to come down and they both said it was time for me to get my own place and get a job. I stayed there for a little while longer. A week to two weeks.
91. One night I was at a friend's house drinking. We went to a nightclub and met a girl who offered us drugs. We said no. This girl approached me and gave me ten pounds and asked me to get her something, which I did. I was very naïve and didn't even know what I was buying until the next day. She took what was ecstasy and was falling down and hit her head and ended up in hospital. Somebody told her mum it was me that gave her it. Her mum came to the house shouting and screaming at me and FJY threw me out. It was actually FJY's fortieth birthday. I got the bus into Fraserburgh to one of my friends. Surprisingly, FJX came looking for me. I returned and [REDACTED] came to the house and began calling me names and FJY physically attacked me because I raised my voice to her friend. She tried to punch me so I pushed her. FJX broke it up and that was it. I had to go. I was never back to stay after that.

Life after being in care

92. When I was about twenty or twenty-one, I slept on one of my closest friends' sofas for about a year. His name was [REDACTED]. I never got my own place. I drank a lot and never paid any rent at all. I was working at the time.
93. Me and my ex-partner got this council flat. We were young. We'd been together for seven years. FJX/FJY came round and said that it was lovely. It was in the worst street in Fraserburgh. It was a mess, an empty shell. We lived there for about

eighteen months. There was no support from the social work. FJX/FJY gave us money for laminate flooring. They didn't visit much.

94. There was a lot of drinking involved. A guy came to the house and started a fight. He smashed our windows and I reacted and hit him and broke my finger. FDJ was there. I went to stay with my sister in Aberdeen for a while. I went back to Fraserburgh and started college. I was a lot calmer. I moved into another house with my ex-girlfriend but it wasn't the same.
95. I did art but didn't enjoy it. I started doing football coaching. The guy there, asked me to come and do this course. It was something I picked up naturally. In the first year I did all the sports. In the second year the boss said I wasn't as focussed this year. He asked me to come back in a couple of days and tell him what I'd do to make the course better. I did this and they got me to go in front of the class and that was me, that was the start of me teaching.
96. I went to Aberdeen and done my HNC and started the HND. A job came up and I was offered a job at the Fraserburgh. They asked me to cover classes like volleyball, basketball etc, so I got a bit of experience. I was there for nine and a half years after that. I gave that up and started my own basketball business, which I still do now. I also help kids at who are struggling to engage with teachers.
97. I have three sons. A ten year old to a previous relationship, a four year old and a one and a half year old. I was married last year.
98. FJX/FJY continued to foster other children while we were there and after we left. There were heaps of children. There was a baby called I think this was the start of the major issues with FJY. From my understanding FJX couldn't have children. They really adored this little kid. As he got to a certain age they tried to adopt him but it didn't come about. He was taken away from them. He was there for at least a year. I think I was in my early teens.

99. I remember a young boy with glasses, I can't remember his name. There was [REDACTED]. She still stays in Fraserburgh. She lived there almost all through that time. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all there near the end of my time. They had this big extension, so they all stayed there. They were treated terribly.
100. I was last to stop having any contact with FJY [REDACTED] and when I had my first kid she shouted at him. Something in my head just triggered. The way she dealt with these kids was just appalling. That was it for me. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who was fostered by her. He'd been abused in care, I don't know to what extent but I knew it was sexual abuse. There was a report from school, he got into trouble. Kids were giving each other 'wedgies' and she said something along the lines to him, "How would you like it? You didn't like it when men were sticking things up your fucking arsehole, so you should know better". I was appalled. He's about twenty-one now, so he'd be about thirteen then.
101. I took it up with her and said she couldn't say that to him and I walked out of the house. About ten years ago there was a little girl called [REDACTED]. She was six or seven years old. She loved us coming in. It was their release, something happy was coming in. On one occasion [REDACTED] came through to the kitchen and FJY [REDACTED] called her a "nosey little bitch", and "a cunt", all that. The girl was standing there in tears. Every kid that went there got it bad.
102. There was a girl called [REDACTED]. She was the blue eyed girl. She could do no wrong. FJX [REDACTED] adored her like she was his own daughter. [REDACTED] was non-existent, like me. Put down all the time. Kids came and went regularly for short times. There were so many kids that came and went. They were bad to [REDACTED]. The youngest girl [REDACTED] had a bedwetting problem too. She got a really hard time. It was horrific for her. FJY [REDACTED] used the word 'cunt' a lot when talking to her. She was six to eight years old.
103. FJX [REDACTED] blatantly ignored [REDACTED]. I was starting to realise this was really wrong. [REDACTED] was in the middle of this. She was ok with FJX/FJY [REDACTED] until she

made a sexual allegation. My partner and I went out to visit and we had the oddest conversation with FJX. He was doing some sort of social work course on child sexual abuse. FJY said they had a big argument and FJX had shouted up the stairs to [REDACTED] really aggressively, "You need to learn to keep your fucking promises and not let people down". I didn't understand what this was all about. He told me she just won't open up about anything.

104. My ex-wife and I discussed this on the way home and thought there was something not right. This was just before Christmas. So, on Boxing Day we were going for dinner and on the way out we got a phone call from FJY. She said, "FDD the shit has hit the fan, get here now". I came out in the car. I had my little boy with me, he was just a baby. [REDACTED] was sitting on the rug and FJX was on the couch. FJY and the rest of the kids, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all crying.
105. FJY was having this conversation and she said, "[REDACTED] just tell him what the fuck happened". I told my ex to get the kids up the stairs and my boy in the kitchen. [REDACTED] who was thirteen or fourteen years old, said something to do with massaging. FJX was getting up at a ridiculous time in the morning with [REDACTED] and doing housework. Four, five, six in the morning. She said she didn't want to put her hand down his trousers like he did to her. She said this in front of FJX, FJY and me. To me she wasn't lying. She was quite detailed. He said that that's not how it happened. What that told me was that something had happened. I told them I needed to go and get FDJ he's a social worker, it was too much for me. FJY followed me to the car and asked what was happening. She said, "He's done something". FJY wanted to go, I told her she couldn't leave and FJX should go and she had to call the social work now. She actually followed my car out of the drive. She knew something was happening.
106. Stories then started to change. Little bits and pieces. Ultimately FJX/FJY [REDACTED] said there had been no conversation in the living room. I said that I'd been there and I had heard it. I was told to keep out of it. They covered everything up. I don't know who told the social work, maybe FDJ I think he did this later, not straightway. In the end, [REDACTED] stayed there. Two days later I took [REDACTED] to our house. Eventually

FJX was told by the social work he had to leave. He chose to come back and all the kids had to leave, even though it was Christmas time. FJY asked what had happened. She said, "I don't want my brothers and sisters to leave, but I'll leave". FJY accused her of lying. However, FJY had instigated the whole thing by asking what was happening between her and FJX

107. That Christmas, all the kids were put to different placements. got the help she required but she's a mess. She has drug and alcohol problems. She never recovered from it. I think the other kids are ok. FJX/FJY definitely covered their tracks. The CID eventually got involved and I gave a statement. That was the second allegation made against FJX who was there when I was still at the FJX/FJY reported that FJX groped her when she came out the shower. She was removed from the FJX/FJY house but other children were left there. Nothing else was ever done about that.
108. FJX/FJY are still together. She couldn't leave him. They are in their fifties now.
109. In the last ten years my football was at such a high level I wondered how high I could've went. I got no encouragement. FJX said I was crap. I believe he got trials with Leeds, and there was something to do with Chelsea too. He never liked me. He didn't do that with FDJ The boy was treated the very same way as me. He had no interest in . Sometimes he would say something to him and FJX would just ignore him. It was the same for me.
110. , my step sister, stayed in the same village. She was very close to our real mum, probably because she was older. We were told that she was very manipulative. We were told she was trying to get us to realise that our mum was just ill. stayed with a lady called who is dead now. She seemingly had a bad upbringing. We were in touch with her a while ago but she's not well. Her kids went into care. She did tell me that FJX/FJY are liars. She hated them. I used to feel sorry for her. Growing up we were all real brothers and sister and was a half-sister. It must have been difficult for her.

111. In later life, as I got older, the approach from FJX/FJY was different. They were more interested in my children. But I was close to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and would go up regularly on a Sunday for dinner. I just looked at it then as a way of life.
112. When FJY shouted at my kids I realised this was wrong. The way she dealt with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I thought was wrong and that they did this to us. The more I spoke to FDJ, we realised this was very wrong. Adulthood showed me that everything was wrong.
113. I never spoke to my mum. She's dead now. She passed away about three years ago. She fell down stairs drunk. I understand she was left there until God knows when before she was found. It hasn't affected me in the slightest.
114. I did meet my real dad a couple of years back. I went to his wedding, but that side of the family have their own issues. Stuff I don't want to be involved in. I have kept in contact with a brother, who came up for a visit. He suffers from a tumour and [REDACTED] same as FDJ. He was at my wedding. I was in touch with him through his efforts.

Reporting of abuse at the FJX/FJY [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]

115. There was another woman who lived over the road. Her name was [REDACTED]. She reported FJX/FJY twice to the social work. My brother knows her name. She actually lived in the house we were in first. They're all the same family, [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]. I also got told that [REDACTED], my aunty, put in a social work complaint. FJX [REDACTED] sister. My understanding is that my aunty and uncle reported them to the social work.
116. I never discussed it with anyone during my time staying there. I never discussed it with teachers. When we were older we all spoke to each other about what happened. I told

- ex-partners what happened and they all said it was wrong. I didn't tell anyone while I was there and I didn't speak to FDJ and EOZ while I was there.
117. In 2009 it was reported to the police. Everything came out. It probably wasn't in great detail like this as it wasn't the main topic. It was two guys I spoke to. One of them said he didn't like FJY and he said he believed [REDACTED] was telling the truth but it's such a difficult case to prove. There was a charge and I think FJX was put on the sex offenders list, but the charge didn't stand. There was no penalty or anything like that.
118. I've given another statement to the police recently. I found giving a statement quite difficult because it wasn't very structured. He didn't seem to note down anything about the pornography in the house or [REDACTED] which I thought were important points. The officer taking my statement had been drafted in at the last minute and said he only had a vague understanding of the case. He did say that the police had let us down in 2009.
119. There's an extensive inquiry against FJX/FJY [REDACTED]. They aren't allowed to make contact with any of us. The inquiry is huge. FDJ and EOZ have also given statements. FJX/FJY [REDACTED] have been charged with seventeen different offences. I don't know what instigated the inquiry, but I'm happy it's happened. FDJ is terrified that there will be some sort of repercussions. FDJ and EOZ are still extremely afraid of FJX/FJY [REDACTED].
120. FDJ has complained to the council. He wrote a letter and chased it up with Fraserburgh social work department. He was told that it wasn't a child protection case at all. In 2009 FJX/FJY [REDACTED] were still fostering. That's about when they stopped.
121. After speaking to the CID in 2009, I haven't spoken to FJX/FJY [REDACTED] again. I see them from time to time in the passing. FJY gives me a glare.

Impact

122. In relation to education and going into college, I have no initiative. I have always been told what to do, so when you're left to do it, you haven't a clue. It took me years to get a passport. When I deal with people in power I stutter, become nervous and anxious. Maybe not so much now. My education suffered.
123. Everything I've done since starting college in 2005 I found I was very good at. Volleyball, basketball, football, running, badminton. If I'd been supported as a youngster I might have been very good, so much better
124. My brother went into Cornhill hospital, a psychological institute. I think my sister tried to commit suicide. She went on to anti-depressants. I have three kids and love them to bits. I know what to do with them and how to be a dad.
125. **FDJ** thinks I am emotionally dead. Any break-ups I've had I'm just fine. I don't cry, I don't show any emotion. It's difficult to explain. With my kids I am emotional. I have no emotions for **FJX/FJY** in the slightest. I have no feelings towards them.
126. When **FJY** cuddled you it was a false pretence in front of the social work and family members. Even they knew it was fake. For years getting cuddles from ex-partners was a hassle. Even getting cuddles when I was sleeping was hard. It doesn't affect me now with the kids, I cuddle them. Sometimes it's still in the back of my head but I'm not going to let things like that get to me.
127. I have two or three very close friends. Sometimes I feel like the odd one out in society. I've never felt a belonging. Sometimes in my head I feel like a social reject. When people speak to me, I'm really popular. It has affected my confidence. I get so much praise for what I do but it goes right over my head. My joy in what I do is seeing kids succeed.
128. There was huge jealousy when we were younger between **FDJ** **EOZ** and me. We'd fight each other for attention. I saw it with , , and

██████████ I saw them attention seeking with FJY ██████████ Growing up, FDJ ██████████ and I had a few big fall outs. He told me that he always thought I was out to get him. We are very close now. We speak every week. We are like the same person. FJY ██████████ used to always put him down and I started believing it. Luckily I saw sense. I had a much closer relationship with EOZ ██████████ when I was younger. Her and I picked on FDJ ██████████ because we would get away with it. FJY ██████████ did that. We bullied him. That makes me sad. Now EOZ ██████████ has depression. It's difficult. It's like she's dead inside sometimes. She used to be so much fun but she has lost all that.

129. I wasn't an alcoholic but I drank extensively. I'd get into fights. I don't do that now. Leaving the marines had a big effect on me. I didn't care if I got beaten up. It was an adrenaline rush. I had a lot of anger when I was younger. I have put a glass jug over someone's head. We are friends now. I was never charged for that but when I was younger I got caught with a knife I bought from a local sports shop. I got charged then. I've never been charged by the police for anything else.
130. If I drink, my time in foster care comes up, but apart from that, I don't want to relive it. It's not in my thoughts. I do regularly have disturbing dreams where I am arguing with FJX/FJY ██████████. My wife has suggested that I get counselling and I'm thinking about doing that.
131. I was a mess with my ex-wife. I didn't know how to be in a relationship. I'd go a month without having a shower. My hygiene was a mess. My life was a mess. When it ended it didn't bother me. That's when FDJ ██████████ said I was emotionally dead. Now that I have my own family, I've come to terms with everything or it would have beaten me.

Records

132. I have tried to get my records on three separate occasions but was ignored by the social work department each time. FDJ ██████████ has his but a lot is blacked out. He had to pay for them.

Other information

- 133. Before anyone gets to foster children there should be extensive checks made. There should be psychological analysis on them and family background checks on both sides. When a kid goes into care there should be individual talks with them regularly. A child should be allowed to keep a diary, even a secret diary that they can keep, or a tape or a video. They've got to listen. Children come before money.

- 134. 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.

FDD


Signed.....

Dated 20-9-2018.....