

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FCV

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FCV My date of birth is 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I grew up in Kirkton in Dundee. At that time, I remember my mum and dad being together. I recollect going to the shop with my mum and her sending me down the road on my own with a family sized tin of soup. I never saw her again. I was young but I can't remember my age.
3. My mum and dad were called and . My mum was a bit of a drinker. I can't really remember her at that age. My dad looked after us after my mum left. He didn't work. It was just me and my older sister in the house. There is a year between us. and my other sister and brother were away staying elsewhere with a family. They were fostered. was the youngest.
4. I think my dad made sure we were up and going to school. I remember I didn't have a school uniform so we had to start school later. We went to St Columbus in Dundee. We were at the Catholic school. I remember the head teacher and I remember making my First Holy Communion. Everyone else had bonnie shoes on and I was given sand shoes. I don't know what age I was. I can't be sure.

5. My dad used to send us out to get milk. Me and [REDACTED] used to just nick the milk and keep the money to buy sweets.
6. After my mum left my dad tried to look after us but he used to leave us on our own sometimes and go to the pub. I remember sometimes getting taken in by the neighbours. We used to wait on him coming out the pub. I remember me and [REDACTED] were sitting outside on a bench. A man came along the street, it was raining and he was wearing a long trench coat and had an umbrella. I think he had come to get us because my dad hadn't come home.

Children's Shelter, Dundee

7. My biggest memory from that time is being in the children's shelter in Dundee. I don't remember who took us there. I think it was a social worker but I don't know who it was. I know that the social work department was in Paradise Road.
8. I was young, I think I was of school age. I just remember being in the children's shelter. I was taken with my sister [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] still stayed with a family in a house [REDACTED]. I used to see them at school.
9. The shelter was on Constitution Street in Dundee. I remember there were a lot of younger kids and babies. I was a wee bit scared because I didn't know what was going on. I was wondering what all the bairns were doing there. [REDACTED] and I were the oldest kids there. I remember getting a bath and getting my hair washed.
10. The shelter was a nice place. I remember thinking "it's good here" but I wasn't there long. I was only in there for a few days. We left the shelter to go to live with a family.

Foster care – The [REDACTED]

11. My foster parents were called the [REDACTED]. They lived [REDACTED] in Fife. I can't remember the journey. I think we were driven there by Mr Ingram, the social worker. He was the head of the department. He only had one arm. I was with my sister [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] weren't taken there.
12. Their house was beautiful. [REDACTED] and me had a bedroom each. There were two bathrooms and a big, massive dining room. It was lovely. It seemed huge to me.
13. They had two children of their own. I think they were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were older than us. I think one of their daughters was working. I'm sure Mr [REDACTED] worked offshore.
14. I remember going to [REDACTED] Primary school.

Routine at The [REDACTED]

15. I just remember it felt really good. It was different. The [REDACTED] were really good to us. They used to buy us things. They treated me and [REDACTED] like their own. We were always bonnie. Mrs [REDACTED] used to make us bonnie dresses so that we matched. She showed us affection.
16. The older girls took us everywhere. We went out in the woods. I remember collecting pine cones and making stuff with them. They took us on trips to the park and we had picnics. They took us to church too.
17. I remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to visit us once at the [REDACTED]. I think we were so glad to see each other.
18. I also remember going to respite care in Lower Largo too when we stayed with the [REDACTED]. It was maybe to let them go on holiday or something. I stayed with a lovely

family. They were called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. They had a wee boy called [REDACTED]. I remember doing sports with them. I stayed with them for a couple of weeks. It was [REDACTED] and me.

19. I never saw my dad. I missed him so much. He wrote to us every week and Mrs [REDACTED] encouraged me to write to him. He sometimes sent us a pound. I recall seeing the social worker, Mr Ingram, when I was with the [REDACTED].
20. The [REDACTED] were short term foster carers so we had to leave them. I didn't want to leave them. I remember feeling sad. It was horrible. I think the [REDACTED] were sad too. I think they were expecting a wee girl to come and stay with them after we left. I think they probably took a lot of children in to stay with them. I think we were there for a year. It was a good time in my life.
21. I always went back to see if I could see them again to say thanks but I could never find their house.
22. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had gone to the new foster family, the [REDACTED] first. I think I left the [REDACTED] when I was seven. Although I was sad at leaving, I was also a bit excited about getting to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] again.

Foster care – The [REDACTED]

23. The social worker picked us up from the [REDACTED]. I think it was a social worker called Mrs Auchterlonie. I don't remember the journey to the [REDACTED] either.
24. The [REDACTED] lived at [REDACTED] in Cupar. The farmhouse was at the side of a long, rocky, dirt track road. It was about a mile up to the house from the road. There were out buildings like cow sheds and there was a big area for growing vegetables and hanging the washing up but there wasn't a garden. The house seemed like a mansion.

25. Inside the house there was a kitchen which had stairs leading down to it so it was slightly lower than ground level. The kitchen had a stone floor. There was a lounge, and a porch. The house was on two levels. There were three bedrooms upstairs. The bathroom was downstairs. There was a half a carpet in the lounge and the other half was linoleum. There were carpets upstairs.
26. FJH/FJI had four children. There was FJG FJK and FJG was the oldest and was a baby. There was a big gap between them. FJK and were older too.
27. I think FJG was a good bit older because she left home. I don't know when that happened. I think she left to go and join the Army. She used to come at the weekends.
28. FJK and were about fourteen and fifteen. FJH looked old but I don't know what age she was. FJI worked for the people who owned the farm. I don't know how old he was either.
29. I remember us all sitting at a table when we arrived. We were all just so happy at the table because we were all together. I think it was just good to be with and again.

Mornings/bedtime

30. I shared a room with my sisters, and . shared another room with FJK and Mr and Mrs FJH/FJI had the bedroom downstairs. Our bedroom was freezing cold. Sometimes we got a paraffin heater. We had blankets.
31. We weren't allowed to wear socks or pants in bed. We were freezing. FJG FJG hit us with a slipper if we were caught with them on. She lifted our nightie up

and struck us on the bum in front of FJK and [REDACTED]. She would be watching us if Mr and Mrs FJH/FJI were away out. She used to come upstairs and catch us.

32. We were sent to bed at six thirty or seven o'clock. We didn't have any time after tea. We went straight to bed and weren't allowed to talk to each other. The FJH/FJI used to tell us that there was a tape recorder in the room. In the morning, they used to whack on the door and shout "right get up!"

Bedwetting

33. I think I wet the bed a few times. [REDACTED] wet the bed a lot. We used to try and hide it. They wouldn't check it but we would end up telling them later because we had to get into a wet bed. They called us "dirty" and "pee the bed". They made us wash our own bedding and put the mattress up against the window.

Washing/bathing

34. We used to go in a bath ourselves. I don't think we shared with anyone but FJK and [REDACTED] used to go to the toilet when I was in the bath. They did that even when I got older.
35. I remember when I started my period nobody told me what it was and I didn't know what was happening. I had a bag with my sanitary towels in it. We would all be sitting in the living room and FJH used to say "oh look there's FCV sanitary towels" and she would throw the bag on the coal fire in front of everybody.
36. When I look back now I think it must have been for the sake of FJI knowing I was on my period.

Food

37. We got a piece and butter for breakfast. It tasted like the bread had been spread on onions. It was horrible so I never used to eat it. I used to hide it down the back of the seatee.
38. We used to eat separately from the FJH/FJI in the kitchen standing up. and me stood around a wee table. My sister, didn't stand at the table, there wasn't enough room so she had to stand in the pantry bit. We stood there for every meal.
39. The sat together in the living room. We used to go through and ask to leave the table and they would say "what the fuck are you asking to leave the table for?, you've already left the table." I used to be standing wondering if I should ask or not.
40. We got different meals from them. I recollect getting tatties and fried egg or homemade soup for tea. my big sister, used to dish it out. They got other things like sausage, bacon and chips. The food was basic. We used to peel the tatties and put them on. We used to have to make the food ourselves and there was never enough. After tea we would get sent upstairs.
41. The 'goodies' got locked in Mr and Mrs FJH/FJI bedroom. The FJH/FJI kids had a key and they could go in and get what they wanted. The baby got everything given to her in front of us. Sometimes would ask for a sweet and we would get some but have to share them with the We never really got treats or were allowed to handle any money. It was just them and us.

Chores

42. We were made to work. When we came from home school we got changed and did our chores. We had to brush and sweep the stairs and do the dishes. We had to do things for them. The FJH/FJI children didn't do any chores. I didn't really mind doing my chores. We did them before tea.

43. FJH used to work sometimes and the social work didn't know.
44. Mr FJI was a farmer but he used to just sit with his feet up and smoke himself to death when he used to come in from the farm.
45. We had to cut kindling and saw sticks of wood outside for firewood. I cut my finger on the saw once and had to get stitches. I was taken to the hospital in Kirkcaldy. We had to do that a lot after school or at the weekends. I think had to bring the coal in.

Clothes and leisure time

46. I just remember going about with the same tartan trousers and a red jumper on. I used to wear them all the time. They weren't washed regularly. I don't think we changed our underwear every day either. I didn't get any choice about new clothes. I used to get old clothes. I think we got shoes from the social work department.
47. We got our hair cut in Ceres village. I remember going to the dentist in Leven. I hated it. I wasn't taken a lot.
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48. We weren't allowed any friends in the house. We used to just play at the top of the stairs. We played games like Charades and Starsky and Hutch. There weren't a lot of toys in the house. I would bring books home from school. I had a thing about the Famous Five.
49. There was a TV in the lounge but we weren't allowed to watch it a lot. The FJH/FJI watched what they wanted.
50. If we asked to go to the Brownies we never got to go, if we didn't ask they told us to go! Me and had to cycle there. It was about three miles away in Ceres village.

51. I remember one night it was dark coming and we were scared. I don't think we had lights on our bikes and we couldn't find our way. We went to the police station and asked them to take us home. When we got home we got battered off Mr ^{FJI} for bringing attention to them. Mr ^{FJI} slapped me across the head and called me 'an idiot.'
52. We never got to go to anything with anybody else.

Schooling

53. I liked school because I liked getting out of that house. I used to get up and look out the window to make sure the weather was alright to get to school. We used to get snowed in a lot and we would have to clear the road ourselves.
54. We used to have to get a bus at the bottom of the road to school. It took us and dropped off there. I went to Newgilston Primary School. There were two rooms. My teachers were called Mrs Smith and Miss Provan.
55. I didn't do well at school. I was the clown of the class. I was probably trying to tell people what was happening to me by acting up. I never took anything in. I think I was crying out for something to try to get help.
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56. I can't remember getting homework or being encouraged with school. I was just told that I was an idiot and daft. The ^{FJH/FJI} would say "you can't do that."
57. I don't know if any of my teachers noticed my injuries. I found out later that there were reports back to the social work that there were marks on us. Mrs Smith never spoke to me about it. The four of us knew what was happening to us but just accepted it.
58. One time we were caught stealing food from the bin at school. I remember Mrs Smith talked to us about that. She asked why we had done it and I said that I was hungry. I don't know if she did anything as a result of that. I was still at primary school.

59. I was always getting into trouble for things. I remember secondary school more. I went to Kilrymont High School.
60. I remember going to a pal's house from school one day because I didn't want to go home. She was called [REDACTED]. Her mum phoned the [REDACTED] FJH/FJI When I got home [REDACTED] FJI battered me.

Visits/inspections

61. We saw the social worker once a year when we were there. It was Mrs Auchterlonie then. She came to the farm to visit. The majority of the time her visits were arranged. We used to have to get everything all cleaned and put clean clothes on before she came. I think she came a couple of times unexpectedly. The house would have been a mess. It was only ever clean when we had been told to clean it for her coming.
62. Mrs Auchterlonie never spoke to us on our own. Mrs [REDACTED] FJH was always there. She asked us if we were happy and things like that. We always said that we were.
63. We used to get threatened with going back to Dundee by the [REDACTED] FJH/FJI They would say "if you mention anything to the social worker you'll be put back to Dundee." We used to get told that before she came. At that time I was scared to go back to Dundee for some unknown reason.

Birthdays/Christmas

64. We didn't celebrate our birthdays or Christmas. They didn't mean anything so I don't even really remember them. I remember getting the game 'Mousetrap' once but we were never allowed to play games so I don't even remember playing with it.

Family

65. They didn't give me my dad's letters. They never even told me that he wrote and I used to cry for him. I remember getting taken through to my granny's in Dundee. My dad used to meet us there. I think we saw him once or twice a year. FJH would go away and do shopping in Asda. It didn't happen a lot.
66. On one trip I had stolen a biscuit. FJH made me tell my dad that I had stolen a biscuit. I told him and he said "you did what?" I then told him that we were getting sent to bed at six o'clock. He was going mental because of her.
67. After we left, he fell out with my granny and my Auntie FJH. He was apparently asking "what is happening to my bairns?" I think he phoned the social workers to complain about the FJH/FJI. He couldn't believe it what I'd told him.

Trips

68. We used to go visiting FJH sister in Forres. They used to book a cottage for the summer holidays in Muir of Ord and Dufftown. The abuse happened in the cottages as well. The FJH brothers didn't go. We would go visiting her relatives. Before we went we into anybody's house we would get told "you only take one biscuit" and "don't touch anything!" We were disciplined for stupid things.

Abuse in foster care - The FJH/FJI

69. You couldn't write the things that happened in that house. FJH and FJK used to punch us for hiding the bread. They would slap me across the head and punch me on the chest. Mr FJI only ever used to belt us. FJH used to tell him to hit us all the time but sometimes he didn't. She would say "are you going to put up with that?"

70. The sons hit us all the time. I used to have marks all over my legs. They used to call us names. They called me "big nose" and "big mouth". It was constant. It was nearly every day. There was always something.
71. FJH would find the bread hidden down the back of the couch when we did "the big clean". The house was never cleaned unless we cleaned it. If she had a brain storm and starting pulling everything out that's when she would find the bread.
72. Me, and were always huddled together on the seatee. We used to get sent to bed without tea a lot.
73. FJK and used to get a wet towel and hit us when we were standing doing the dishes. I don't know if they told them to hit us. They never got into any trouble or anything for it.
74. I got the belt from Mr FJI once for stealing biscuits. I had marks all over my body. One time I took one of the biscuits out of the drawer. I ended taking them up to the loft and ate the whole lot. The loft was outside in the barn. We used to go in there when it was cold and we'd been sent outside. They were looking for the biscuits. I didn't own up because I was scared. They said "until youse own up youse are all getting the belt". We all got the belt. I still feel guilty for that.
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75. My brother used to get battered in front of us. and FJK would use a horse whip on him and call him 'an idiot'. I saw get battered every second night. We had to watch that. He was covered in bruises all over his body. They would always tell him to say that "he fell if anyone asked."
76. One time I got thrown in a trough of cold water by FJK's friend, I don't know his real name. I was soaking wet and freezing cold. He was laughing. Another time I was thrown in beside the cows by too. I was frightened of the cows.

77. I remember setting the barn on fire because I took carrots out the garden and tried to cook them in the barn because I was hungry. I remember we used to take leaves from bushes outside and eat them. They always said I was the problem.
78. The FJH/FJI used to leave us on our own a lot of the time to go to the pub. We weren't allowed downstairs. They would go out and put books on top of the door so that if you opened the living door it would fall and they would know.
- FJK
79. FJK had a pellet gun. Him and FJK used to shoot rabbits with it. I used to get threatened with it a lot. One day he threatened to shoot me in the foot with a pellet gun if I didn't dance. I was dancing but he shot me anyway. I started screaming so FJK kicked me up the bum. It was the kind of pain that goes right through you. It broke the skin. FJH didn't get me any help.
80. There was a time when FJK was looking after us when they were out. We were all in the living room. He had a knife and pretended he had stabbed himself in the kitchen. When we went through and saw blood everywhere.
81. and I ran out in our nighties, bare foot, to the neighbour's, Mr and Mrs They lived in a house about a quarter of a mile away from the FJH/FJI We told them that FJK had stabbed himself. We found out later that it tomato sauce. We got battered by FJK because we had included someone else. He just got allowed to do it.
82. One day FJH took , FJK and to Step Rock Pool in St. Andrew's. I was in the pool when FJK suddenly grabbed hold of me and stuck my head under the water. He held it under and kept it held under. I couldn't breathe and struggling. I was fighting to get up. I finally got up and I was gasping for air.
83. I remember FJK raped a girl I think he was about fifteen. I think he got charged. FJH/FJI never even gave him into trouble. I

remember it was serious. He went to the special department in the school. He was still at the school for a bit when I was there. He then left and went to work with [REDACTED] place.

Sexual abuse

84. They used to take me into the spare room. If they heard me talking they'd take me in there. It was just an excuse to get me into that room. That's when they would abuse me. I was frightened in the room so I used to go through to my bedroom and start crying. I didn't like being on my own.
85. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] used to sneak in at night. [REDACTED] knew everything that was going on. I know she did. She used to say "never mind about them, what are you doing?"
86. The three of them came in the room separately. I was touched underneath my clothing and made to touch them. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would always take a turn each. It would be three, four or five times a week.
87. I remember getting sent home from school on my own. I would have to get the bus home. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would get picked up and taken to the dentist or something like that. I would go home myself and [REDACTED] would be there. I would be abused. It was constant. All my time there I was abused.
88. There was one time that sticks in my head vividly I was told to go upstairs and get my good clothes on. [REDACTED] was taking me somewhere on my own. I was getting changed when I heard all the arguing and fighting downstairs. [REDACTED] was saying "you're no taking her, you're no taking her" and [REDACTED] was saying "I am!" [REDACTED] was swearing. A coal bucket got thrown right across the floor.
89. I didn't go. I was told to get back in my old clothes. It still haunts me now. I don't know what he was going to do. [REDACTED] knew everything that was going on. I

used to think "where was he going to be taking me?" That haunts me. It makes wonder if it was a paedophile ring.

90. They let me go to the cinema with a boy from the school once. His name was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All of a sudden I got to go to the cinema. I just got told to go. [REDACTED] took me, paid the cinema and left. I used to rack my brains to think why that happened. I think it was so that they could say I had boyfriends if I tried to report the abuse.
91. I knew that [REDACTED] was being sexually abused too but we couldn't talk about it. I wouldn't have talked to [REDACTED] at that time.
92. [REDACTED] had sex with me when I was twelve or thirteen. I was bleeding after it. I didn't know where the blood was from. I remember thinking I needed stitches down there because of the time I'd cut my hand and I couldn't tell anybody.
93. I told my friend [REDACTED] at school. I spoke to her for ages about it. I don't even know how I managed to tell her. That night I got a phone call to the house. It was her mum and she was telling me to get out of the house and meet her down at the bottom of the road. I just panicked and put the phone down.
94. The next day, I was taken out of school by Mr Ingram and taken to the police station in St Andrews.
95. I was examined by a police doctor. After I had been examined I was taken right back to that house. The [REDACTED] said I was a liar. That's what I was being told. They said "you're just making up stories". They were saying "just leave her, she's nothing but a liar." [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were saying nothing was happening to them.
96. It wasn't until the next day at school I got picked up and taken away from there.
97. They used to turn us against each other. They would say that [REDACTED] said I had done something or [REDACTED] said this or that. It was like we were all against each other in

the house. If we got close to each other they would find a way of stopping it. We would end up arguing with one another. It was probably made up.

98. If we got close to each other they would find a way of putting a stop to it. It affected our relationship with each other when we were there. I wondered why [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] weren't saying anything about what was going on.
99. They were the worst days of my life. We never got any affection. It was them and us. I have no happy memories of being there. I think I have blocked a lot of it out to help me cope.

Leaving The [REDACTED] FJH/FJI

100. I was taken away with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the next day. Mr Ingram came to the school. I got called out the class and told to go to the headmaster's office. We were told that we were going back to Dundee. We were told we were going to the care and treatment wing of a place in Dundee. I was thinking "my god I've got everybody taken away".
101. [REDACTED] wasn't there. She was at college at the time. She went to stay with a family in Cupar.

102. I remember being in Mr Ingram's big BMW. He told me that he believed me. I felt happy but I felt sad for everybody else.

Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

103. We were taken to Burnside Assessment Centre. Everyone was nice. I remember my first day there. It was beautiful. It was a big, white building with playing fields. It was massive on two levels.

104. It was for children with problems. We were placed in the Care and Treatment Centre on the bottom floor. There were also the Assessment and Post-Assessment units. There were about ten children in our unit.
105. I think there were about twenty children in each of the other units. They ranged from ages eleven to sixteen.
106. I was kept with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for a wee while. We had our own rooms with a sink in it. There was a communal lounge and a dining room. The food was great. The school was inside the building too.
107. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were moved to Carolina House which was another children's home. I think they left a year after we got there.

Staff

108. The staff were good with us. There was a lot of staff in the Care and Treatment level. I think there were about six members of staff. They stayed overnight in a sleep room. Mr Robertson was the head and Mr [REDACTED] MYD was the [REDACTED] SNR. They were on duty at different times. I remember Mrs Melville. She is dead now. I kept in touch with her for a long time after I left. There was also Eddie, Michael Duff and Jean Pirie. I got on well with them.
109. You couldn't fault the staff there. They were the best staff. They used to try to explain things to me. They would sit down and speak to me. I remember one of them used to try to get me to look in the mirror at myself. They would say "look at you, you're great looking". I would say "why have I to look in the mirror?" I understand why they did that now.
110. I could confide in the female staff. I could speak to them but I didn't speak to them about what happened at the [REDACTED] FJH/FJI. I felt safe in Burnside. I was just so glad to be away from the [REDACTED] FJH/FJI.

111. There was no follow up from the police about what happened. It wasn't mentioned again. I didn't get any counselling either. My social worker had changed. I had Gordon McIntosh when I was in there. I got on alright with him but I was just a tear away. He was strict. I used to say at the time "I hate you".
112. Mr Ingram was still involved with us. He would take me out for a chat and a meal. He was really nice before he died.

Trips and Clothing

113. They took me on trips nearly every week. They took me to adventure grounds and swimming at night. We wore their clothes. I had a t-shirt, jeans and trainers. You put them in the washing basket. They got washed and brought back to you at night. We got to wear our own clothes when we went out. I got to pick them myself with a staff member.
114. We used to get six fags a day. I got one when I first got up in the morning. They used to bring the fag box through. I used to get pocket money and I used to buy my fags with it. I had started smoking in the FJH/FJI

Schooling

115. I started off going out to school. I went to Kirkton High School. I started getting into trouble at school. I got involved with the wrong crowd. I was sniffing glue, drinking and running away. I just ran away for the sake of it because everyone else was doing it. I didn't think of running away for any other reason.
116. I was just getting into bother. They used to have a room with a bed in it called "the box". I was put in "the box" once for sniffing glue. It was locked and I was there all night. I hated it. I had to knock on the door to get to the toilet.

117. I ended up in the secure unit which was the locked bit. I was there for about a year and a half. It was mixed, boys and girls. There was staff called Sonny Miller and Bob Gilchrist in the secure unit.
118. I went to school in the secure unit in Burnside. I liked it. It was alright. We used to get to play with guinea pigs sometimes. The teachers who came in were called Mrs Caird and Miss Waghorn. I used to do English, Maths and woodwork. I think that was the three classes. I used to like English but I was never any good at it. I used to like Maths as well but it was hard. I left school with no qualifications.

My Mum

119. My mum came back into our lives at the time. We found out that she was staying in Skegness. The Salvation Army got in touch with her. She wanted to see us. She came to Burnside to visit us. That was the first time I'd seen her since she left. She smelled of alcohol and I don't think she was allowed to stay.
120. My dad used to get to stay even when he had a drink in him when we were at Burnside but mum didn't really get to see us. My dad used to have all the bairns in an uproar.
121. She had moved in with a guy in Whitfield. We were going up there quite a lot. That's probably where we were running away to. She used to phone up and get us sent back. She was a drinker and a bad drunk. I don't know if it was us being back in her life that sent her off her head.
122. They left Dundee again and went back to Skegness. We went down to Skegness to see her. Then they moved back to Dundee again. We just didn't go near her when she had had a drink. When she wasn't drinking she was good. She tried to make it up to us. I think we probably expected so much from her and set her off.
123. I moved up to the post-assessment unit. When I was fifteen, I ended up going out to work experience in the nursery. I liked it in the nursery and I got paid.

Leisure time

124. I got to go out on a Saturday and a Sunday from 10 o'clock in the morning to eight at night. We had a lot of freedom. I used to go into town and muck about. I would spend my pocket money in the shops.
125. We weren't locked in as such. There wasn't a week that went past when I wasn't taken out somewhere in the van. I used to get in bother sometimes. If I did I would be grounded for the next weekend.

Leaving Burnside Assessment Centre

126. I had to leave Burnside because I was sixteen. I remember being spoken to about the move so I was prepared. I was in there for three years. I always say they were the best years of my life.

Haring House, Dundee

127. I went into Haring House when I was sixteen. It was on Strathmore Avenue about a mile away from Burnside and was run by the Salvation Army. It was like a settlement programme with support. It had staff there. It housed about twelve people. It was more independent living. It was like being on your own in there because you had to be responsible and pay your own service charge. I think I was used to being told what to do. I knew a girl, [REDACTED] from Forfar there who had been in Burnside too.
128. You had a bed sit and you got your meals. You got your breakfast in the morning and tea at night. There was a dining room and your own room upstairs. My room had a wee kitchen with a microwave, cooker and fridge. You could make cups of tea and chips in your room later on. I used to help the cook with the cooking.

129. We did our own washing. I could do it anyway because I was used to doing it at the [FJH/FJI] I think the social worker used to help me to apply for a grant for clothes. I didn't have a lot of money. I used to get a chitty to go and buy clothes.

130. I started working in a nursing home [REDACTED] I got paid but I had to pay to stay at Haring House. I was late every morning so I got the sack. I had it for about three months.

Staff

131. There was one member of staff who was creepy. He was called [GDA] I used to think there was always something wrong with him. Everybody used to say he was creepy. There was night staff on. Sometimes I used to go down and sit with the night staff. There was a really nice woman called Cathy Strachan. If she wasn't on, he would be on. I used to go down and see if Cathy was there and he used to be sneaking about the place. I used to say to Cathy "there's something about that [GDA] .

132. I remember one night he looked at me so I called him a creep. I was half way down the stairs and he pushed me. I fell. I reported him the next day to the boss, a man called Bob Higgins. [GDA] denied it. There weren't any cameras or anything. It was about ten stairs which went up to the rooms. It used to scare me to go out in case he was on. He was pretty weird.

133. I found out years later that [GDA] murdered [REDACTED] and tried to get away with it. She was a social worker. I think he committed suicide in prison. He had worked in [REDACTED] for years.

134. We had quite a lot of contact with siblings in Haring House. They would come and visit me or I would go to Carolina House sometimes.

135. My dad has been in my life since I came back to Dundee. He had his own wee flat in Lochee. It wasn't far from us. I was always at my dad's. He used to come every week to see me. He is now in the care home.
136. I think Gordon McIntosh was still my social worker. I used to ask Gordon what had happened to the [FJH/FJI] for what they had done to us. He never told me anything.
137. I spent two years in Haring house then it was time to move on. I was quite excited about leaving.

Life after being in care

138. I left Haring House when I was eighteen. [REDACTED] and I moved into a furnished flat in the Hilltown in Dundee. It was just up from the Wellgate Shopping Centre.
139. The layout was like two bed-sits that were joined together. I wasn't working and was on benefits. My brother [REDACTED] was in Ann Street Children's Home at that time. He would have been fifteen.
140. I probably wasn't doing much around that time. We didn't have any contact with the social workers and had no support from anyone. Life was hard. We struggled and argued with each other so it didn't work out. I lived there for a couple of years.
141. I had my first son when I was twenty years old. I moved into my own flat then. My big sister [REDACTED] moved in with [REDACTED] as she had split up with her husband.
142. I got a job in [REDACTED] Hospital. I'd had my second son by then. The boys were young. My neighbour downstairs and I used to look after each other's kids to let each other get to work because she worked different shifts to me. I was paid off because of all of the closures when care in the community was introduced. I worked there for ten years.

143. After that I moved onto retail. I went to work in the snack bar in the train station for two years. Then I started off as a dishwasher in [REDACTED] and worked up to assistant manager. It shut down and I got paid off. I had been there for two years. I went onto [REDACTED], I applied for the managers' job and got it. I was there for five years until it shut down too and I was paid off again.
144. After that I started working with the homeless and people with drug problems. I had been helping my brother, [REDACTED], a lot with that. I work sixty hours one week and the 24 hours the next week. I work in a [REDACTED] in Dundee. I love my work. I'll have been there for seven years in April.

Relationship with siblings

145. I think being in care has had a major effect on us as a family in a bad way. However, in a good way, if anything was to happen to any of us we would be the first one there but we keep each other at a distance. It's like we cope better not being in each other's lives. Some of us were close at times. It would go from either [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] being close to me and [REDACTED] being close etc. I personally found it easier being away from them.
146. My brother [REDACTED] was working up until we got our records. Not long after that he started taking drugs. He became addicted to Codeine and lost his job. He never went out and spent his time in the house.
147. [REDACTED] was a nervous person. I think he regretting seeing the files. He went down that road for a while after that. He kept taking drugs. He was getting stuff brought into the house.
148. He had a heart attack in his house on his own and passed away six years ago. We found out that he had been taking heroin.
149. I used to run about doing things for him. I made sure he had food and I would take things up to him. I would fight with the housing support service for him. He was

meant to get housing support but he wasn't getting anything from them. I used to phone them to tell them I had been in the house and no one had turned up. He needed help with different things.

Impact

150. I went off the rails too when I read my files. I started drinking and doing drugs. The only thing that got me back on track was my kids. My kids have always been my life. [REDACTED] There is five years between them.
151. My time in care has had a massive impact on my life and I think it will until the day I die. I have never really had any relationships. I have never been able to keep relationships. I had a lot of sexual relationships. I think I just wanted to be loved and when I got love I didn't know how to take it. I was just a pure fuck up.
152. I find it difficult to trust people and I sometimes have bad thoughts. I have even worried about my own sons doing things to their kids. I have to tell myself to stop thinking like that.
153. I am kind of glad that I never had daughters because I find it really hard to show affection. I regret that. I have always found it hard to give my bairns cuddles. It's something I've always found hard to do.
154. I do remember getting affection from my dad. I remember sitting on his knee. He was good but he was going through his own stuff. I was always a daddy's girl. I felt love from my mum and dad although I don't remember my mum much.
155. My mum died eight years ago but my dad has always been there. He's been in the nursing home for ten years. He's had a stroke and I look after him.
156. I don't really have a close circle of friends. It's always me going out and doing things for everybody else. It keeps me going doing things for other people because it stops

me thinking. I'm never in my house. I can't be busy in my home. I like to be out and about doing things for others. I find it hard to say no to people.

157. I have flashbacks and nightmares about the [FJH/FJI]. It just rears its ugly head. I have no confidence in myself at all. I think others see me differently to how I see myself. I always think too much before doing things and end up not doing them. I'm always down on myself and take things to heart too much.
158. My whole life is full of anxiety, I am a nervy person inside. I've never looked for help. My GP has offered me anti-depressants but I say to myself "I've come this far I don't need anti-depressants".
159. My job brings things out that have happened to me. It can be troublesome for me but helping others helps me. It can be hard when they are talking about their experiences. It can be a big thing. Luckily, I have a good manager. If things are too much for me I tell him and ask him to pass their case onto someone else. I had to tell him because of some of the issues I've had to deal with at work. I get too emotionally involved in my work sometimes. I would bring some of the people home with me if I could.
160. Being in care has massively affected my education. I couldn't sit down and read a book for example. I did my SVQ3 but I had a lot of help from someone I work with because I didn't understand it. I have got to where I am now through help from other people.
161. I went to college and I had to write a statement to get onto an access to social work course. I had a panic attack and had to leave without writing the statement. I didn't know where to start. There are lots of things I wanted to do with my life but I have never been able to do it because I never had the qualifications. I know I could do the job practically because I have the life experience.
162. I think it is because of what happened to me as a bairn. I couldn't concentrate on anything at school because of what I was having to go home to.

163. It was a traumatic part of my life. It feels like I was there forever. That part of my life has affected everything after it on a daily basis. It's just learning to cope with it, and keep above things to keep on going.

Records

164. I think I got my records about fifteen years ago. I found out that I could get my records and I wanted to find out what had happened to them for what they had done. We were supported by the social work department with it. We all went up together, me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with two social workers and went through the files.
165. I was frustrated reading my records. There were things in the records that were someone else's perception. The [REDACTED] FJH/FJI blamed it on me. [REDACTED] FJH blamed me in the records. They said I was nothing but bother. She knew it was happening. She knew everything that was going on in that house. She saw it happening but they put the blame on me. They asked to keep [REDACTED] They kept phoning up and asking when we were getting to come back. They were devious.
166. I burnt my records. I only kept them for about three months. I was scared in case my children found them. I thought I can't have them in my house. They kind of scared me and were causing me too much worry. It was traumatic but I got the answers that I wanted. It was a relief because I knew that I wasn't wrong. I wasn't strong then but it gave me answers.
167. I found out that Mrs Auchterlonie had stepped down because she felt like she wasn't being listened to by her bosses. She noted in the records that we didn't look cared for. She had said that it "doesn't look like there is any affection in that house" and she had written "shows more affection to the dog". I think she came once and the house was a total mess because she hadn't said that she was coming. The house was like that all the time when she wasn't there. She obviously picked up on it but nothing was done. She had reported it.

168. I didn't ever know the outcome of that examination in the police station until later on when I read my file and discovered that I was found to be 'non-virgin.' I went about my life thinking nobody believed me.
169. I went to Rape Crisis once but I couldn't really talk about it. I was scared to go back through it again. I think I got some support from the social work department after I got my records. I'm stronger now.

Reporting of abuse at the [FJH/FJI]

170. I went to the police after I got my files. I went to Seymour Lodge in Dundee with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] didn't want to go at first. It was a special unit, like a child protection unit. The police were in normal clothes. I was going back and forwards for a few days giving them a detailed statement. It was hard going. We were told that [FJI] had died.
171. We tried to get them charged. We went to see a solicitor but they put it down to children experimenting with each other. We were told we had to pay three hundred pounds each for a barrister but we didn't have the money to pursue it.
172. After I gave my statement, I wasn't really told what was happening with the police investigation. It never went to court. I don't know much about the [REDACTED] brothers. I don't want to find out anything. [REDACTED] still has to see them in Cupar.

173. I wasn't told the outcome. I felt I was never told about any follow up about what happened to them.

Other information

174. I think that going forward it is important to listen more to the child. I think the child or children should be taken out of the home so that they can open up to their worker. They need someone that they can trust. That is a massive thing.

175. I think we should have had one to one talking with a social worker. I went about blaming myself. I think when something like that happens to you it is hard because you blame yourself for your part in it and see yourself as being dirty. I think the social work department have a lot of blame in it because they forgot about us because it was in a remote place.
176. We should have known more about what was going on. I would say that is a big thing. I think there should have been more involvement with the school and from the social work department.
177. I believe that everyone should be working together. There should be someone looking out for why there might be a change in a child's behaviour if they have been placed in foster care. There should be more visits.
178. I also think things could have been better upon leaving care. There should have been an outreach programme when I reached eighteen to help support me after care. It would have helped to even just have someone to phone. I think that needs to be looked at. After being in a care environment there is a lot that you need support with when you're becoming an adult.
179. I'm hoping in the future any child who is suffering in care will be flagged up and they won't have to endure a life like we had.
180. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... 

Dated..... 1.6.18